

# IB

A NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL  
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

SOUTH BEND INDIANA USA

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# INTELLECT



## EXPANDING WORLD VIEWS

### Dr. Mika explores new travel opportunities for IB students

The mission of the International Baccalaureate Organization is to “develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.” (IBO). To facilitate this intercultural understanding, Adams IB Coordinator Dr. Mika Roinila is planning travel opportunities for the magnet students at all levels.

Freshmen will travel to the premier ethnic festival in the state, the Indiana International Festival in Indianapolis (see story on back page) and sophomores will travel to a North American destination such as New York City, Washington DC, Toronto, or Montreal during spring break. A final “capstone” opportunity for travel will be provided for junior and senior IB students to Europe, Asia, or Africa during the early summer. We are exploring the possibility that course credit may be offered for foreign travel experiences.

Plans are being developed for travel to Europe for summer 2013. This gives us time to develop destination options that suit student interests and family budgets. In addition, we would like to establish an Adams travel club to promote international mindedness and help with fund raising efforts to help defray some of the costs of travel. Watch future issues of the *IB Intellect* for more information.

*In July 2010, Adams IB students joined with other schools for a tour of Versailles near Paris*



## WELCOME

*Welcome to the IB Intellect. After much positive feedback, we are happy to present our second issue of stories, events, and news related to the International Baccalaureate Program at John Adams High School.*

*This will be the last issue of the IB Intellect for 2011. We wish all of our readers a wonderful holiday season: Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanzaa, and Happy Eid!*



## LIFE AFTER ADAMS

The *IB Intellect* welcomes updates from our IB graduates. This month we hear from Nora Mansfield, an IB certificate student from the Class of 2011 who is currently a freshman at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

*I just got back my first college paper for my Psychology course... I was told to thank whoever taught me my writing skills, as I had developed an excellent and well-structured argument throughout my paper that was "a pleasure to read." I cannot tell you how thankful I am for the confidence you all gave me in writing, as well as the willingness to draft and re-draft with patience.*

-email from Nora Mansfield to Mrs. Cwidak, September 27, 2011

*Participation in the IB program definitely pays off when you get to college. Not only do I have a work ethic far superior to some of my fellow freshmen, but I also have the ability to register as a sophomore for my spring semester due to the credits I accumulated from IB testing. This has allowed me to easily add a Studio Art Minor. I can't praise the IB program enough with my experience in college thus far. Yes, I am in Los Angeles attending Loyola Marymount University. It is a big leap to attend school this far from home, but I couldn't be happier.*

-email from Nora Mansfield to Dr. Mika, November 11, 2011

## Kennedy Project offers opportunity to share Spanish

by Cecilia Stanton, Adams Spanish teacher

Teaching and learning are interdependent processes that cannot be successful without the other. This is my fourth year teaching Spanish 4 and our third year to undertake "the Kennedy Project" where students work in groups to write an original children's book in Spanish. Students also create a corresponding lesson, including worksheets and games that complement their book. When the projects are completed, we take a trip to Kennedy Primary Academy to share our projects with second and fourth grade students.



Junior IB student, Tommy Favorite, comments, "It was really nice to be able to use what we've learned about the language in a relevant way that allowed us to have fun." Nearby, IB junior Quinlan McWilliams pipes in, "It was a great experience! I

loved it!" This was the general consensus reached by participating students upon returning to Adams. The Kennedy Project gives students, both at the high school level and in the primary center, an opportunity to use what they have learned outside of the classroom setting in a way that allows them to learn together while sharing their excitement about the Spanish language.



## Students defeat faculty in Quiz Bowl contest

The first Quiz Bowl match between the "Senior Eagles" and the "More Senior Eagles" (below) ended with our senior students posting a 230-160 victory. The November 9th meeting between the students and teachers was a true team effort as several senior students from the Adams Quiz Bowl team and teachers took turns through four rounds of questions directed by Ms. Beckie Hernandez. The teachers hope to seek revenge for this loss in future contests between the two groups. Go Eagles!

*Adams teachers Mr. Wiand, Ms. Stanton, Mrs. Gregory, Mr. Kern (at left) begin the first round of Quiz Bowl questions against seniors Nicole Martin, Kyle Rice, and Daniel Losecco (at right). Tifani Harman monitors the time (center) while Claire Rice and Anna Polovick keep score (standing).*





## Scientific collaborations reach around the world

*submitted by Mr. Nevin Longenecker, Adams science teacher*

Students in IB Biology HL at Adams are collaborating on science research investigations with students at the Viktor Rydberg Gymnasium School in Stockholm. For three years, students at both schools took advantage of the internet to conduct comparative studies across the globe, despite a seven-hour time difference.

In 2008, students compared sediment from the bottoms of two freshwater lakes, one in lower Michigan and one in estuaries of the Baltic Sea, studying the production of electric energy by indigenous bacteria. Adams students designed and constructed sediment fuel cells and shipped half of them to their counterparts in Stockholm, then exchanged data via the internet.

In 2009, students compared food preferences of people between the ages of 12 and 30 years. Contrary to public opinion, American teenagers preferred more healthy foods than those in Sweden. Interestingly, students in both groups identified preferences for the same foods such as McDonalds, M&Ms, Kellogg's, Burger King, Kit Kat bars, Subway, Milky Way, and Taco Bell.

In 2010, students collected data from a questionnaire about the top three concerns of American teenagers compared with Swedish teenagers. An initial evaluation of the responses of Adams students shows concerns about unemployment, federal debt being passed on to teenagers, and the perceived increasing political power of the federal government. A comprehensive report will become available in the spring of 2012.



*IB senior Lisa Bauer compiles research data*

## New language courses proposed for IB

Some new language courses have been proposed for next fall by IB faculty. Under the leadership of Cecilia Stanton and Beckie Hernandez (Spanish) and Mary Dickerson (English), proposals for courses to aid native Spanish-speaking students in the IB Program have been submitted to the SBCSC. The proposed courses include Spanish A (for native speakers) and English B (for native Spanish speakers who will be better suited to learning English as a new language). In addition, a new accelerated Spanish course, Spanish Ab Initio, would allow students to complete two years of Spanish in a single year in order to stay on track for the IB Diploma.

These proposed courses are consistent with the IBO's recent emphasis on the adoption of language courses that support multiculturalism and promote the educational success of non-native speakers. We are hopeful that these courses will appear in next year's course catalogue.

## Record number register for May 2012 IB tests

Registrations for all IB tests were submitted in November to the IB Office in Cardiff, Wales. This year, a record number of 165 Adams IB students will be testing, representing an increase of more than thirty students from last year. The junior-level IB Environmental Systems and Societies class has the highest number of students testing, with 62 students. We look forward to increasing this number in the years to come.



*The Adams Orchestra warms up prior to the ISSMA contest in February 2011*

## ANSWERS TO IB QUESTIONS

### What is the "C" in CAS?

IB Diploma students are required to complete the components of the core of the Diploma Program, including the Extended Essay, the Theory of Knowledge course, and CAS: Creativity, Action, and Service. In this and upcoming issues of the *IB Intellect*, we will explain these requirements. We begin with the **Creativity** component of CAS.

The CAS portion of the IB Program encourages the development of well-rounded students. The "C" in CAS, **Creativity**, addresses the arts and other experiences involving creative thinking. A student who learns a new skill—such as playing an instrument, drawing or painting, singing or dancing, or editing digital photographs—demonstrates creativity. When the students engage in a personal challenge related to such skills, such as teaching someone else or participating in a performance, this fulfills the requirement. Full IB Diploma students participate in these activities as juniors and seniors, keeping a record of their accomplishments. Once they complete a total of 150 hours between creativity, action, and service, students receive credit for the entire CAS requirement.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, December 12, 7–8pm

Writing a Terrific College and Scholarship Application Essay

Parents and students, especially juniors and seniors, are invited to this workshop sponsored by the John Adams Parent Group. Former college admissions officer, Susan Joyce of Campus Quest Educational Consulting, will share what colleges are looking for in essays and why they are an important part of the application process.

In the LGI room at Adams.

### Friday, December 15

Magnet Application Deadline for incoming freshmen students

### Wednesday, December 21

Winter Break begins

### Monday, January 10, 7pm

John Adams Parent Group Meeting



## JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL

Global Studies Magnet/IB Program  
808 South Twyckenham Drive  
South Bend, Indiana 46615  
USA

Dr. Mika Roinila, IB Coordinator  
Office: room 1126, 574.283.7733  
[mroinila@sbcs.k12.in.us](mailto:mroinila@sbcs.k12.in.us)



## Freshmen travel the world without leaving Indiana

On Friday, November 18, 113 Adams magnet freshmen boarded charter buses (above) to travel to Indianapolis for the International Festival. That state's largest ethnic festival, the event featured the sights and sounds of a diversity of world cultures, cuisines, and traditions. Students visited numerous countries, including Turkey, India, Taiwan, Japan, Switzerland, Lithuania, and Peru, and using a passport provided by the Indiana Nationalities Council, collected visa stamps and information. Entertainment included flamenco dancing, Native American and Latin American music, along with Middle Eastern dancers and audience participation.



*I had a good time tasting different foods and hearing about the countries.*

-Kate Hayner-Slattery

*It was nice to be in an open, free environment where we weren't forced to do one exact thing. It gave us a chance to broaden our minds and experience other cultures.*

-Stephen Holmes

*The trip was fun and educational. I liked how people explained what the country was and about some of their holidays.*

-Alexis Hernandez

*I was relieved to have some freedom to explore and hang out with friends, instead of being on a leash.*

-Sarah Bowling

Thank you to Mrs. Gregory and Mr. Harvey, as well as Mrs. Ibrulj and Mrs. Roinila, for helping chaperone the students. Next year's freshman class will have an opportunity to experience this exciting event in Fall 2012.



## Be a part of the *IB Intellect*

The *IB Intellect* is YOUR publication. We welcome stories, news, event announcements, photos, or any other interesting items. Please send your ideas and submissions to the *IB Intellect*, via Dr. Mika (see contact info at left).

The *IB Intellect* will appear at the end of each month. Because of the holiday break, the next deadline will be Friday, January 6.