

IB

A NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

SOUTH BEND INDIANA USA

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INTELLECT



FUNDRAISING FOR THE IB PROGRAM Foundation offers opportunity for donors

“Why didn’t we do this before?” is a question asked by many in our community, according to Susan Warner, Executive Director of the South Bend Education Foundation, an organization that “advocates, promotes and funds initiatives to enrich learning experiences for students of the South Bend Community School Corporation.” Warner says that in previous years, Adams alumni have expressed interest in giving back to the school and specifically to the International Baccalaureate Program, yet the Mock Trial program has been the only JAHS group that has taken advantage of the funding support of the Foundation.



Recently, the JAHS IB Program was approved as a recipient for funding support through gifts and donations made to the SBEF. Financial support obtained through this fund will enable the IB Program to adopt the latest IB-sanctioned textbooks, something that will help between SBCSC textbook adoption years. In addition, the fund will support training and workshop attendance for teachers, student participation in IB student conferences, and the printing and publication costs of the IB Intellect.

We look forward to the increased success and growth of the IB Program through the support of the SBEF. Donations can be sent to the SBEF by check or via PayPal. Please be sure to designate the donation for the Adams IB Program. The Foundation is a tax-exempt, non profit 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts are tax deductible for income and estate tax purposes to the extent allowed by law. For more information and payment options, visit edfo.org.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Warm wishes for 2013 to all our students, families and staff at John Adams High School! We return to school and look forward to the start of the second semester later this month. This bi-monthly newsletter brings you news and information on the IB Magnet Program. To read previous issues, go to edline.net/pages/AdamsHS.

Dining and donating to the IB Program

Over the past few months, supporters of the IB Program participated in fundraising events at local restaurants. Thank you to Wendy’s on Grape Road, Chili’s Restaurant, Burger King in downtown South Bend, and Papa Vino’s Italian Restaurant for hosting us and contributing a portion of the proceeds to the IB Program. And thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy a meal and support Adams IB. The funds generated by these events are very much appreciated!



LIFE AFTER ADAMS

The *IB Intellect* welcomes updates from our IB graduates. This month we hear from Matt Caponigro, a 2011 IB Certificate Graduate who currently studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Even two years after leaving the International Baccalaureate program at Adams High School, I am still experiencing the benefits of the IB education. First and foremost, the IB demanded a level of work that went above and beyond in preparing me for that which I found once in college. The teachers in the IB program at Adams created a stimulating and intellectually challenging learning environment, but more importantly, they fostered a critical approach to ideas through discussion and writing that has allowed to me to really get the most out of the seminar-style classes I've had at the University of Notre Dame. Not only that, but the IB Higher Level exams I took as part of the program—and the SAT II tests they prepared me for—allowed me to test out of three required classes at Notre Dame and skip straight ahead to the classes I wanted first semester freshman year.

*-Matt Caponigro,
in an email to Dr. Mika,
January 2013*



Five IB students at Adams recently learned that they will receive grants for their research. Pictured are Lauren Strzelecki, Isabel Bradley, Raymond Han, Claire Rice and Kalina Misiolek.

IB students receive Science Research grants

Following a fifty year pattern of success, two JAHS seniors and three juniors recently learned that their research proposals had been fully funded by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This national organization funds professional scientists' work and provides support for a limited number of high school investigations. Most of the students' investigations continue last year's progress in the Adams Science Research Program. In addition, the students' work will satisfy the Extended Essay requirement for the IB Program. Currently, twenty-five other students are working on their Extended Essays through the Science Research Program.

Students who were funded and their topic titles include: Isabel Bradley, senior, *Improving the Efficiency of the Oxidation of Low Concentration Carbon Tetrachloride Contaminated Groundwater through Nutrient Supplementation*; Kalina Misiolek, senior, *Effects of Different Circuitry and Electrode Configurations on the Efficiency of a Membrane-less, Enzymatic Biofuel Cell Operating Under Physiological Conditions*; Claire Rice, junior, *Possible Effects of Graphene Oxide Ingestion on Hatchability and Elongation in Brine Shrimp, *Artemia Salina**; Lauren Strzelecki, junior, *An Evaluation of the Antioxidant Potential and Efficacy of Supplemental Antioxidants Related to Cognitive Process*; and Raymond Han, junior, *The Effects of Hydrophobicity and Microporous Layers in the Membrane Electrode Assembly of a Direct Methanol Fuel Cell to Enable Efficient Operation Using High Concentration Fuel*.

Magnet Information Night attracts over 300

In November, over 300 prospective students and their families attended Adams' Magnet Information Night. Afterwards, participants received a short survey seeking comments and suggestions. One quarter of the families responded, with 76% rating the event as excellent or very good. Responses to open-ended questions were also highly positive and offered suggestions for next year's event, including promoting the event more successfully. Feedback such as this is important in order to improve our outreach and attract future magnet students to the IB Program at JAHS.

One highlight among the comments was: "We appreciated hearing from the teachers and how they approach their classes and their students. Hearing details about the IB program was really great because we only knew about it peripherally. We went to two other open houses and we felt we got the most information by far from Adams. Our son is really excited to go there next year!"

Many thanks to all of the teachers, students and parent volunteers who helped put this event together. Your support is greatly appreciated.

SOPHOMORE PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING

To IB or not to IB? We'll answer that question.

All magnet sophomores and their parents are invited to attend an informational meeting to discuss scheduling for the coming junior year on **Wednesday, January 23, from 6–7pm in the JAHS Auditorium**. A panel of current and former IB students will discuss their experiences following a presentation by Dr. Mika Roinila, IB Coordinator. Mrs. Jennifer Reed from the Guidance Department will be present to discuss scheduling options for pursuing the IB Diploma or Certificate.

Scheduling will begin in early February. Please attend this meeting to learn more about your IB options.

TRAVEL WITH THE IB PROGRAM

Travel expands students' vision of the world

Excitement is building for this summer's trip to Rome & Athens to be led by Dr. Mika and Mr. Weaver. Sixteen students have committed to the trip and an informational meeting in December drew an additional 20 prospective travelers. Fresh from a whirlwind three-day training visit to Rome, Dr. Mika shared photos and information on the plans for the June 24–July 2 trip. The itinerary includes tours of Vatican City, the Colosseum, the Forum, Pompeii, and more in Rome. After taking a night ferry to Greece, students will visit Olympia, Epidaurus, Mycenae, and several Athens highlights, including the Olympic Stadium, the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and much more. Spots for this trip remain on a limited basis. Please contact Dr. Mika for more information.

Looking for ways to fundraise for travel? Students and parents can find great ideas through EF Tours, the tour organizers. One suggestion involves a "chip-in" program that allows individuals to raise funds through Facebook and PayPal. Anyone interested in attaining fundraising goals for foreign travel, community service or global outreach should check out this helpful website at chipin.com.

Spring break trip to Canada planned for 2013

Last year during spring break, a group of junior and senior Spanish language students traveled to Costa Rica while a group of IB Magnet sophomores went to Toronto, Canada. Dr. Mika is pleased to announce that he will be taking a group of 20 students to Canada during spring break again this year. The group will visit Ottawa, Ontario, the national capital, with a night at Niagara Falls on the return trip to South Bend. If you are interested in exploring Canada with us on April 1–6, please contact Dr. Mika for more information. Space on this trip is limited, so you will want to consider this opportunity soon.



The Spanish Steps in Rome, one of the destinations scheduled on the trip itinerary.



Porch of the Maidens at the Erechtheion at the Acropolis, Athens, also on the itinerary.



ANSWERS TO IB QUESTIONS

Does IB matter when applying to college?

"IB doesn't matter to universities" is a misperception of some students and parents as well. What schools recognize the IB Diploma? According to the IBO website, 727 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada give credit for IB courses. Colleges and universities have different requirements for credit. For example, DePaul requires a 4 on HL exams, Bowling Green gives credit for SL courses, Ohio State gives credit for TOK and the Extended Essay, and other schools such as Michigan and Notre Dame require a score of 5 or 6 on HL exams in order to receive credit.

In addition, both the Common Application form—completed by high school students when applying for admission to many schools—and college recommendation forms ask if the student took advantage of the most demanding coursework available at their school, including the IB Program. Being an IB student helps in college admissions, as the success of Adams IB students will attest. To learn more, talk to Dr. Mika or check the Adams IB website.



Attention sophomores!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 16–17

First Semester Final Exams

January 18

No school: Teacher Record Day

January 19

Midwinter Formal
Riverside Terrace

January 21

No school: Martin Luther King Day

**January 23, 6–7pm
in the Auditorium**

Sophomore Student/Parent
IB Scheduling Information Meeting

January 24, 3–4pm, LGI

Adams Travel Group meeting

February 15

Deadline for next *IB Intellect*



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Freshmen magnet students experience foreign culture at International Festival in Indianapolis

For the second year, a group of Magnet Freshmen and adult chaperones traveled to Indianapolis for the Indiana International Festival to experience and learn about foreign cultures in Indiana. This year, 87 students went on the trip.

Students received stamps on passports as they “traveled” throughout the festival and were able to turn them in for extra credit in some of their classes. Dr. Mika requested a written report after the field trip that included the students’ highlights of the day, how the experience relates to life in South Bend, and a general statement on the value of such out-of-school experiences for students.

According to Erik King, “Field trips like this are worth taking... people can learn about different countries.” Diva Perry echoed these sentiments as well: “These kinds of field trips are like active learning, being able to experience while learning.” According to



Santiago David: “The trip taught life lessons that one can always apply to their life. Maybe someone thought that the rest of the world was just like the United States but in reality, the people of the US are some of the most fortunate and at times we tend to forget that. It’s always good to learn about other places so that you become more intelligent and so that you can relate to other people.”



Stay informed about the IB Program

If you would like to be added to the email list for Adams IB Magnet families, please send your email address to Dr. Mika at mroinila@sbcsc.k12.in.us.

Be a part of the *IB Intellect*

The *IB Intellect* focuses on stories, events, and news related to the International Baccalaureate Program at Adams High School. Please send your ideas and submissions to the *IB Intellect*, via Dr. Mika (see contact info at left). The *IB Intellect* comes out every other month. The deadline for the next issue will be February 15.