

IB

A NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

SOUTH BEND INDIANA USA

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INTELLECT



JOHN ADAMS IB PROGRAM WELCOMES NEW COORDINATOR

Dr. Mika brings international background to his work with students and staff

At the start of this school year, Adams High School hired Dr. Mika Roinila as the new IB Program Coordinator. Dr. Mika brings an international background, which includes his birthplace of Finland, and residences in Sweden, Australia, and Canada, before moving to the United States some 14 years ago.

A citizen of three countries, Dr. Roinila holds a PhD in cultural-historical geography, with 17 years of teaching experience at the post-secondary level. Over the years, he worked at Mount Allison University, Okanagan College, and Brandon University in Canada, and after moving to the United States, he taught at James Madison University, West Virginia University, SUNY New Paltz, and Bethel College.

Dr. Mika plans to share more of his experiences and knowledge in IB courses such as Theory of Knowledge (TOK), as he develops and leads the program forward. We are pleased and excited to welcome Dr. Mika to Adams!

WELCOME

*Welcome to the first issue of the
IB Intellect, a new monthly
newsletter that will focus on stories,
events, and news related to the
International Baccalaureate Program
at John Adams High School.*

*Congratulations to IB junior
Mark Streeter, who receives
a \$15 gift certificate from Barnes
& Noble for submitting the winning
name of the newsletter.*





LIFE AFTER ADAMS

The *IB Intellect* welcomes updates from our IB graduates. This update comes from Adam Baumgartner, a 2011 IB Certificate graduate and current freshman at Ball State University.

I really wanted to tell you about my honors classes. One is Inquiries into Ancient Western Civilization. I've read Gilgamesh and a few pieces from Genesis and Psalms. Right now, we're reading The Odyssey. So far, we've had one short paper. My professor told us only three people got As, and I was one of them! I was so excited.

My other class is Inquiries into Contemporary Civilization. So far, we've written three papers. After a given period of time, my professor cancels class for a week to schedule meetings with his students. In my meeting, he said I'm doing great, that I analyze the documents very well and offer great in-class commentary. I was ecstatic!

Let me tell you, Mrs. Cwidak, I would not be where I am at present without having been in the IB program. I have so many assignments in such a wide assortment of subjects, all very involved, and had I not learned time management in high school, I'd be in big trouble. Furthermore, the analytical skills I gained through IB have all but saved my life so far this semester.

-email from Adam Baumgartner to Mrs. Cwidak, September 21, 2011

Going international: students headed to Costa Rica

In April 2012, during spring break, Adams Spanish teachers Mr. Joel Krueger and Ms. Cecilia Stanton will travel to Costa Rica with a dozen Spanish III, IV, and V students. The nine-day trip includes an eco-tour featuring the mountains, volcanoes, "cloud forests," swamps, and beaches of this beautiful Central American country.

Ms. Stanton wanted to take students to a Latin American country to make Spanish class more tangible. She says, "In class, we watch movies, we discuss different cultures, we celebrate different things about the culture, we learn information about the countries, but there's nothing like being there and seeing what it's like."

The trip offers students a chance for international travel. "It's really valuable when students have the possibility to have experiences such as traveling to places that they wouldn't otherwise go to—and not just traveling to, but learning about the place. The trip is an opportunity to branch out and learn about new things," Ms. Stanton says.



Monteverde in Costa Rica from ecoguidecostarica.com.

Freshmen to travel the world without leaving Indiana

On Friday, November 18, freshman magnet students have the opportunity to travel by charter bus to Indianapolis for Indiana's largest and oldest pan-ethnic celebration—the International Festival. Sponsored by the Nationalities Council of Indiana, the festival promises a unique opportunity to travel the world without leaving the state! Highlights include cultural booths hosted by volunteers in ethnic dress, authentic food from around the world, ethnic artists demonstrating unique cultural crafts, an International Marketplace, and continuous ethnic music and dance.



Young girls perform in last year's International Festival parade. Photo by the Indianapolis Star.

In addition, our freshmen will see Italian street painting, the National Geographic Society's Giant Traveling Maps, Afro-Cuban music and dance traditions, flamenco performances and instruction, as well as a Naturalization Ceremony. The cost of attending this exciting event is only \$30 per student. For more information, please contact Dr. Mika before the **Monday, October 31, deadline.**

History classes visit the Snite Museum of Art

In early September, two buses of students from Mr. Cotter's *History of the Americas* classes visited the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame. One group of students listened to an engaging lecture by anthropologist Dr. Mark Schurr, who spoke on the Mayan calendar and the beliefs many associate with the Mayan calculation about the end of the world. Following lunch, these students had a guided tour of the museum and completed sketches of historical artifacts. A second student group observed how archeological evidence is physically studied and handled by the archeologists in the archives of the museum. Overall, the visit was a success, with our hosts at Notre Dame commenting several times on the attentiveness and good behavior of our students. Thank you to Notre Dame, the teachers, the parent chaperones, and our students for a great experience.

IB seniors compete and win in statewide finals of Indiana Science Talent Search

A big congratulations goes to five Adams IB Seniors who were selected to present their research at the finals of the Indiana Science Talent Search at Indiana University Medical Center, October 21–22. Only eleven high school student researchers across the state made this year's final competition—and five of these students are from Adams. We proudly recognize IB Diploma students Moshe Friedland, Susan Nace, Kyle Rice, Kevin Tidmarsh, and IB Certificate student Eric Fein for their accomplishments. All of these students participate in Adams' Science Research Program under the guidance of Mr. Nevin Longenecker.

During the weekend's festivities, three of the top four awards were presented to Adams students. Eric Fein won first place, which includes an all-expense paid trip for himself and Mr. Longenecker to Vancouver, BC for the National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science where he will present his research findings. Kyle Rice won second prize, which includes a \$600 scholarship to an Indiana college. Susan Nace also placed in the winners division.

To enter, students wrote 25-page research reports compiled after completing investigations during their junior year. These research reports also serve as the students' IB Extended Essays. Their reports, along with approximately 65 others, were evaluated over the summer in a "blind study" by a team of specialists in the Indiana Academy of Science from different science and engineering fields. Selection of the top students was based on the research report, a discussion of their poster, and an intensive interview. The Indiana Science Talent Search Competition was originated by Indiana University Medical School to encourage more high school students to enter the fields of science, mathematics, and engineering as careers.



At the Indiana Science Talent Search in Kokomo on October 22, Adams students numbered five out of the eleven state finalists and finished in three of the top four places. Pictured above are Mr. Nevin Longenecker, Susan Nace, Moshe Friedland, Kevin Tidmarsh, Eric Fein, and Kyle Rice.



VISIT TO A TOP IB SCHOOL

Pictured above, Mr. Joe Stanfiel (IB parent), Mr. Jack Brewer (IB math teacher), and Dr. Mika Roinila (IB Coordinator) traveled to Troy, Michigan near Detroit to visit the International Academy on October 13. Recognized as one of the best high schools in the United States, the International Academy attributes its success directly to their focus on the IB Program. Fifteen years ago, the IB program was established at IA with a central campus in Detroit and has developed into three campus locations in three school districts.

While visiting individual classes, multiculturalism was very evident, as well as a great deal of attentiveness and interaction among all students. Classrooms were well equipped with technology such as LCD projectors, whiteboards, elmo projection systems, and access to the internet in every room.

Meeting and networking with colleagues from IA offers many opportunities for Adams, including future visits to IA by other Adams faculty and a possible visit to Adams by Mr. Eric Sturm (IA's IB Coordinator). Thanks go to Mr. Stanfiel for organizing our visit to Detroit.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 9, 6–8pm
Adams Magnet Information Night
(Open House)

We invite eighth grade students and their parents to come to Adams High School to learn about the Global Studies magnet and the IB program. Visit classrooms and tour the school.

School clubs, activities, sports, and exchange programs will be displayed.

Please enter through the Auditorium doors off of Wall Street on the north side of the school.

Monday, November 14, 7pm
John Adams Parent Group meeting

Friday, November 18

Indianapolis International Festival

All Freshman magnet students are invited to travel by bus to the Indianapolis International Festival. See page 2 for details.



JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL

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Earlier this month, IB students in the Theory of Knowledge course were interviewed by a WNIT-TV crew for a promotional video on the SBCSC high school magnet programs.

Stay informed with Parent Group and IB email lists

A very active group of Adams parents who are interested in the activities and achievements of their children meet monthly to discuss concerns, events, and news. Led by parents Shannon Brewster and Toni Fein, the John Adams Parent Group meets monthly in the LGI room. While many parents in the group have children in the IB program, matters of concern to all students at Adams are addressed.

At October's meeting, guests included SBCSC Interim School Superintendent Dr. Carol Schmidt, new Assistant Principal Mr. Matthew Emery, and Student Advocate Mrs. Latifa Oudghiri.

The Adams Parent Group email list provides updates on school activities, policies, and upcoming events. **To be added to the John Adams Parent Group email list, please send a message to jadamsparentgroup@gmail.com.** The next meeting of the Parent Group will be held **Monday, November 14, at 7pm** in the LGI (Large Group Instruction) room at Adams. Everyone is welcome!

A sub-committee of the Parent Group, the IB Steering Committee works to address matters concerning the IB Program at Adams. Chair Joe Stanfiel maintains an additional email list for parents of IB students. **To be added to the IB email list, please send a message to Joseph.B.Stanfiel.1@nd.edu.** We recommend that IB parents join both email lists to receive all pertinent information.

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 on the last Wednesday of every month. Typically, the deadline for submissions for the monthly newsletter will be one week before publication date. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, however, the next deadline will be Friday, November 18. The next issue will be distributed on Wednesday, November 30.