

# ***IB Intellect***

## **Welcome back**

The new school year is well on its way. We have record number of freshmen, and the size of the student body may be a record for the ages. Everyone is moving forward with great anticipation for excellence in all that they plan to do. We start this year's newsletter by sharing student and teacher accomplishments, reflections of IB graduation results, and more. We also welcome two new teachers into our IB Program: Mr. Matthew Bogard teaches Math Studies SL, and Mrs. Sally Troxel teaches Biology HL. Welcome on board!

## **Where did you go?**

Returning to school is an opportunity for everyone to share the high-lights of their summer months. Of interest may be our IB teachers and the experiences they encountered this summer.

Eve Woodward (IB Visual Arts) laid the foundation for an art studio in her back yard. The art studio will have a pottery wheel, several work tables, a wedging board and two kilns. In July-August, *"I participate in an historical reenactment group. The group spans the world, and holds several conventions/events. The one I went to has about 10,000 people, and I shot on the Archery Champions team, as I have for most of the last 20 years."*

Heath Weaver (IB History & TOK) traveled with Dr. Mika to Rome and Athens. *"I also taught summer school English and traveled to Florida and New Orleans with my family. In addition, I traveled to Ontario, Canada as well with his family. My summer also consisted of reading lots of US and Americas History to prepare for my new teaching assignment."*

Bryan Cline (IB History) had a wonderful vacation to Aruba!

Rhonda Steiner (IB French) went hiking with her daughters in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

Nevin Longenecker (IB Biology) spent the summer developing a new syllabus entitled Student Investigations Related to Engineering a More Sustainable Future. It is primarily focused on STEM Education with an emphasis on the new Core Standards.

*"My (Dr. Mika) highlight for the summer was the opportunity my wife and I had in spending 10 days on a short-term missions trip to Odessa, Ukraine with seven others who helped serve American and Canadian missionaries at the annual SEND International conference location along the Black Sea. We helped lead music and youth activities. Other highlights included attending the IB Americas Conference in New Orleans in July, and helping in leading a group of 22 people from JAHS on a fantastic tour to Rome & Athens with EF Tours in June."*

## Students visit Rome and Athens!

A group of 20 students and 3 adults spent 10 days in Italy and Greece this past summer. Participating with EF Tours, the group traveled from Chicago to Rome, where they explored major sites such as the Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica, the Colosseum and Forum, as well as Trevi Fountain and Piazza Navona. From Rome, the group traveled by bus to Pompeii where a marvelous tour guide led the group through the ruins that were buried so long ago as a result of the volcanic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. The journey continued to Brindisi along the Adriatic Sea, from where an overnight ferry took the group to Patras, Greece. The group continued with a bus to Tolo, where everyone enjoyed a late night swim in the warm Mediterranean Sea. Visits were made to Epidauros, Olympia, and Mycenae, followed by three days in Athens. The group walked on the Acropolis and visited the Parthenon, and had a wonderful time seeing Greek life up close. On the final "free" day of the tour, Mr. Weaver was in heaven as he and several students visited the Agora and saw a one man theatrical play under the Acropolis on The Trail of Socrates, while Dr. Mika took others to a beach on the Mediterranean. A fantastic tour guide stayed with the group throughout the travels, and for all, the experience was simply fantastic. Many thanks go to the students who were so well behaved and interested in everything, and to Mr. Weaver for helping in the leadership of this journey.



Adams students in St. Peter's Square, Rome.



Adams students at the Parthenon, Athens.



At the beach on the Mediterranean in Athens



Students run on the original Olympic Stadium track in Olympia, Greece

## May 2013 IB Test Results

A total of 149 students registered for the May 2013 IB test session to test for Diplomas and Certificates. Of this number of students, a total of 11 students attempted to earn the Diploma, with only three succeeding. Congratulations to Ava Tomasula-y-Garcia, Maria Caponigro, and Justin Stamets for receiving the Diploma.

A total of 108 students were awarded the IB Certificate. The remaining 38 students were Juniors, who anticipate to complete their IB Diploma testing in May 2014. On a grading scale of 1 to 7, the average grade obtained at the school by candidates who passed the Diploma was 4.78, which was higher than in 2012 when the average was 4.46. Eight students achieved the possible maximum grade of 7. Four of these perfect scores were obtained in Spanish SL, followed by two in Chemistry SL, and one each in History of the Americas HL and Math SL courses. Three of these maximum scores were earned by Junior IB students.

In terms individual course achievements, Adams High School surpassed the world average grade in a total of three subjects. The French SL course earned an average grade of 6.00, which is well above the world average of 4.89. However, this average is skewed by the fact that only two students took the IB examination in the course. Following the trend of previous years, several other courses continue to excel beyond the world average grades. History of the Americas HL (4.35) improved its average from a year before (4.15), and was once again higher than the world average (4.11). The third course to significantly improve and score higher than the world average was Chemistry SL (4.17) which outscored the world average (4.10) for the first time since 2010. All test results and trends from 2008 to 2013 will be posted on the IB Magnet Program online on our homepage - <https://www.edline.net/pages/AdamsHS>

## The New TOK Course

Important changes are taking place with the TOK course, including holistic marking of the course requirements. Some information gathered from the recent IB Conference of the Americas criticized TOK prescribed essays as being *"too narcissistic"*. According to Chris Mannix (Head of IBCC Development and Core, IBO, The Hague) and Carolyn Henly (TOK & English teacher, Henrico, VA), more emphasis on knowledge questions is needed in the prescribed essays written for the course. *"Students do not know what a knowledge question is"* noted Mannix. *"Other courses need to ask knowledge questions as well, so that the TOK experience and other courses are interconnected and support each other."* So what is a knowledge question? A knowledge question needs to be 1. An open question (for & against), 2) About knowledge, and 3) General. More is posted online, and you may want to view the powerpoint presentation shared by the authors at [http://issuu.com/internationalbaccalaureate/docs/chris\\_mannix\\_carolyn\\_henly-tok/1](http://issuu.com/internationalbaccalaureate/docs/chris_mannix_carolyn_henly-tok/1)

## Online IB Math HL continues at Adams

The second year of a new higher level math IB course selection continues, with all four junior students returning to finish off the course in their senior year. We also welcome six new juniors to the course as they undertake the first year of studies. Provided by Pamoja Education, this

British education company offers a variety of online IB courses that are receiving growing interest among IB World Schools. Other schools in Indiana that offer the online Math HL include the International Schools in Indianapolis and Columbus, Ben Davis High School, and North Lawrence High School.

### **IB Conference of the Americas 2013 Review**

I (Dr. Mika) had the privilege of attending the annual IB Conference of the Americas in New Orleans in July 18-21. The conference included several keynote speakers, opportunities to collaborate with teachers and colleagues from IB schools across the Americas and to learn about IB related concerns, curricular changes, and innovate educational outreach opportunities from over 100 breakout sessions. I was able to meet with Pamoja Education representatives who were very happy to connect with John Adams High School due to our adoption of the Online Math HL course. In fact, online courses were noted in keynote speeches as expanding in the future. As to number of schools, it is worth noting that Chicago holds the record for most IB schools for any IB district with 34 along with 55 programs. The connections made at this event will continue to grow, and participation in future conferences is encouraged for our IB teachers as well. Next year, this event will be held in Washington DC. Many thanks to the South Bend Education Foundation for their support allowing me to attend this conference. It was definitely worth the drive!



Mardi Gras Indians of New Orleans dance and sing at the IB Conference of the Americas.

### **Students Visit Amish Country**

Thirteen IB Social and Cultural Anthropology students visited Shipshewana earlier this week to visit with the Amish community. The group visited an Amish farm, an Amish one-room school, as well as a newly established tourist destination Dutch Creek Farm Animal Park. The students learned much about the Amish lifestyle and values under the guidance of Amish minister Raymond Wingard and his son-in-law Jacob Yoder. In order to understand cultures and people groups, visits such as this are excellent ways in learning more about our neighbors in the region.



Plans are under way to reciprocate this experience, and we hope to provide the Amish community an opportunity to come to our school to see us in the New Year.



Ashley Strzelecki and Samantha Stitt get to travel with an Amish buggy



Adams students at the Northside School



Adams students play basketball with Amish students



Volleyball was also played by the students

### Upcoming events:

Oct.30 – City wide Magnet Fair at Century Center at 6:00pm to promote magnet programs

Nov.1 – IB Student Experience Conference, University of Indianapolis for IB Juniors

Nov.11 – Adams Parent/Student Information Night for incoming Grade 8 students

Nov.22 – Annual Freshman Magnet Student trip to Indiana International Festival, Indianapolis

To be added to our magnet e-mail list, contact Dr. Mika at [mroinila@sbcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:mroinila@sbcsc.k12.in.us)

**Deadline for next issue: Nov. 25, 2013**