

IB INTELLECT

A NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

SOUTH BEND INDIANA USA

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SPRING IB TESTING AT ADAMS Results reveal successes with opportunities for improvement

This spring, 157 Adams students registered for the May 2012 IB test session, making this the largest group in the history of the IB Program at Adams to test for Diplomas and Certificates. In the 2012 graduating class, 148 students received Certificates and nine students achieved the

IB Diploma: Lisa Bauer, Ashleigh Bush, Ruth Davison-Hernandez, Bethany Green, Nick Hall, Kate Johnson, Kyle Rice, Pauline Stanfiel, and Peri Stangas.

The scores from the May IB tests show that Adams continues to excel in a number of areas, surpassing the world average in six courses, including French SL, English HL, Spanish SL, Physics SL, History of the Americas HL, and Visual Arts Option B SL (HL=higher level and SL=standard level). While several subjects receive excellent grades, others are near or lower than the world average.

In the coming year, our attention will be focused on providing teacher training, obtaining IB sanctioned textbooks, addressing scheduling issues, and planning for future courses. We will continue to work through the South Bend Community School Corporation to achieve these goals within budgetary constraints. The success of the IB Program is reflected not only in the success of our graduates but in the excitement and enthusiasm that continues to build with 200 freshmen entering as magnet students this fall. Welcome to these students and their families—and to all of our students!

WELCOME

Welcome to the school year's first issue of the IB Intellect, a newsletter that focuses on stories, events, and news related to the International Baccalaureate Program at John Adams High School.

We are looking forward to an exciting year filled with new opportunities for growth and learning. We welcome your comments and contributions.

Have a great year!

At right, students prepare for IB testing in an English HL class this spring. Photo by Paulette Cwidak.





LIFE AFTER ADAMS

The *IB Intellect* welcomes updates from former students. This month we hear from Gabriel Villavicencio, a foreign exchange student from Bolivia who attended Adams last year.

When I arrived in South Bend, I felt a little bit anxious to know what John Adams High School was going to be like. But looking back now, I can see that it was an awesome year! Sometimes I wish I could be back there ... saying hi to Mrs. Raymer who would ask me how my day was going and gave us Kit-Kat bars to make us more inspired ... running to Mr. Szucs' class and watching him holding his coffee while he waited for the students and asked for IDs ... the funniest classes ever with Mr. Wilson and Mr. Kingston ... talking about life and culture in Spanish/English with Senor Krueger and Mrs. Dickerson. All of these teachers taught me a ton of things, for which I am really grateful, as well as the friends I made during this experience ... all of the people in my classes, the Adams soccer team, friends in the hallway, volunteers participating in JAVA, and other foreign exchange students.

Friday football and basketball nights were some of my favorite memories ... like the first football game last year. Screaming, cheering, and dancing the Eagle rumble was just great! Also the basketball games with every game being so intense and fun to watch. Writing this is making me miss everything about Adams and even more now that the football team is undefeated.

I will be back someday! Good luck to the soccer and football teams this fall.

~Gabriel Villavicencio, Bolivia

What I did on my summer vacation ...

Returning to school is an opportunity for everyone to share the highlights of their summer experiences, including those of our Adams IB teachers.



lavender in bloom (above). Mrs. Steiner also travelled to Montezuma, New Mexico for IB training on the campus of United World College.

- Mrs. Steiner (IB French) accompanied two IB students to Aix-en-Provence, France for a language immersion program. Mrs. Steiner visited several nearby places including the Gorge de Verdun (France's Grand Canyon), the Camargue (known for its white horses and many migrating birds such as flamingos and storks) and the beautiful fields of
- Ms. Hernandez (IB Spanish) also travelled to Montezuma, New Mexico for IB training.
- Ms. Stanton (IB Spanish) travelled to San Diego, California for IB training.
- Mrs. Dickerson (IB English) went to Washington, DC, and the Outer Banks of North Carolina for vacation.
- Mrs. Elliott (IB English) visited Rochester, MN to visit friends and family and tour the Mayo Clinic.
- Ms. Woodward (IB Art) made her annual pilgrimage to Slippery Rock, PA and "Pennsic41," an annual gathering sponsored by the Society for Creative Anachronism for people interested in the Middle Ages. Spending a week with some 10,000 people in a campground, she took classes in various arts and sciences, including Norse needle binding and recent archeological finds in England and Syria.
- Mrs. Pantea (IB Chemistry) vacationed at Frankenmuth, MI this summer.
- Mr. Cline (IB History) travelled to Hornpayne, Ontario for a week long fly-out fishing trip. An avid fisherman who takes this trip annually, Mr. Cline says that this year's trip didn't result in fish as large as those he has caught in the past.
- Dr. Mika spent a week grading AP Human Geography tests in Cincinnati, attended the PISA Summer Workshop in Washington DC, escorted his uncle to a retirement home in Pensacola, FL, spent a week in Maine at a family reunion, and visited Progreso and Cozumel, Mexico with wife Grace as they celebrated their 25th anniversary (right).



Adams selected for PISA 2012 study

This fall, Adams will participate in the 2012 assessment for PISA, the Program for International Student Achievement. Held every three years, this assessment compares student learning in reading, mathematics, and science among students internationally. PISA is sponsored by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and managed in the US by the National Center for Education Statistics of the US Department of Education.

PISA staff will randomly select up to 42 Adams students and provide all materials, as well as trained PISA representatives to administer the test. A letter of consent and more information will be sent to families of selected students. For participating in PISA 2012, Adams will receive \$200 and, if approved by SBCSC, each student who participates will receive \$25. PISA randomly selects schools nationally. No school in Michiana has been part of previous studies. We look forward to the opportunity!

Skype saves a semester of academic work

While Skype is most often used to view friendly smiles on a computer screen, it was recently used at Adams to help a student view the dissection of a frog in Biology class. During second semester of the past school year, freshman Magnet student Claire Migliore was diagnosed with Guillain Barre Syndrome and Mitochondrial Myopathy. Both of these conditions cause profound fatigue, muscle pain, and weakness that affects every muscle of the body. Claire required the use of a wheelchair and IV fluids into an artery of her heart because her stomach muscles were not functioning properly.

While she was confined to home for an extended period, Claire used Skype to continue her progress in Mr. Longenecker's Biology course. Through this technology, Claire was able to maintain the level of exemplary work she had achieved during the first semester, including having an active role with her classmates at Adams. Each day she interacted with other students by using PowerPoint presentations, viewing transparencies, participating in class discussions, and even observing the dissection of a frog (at right).

"Being able to Skype made me feel as though I was still a part of the biology class even though I was miles away. I'm really glad that despite my illness, I could still finish the school year and get all of my credit," said Claire. We happily report that Claire has returned to Adams for her sophomore year. We wish her all the best.



Students being filmed during TOK class in fall 2011

ANSWERS TO IB QUESTIONS

What is TOK?

Every IB Diploma student is required to complete several core components for the Diploma Program, including the Theory of Knowledge class or TOK. Other components include the Extended Essay and CAS (creativity, action, service) hours.

The TOK course begins spring semester junior year and is completed in fall semester senior year. The course is at the center of the IB Program philosophy, with a goal of strengthening students' critical thinking and writing.

Students are encouraged to reflect on concepts that they have taken for granted and examine their assumptions, prejudices, and biases. The course challenges students to become more aware of the factors that have influenced their perspectives and the perspectives of others. In addition, the course strives to promote international awareness and cultural sensitivity. Work in the class includes readings, a prescribed essay, and an oral presentation.

Technology enables new IB Math HL course

Students looking for a higher level math class at Adams now have a new option. Beginning on September 5, the SBCSC approved access for students to an online Math HL class. This allows students to work toward the full IB Diploma Program. Previously, students in accelerated math took these classes at Indiana University-South Bend and were not able to achieve the IB Diploma.

Students will access lessons and course materials by using the internet and Skype connections provided by Pamoja Education. Dr. Mika will serve as the site-based coordinator and provide supervision. Pamoja Education, a 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 Ben Davis High School, Lawrence North High School, and the International School of Indiana — all in Indianapolis, and the International School of Columbus.

Celebrities among us: Dr. Mika writes a book

This summer, Michigan State University Press released a new addition to the series *Discovering the Peoples of Michigan* with a book written by IB Coordinator Dr. Mika Roinila, entitled *Finland-Swedes in Michigan*. In writing the book, Dr. Mika interviewed people across Michigan, researched at libraries in both the United States as well as Finland, and collected information to provide the first in-depth look at this poorly known ethnic group in the state. Historically, these Swedish-speaking natives of Finland maintained a language, culture, and identity that was distinct from the Finnish-speaking majority, and in certain locations their existence remains isolated. The book is an easy read, with photos and maps to illustrate the distribution of this ethnolinguistic minority. Available at Barnes and Noble and other bookstores, the book will appeal to IB students and readers interested in ethnic groups and immigration history. For more information, visit msupress.msu.edu.



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 12, 6–8pm

Adams High School Open House

September 17, 3pm in LGI

Adams Travel Club Meeting

September 18, 4–8pm

IB Fundraiser at Wendy's
on Grape Road

October 3

Registration deadline for *IB Experience*

October 5

Deadline for next *IB Intellect*

October 10

PISA2012 Assessment

October 12

IB Experience Conference,
Butler University

October 23

IB Fundraiser at Chili's
on Grape Road



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Attend *IB Experience* conference at Butler in Indy

Students: be a part of the delegation of Adams students to the *IB Experience* conference on Friday, October 12, from 8:30am–3:30pm at Butler University. Juniors who are IB Diploma candidates are invited to travel to this exciting event in Indianapolis with Dr. Mika.



At *IB Experience*, students can expand their global view of learning through collaboration with peers from around the state. Conversations will be facilitated in all major content areas with a goal of enhancing the overall IB experience at the students' home schools. This includes time for delegates from each school to process learning and make future plans. This is **your** opportunity to have a voice in the IB Program at John Adams High School as well as within the state of Indiana. We will also be joined by higher education faculty who want to hear from you about your IB experience. In addition, you can attend workshops on developing ideas for your extended essay, setting up CAS opportunities, and managing the college application process.

Looking for other students who understand the challenges of the IB Program? Would you like some new Facebook friends? Want some support as you apply to college? At *IB Student Experience*, you can connect with other IB students in Indiana through a network designed to keep students in touch throughout high school and beyond.

For more information about *IB Experience* and to sign up, please see Dr. Mika by October 3, the registration deadline. The cost to attend is \$65 which covers the registration fee, all materials, lunch, a student t-shirt, and transportation.



IB juniors visit the Snite Museum at Notre Dame

At the end of August, Adams IB juniors from Mr. Cotter's History of the Americas classes visited the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame. The students viewed ancient Olmec and Mayan artifacts, attended a lecture by anthropologist Dr. Mark Schurr who spoke about the Mayan calendar, and enjoyed lunch at the Huddle.

Eat out and help out the IB Program

Help raise money for the Adams IB Program and Travel Club by having fun with friends and enjoying a meal together. Proceeds from these restaurant events (between 10–15% of sales) will provide support for teacher training, the purchase of new IB books and other materials, the printing of this newsletter and more. Coupons for these restaurants will be distributed to students and are also available in Dr. Mika's office. Please join us!

Tuesday, September 18, 4–8pm

Wendy's, 6526 Grape Road, Mishawaka across from University Park Mall

Tuesday, October 23, all day

Chili's, 4810 Grape Road, Mishawaka

Wednesday, November 14, 4–7pm

Burger King, 121 W. LaSalle Ave. in downtown South Bend

Thursday, December 13, all day

Papa Vito's, 5110 Edison Lake Parkway, Mishawaka