



TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

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International Baccalaureate News



Staying Well Connected

E-mail, the Internet, cell phones, and the Blackberry are helping us to communicate all day long. It's true that we're able to connect like never before, and while we can't live without technology, face-to-face interpersonal communication is still the number one factor in effective interactions. To this point, a study by the Carnegie Institute of Technology noted that 15% of career success is due to technical competence and 85% is due to interpersonal skills. Within our global society, communication problems often occur; thus, interpersonal communication skills must be cut above. Being able to think on your feet, contribute in collaborative settings, and not be intimidated by high-pressure situations are the hallmarks of good communicators who know what to say and are confident in themselves and their abilities. In such IB courses as English, Foreign Language, Visual Arts, Film Study and CAS projects, interpersonal skills are a key component of the overall assessment. Our students this semester have completed several tasks in each of these disciplines that require face-to-face communication and excellent speaking skills. In English and Foreign Language, for instance, students were required to deliver timed commentaries on specified texts. During the Visual Arts examination, students presented an explanation of their work and techniques to the examiner. These as well as other opportunities for interpersonal communication throughout the two-year IB program build skills necessary for success in college, the work force, and life!

Optimists Speak Out

Since 1928, the Optimist International Association has sponsored an oratorical contest which has been one of its most popular programs. Designed for students under the age of sixteen, the contest is offered on the Club, Zone, Regional and District levels. With over 3,000 clubs worldwide, the organization reaches out to local youth as it encourages interest in civic affairs and works toward international accord. This year we are thrilled to announce that Pre-IB sophomore **Catherine Busam** won first place in the contest. With the guidance of veteran Speech teacher, Mrs. Sheila Scott, Catherine gave a five-minute speech exploring the benefits of cyber communication. Congratulations, Catherine! We are truly proud of you as well as all the sophomores who participated: Ambria Mahomes, Kathleen Planek and Lija Silunas. Catherine is now eligible to compete at the Zone level, and we wish her much good luck! For further information about Optimist International and the local chapter in Oak Park, please visit: <http://www.oakparkoptimist.org/>



Stunning Images Spread Wall-to-Wall

Featuring the works of 31 seniors, the annual IB Art and Design Show receptions were held March 11 and 15. The creative efforts were truly amazing! Striking images showcased contemporary concerns dealing with family, identity, relationships, the environment, politics, social justice, popular culture, and spirituality. Congratulations to our many talented artists and to their teachers, Mrs. Pam Quimby-Costello and Mrs. Viki Siliunas.

Learning Outside the Classroom

Theory of Knowledge juniors and seniors both ventured outside their classrooms during third block to experience learning in a new and stimulating setting. On March 2, Mrs. Matson's juniors visited the Challenger Learning Center in Woodstock where they took part in a simulated space mission. Their task was to ensure the safe arrival of precious cargo to a space center. Problem solving activities were highlighted as various teams worked together to complete the mission. On March 10, Ms. Crnkovich's seniors took a trip to the Pilsen neighborhood to visit the National Museum of Mexican Art and then the Museum of Contemporary Art downtown. They viewed several works in both museums that asked them to question the nature of art and its cultural relevance. The field trip experiences for these ToK students were not only educational but also an enjoyable break from the daily routine. Students were able to learn in an engaging environment which can only serve to enrich their overall education.

Off to the Far Corners

External assessments, which count for a certain percentage of an IB candidate's final grade, are traveling to various parts of the globe. These written components are evaluated by a team of international examiners against standardized criteria. Here are the final destinations of students' recently completed work:

Extended Essays: Hong Kong (*Film*), Canada (*Dance, Biology, History, English*), Singapore (*Design Technology*), Jordan (*Art*), United Arab Emirates (*Philosophy*), United Kingdom (*World Religions, Socio-Cultural Anthropology*).

Theory of Knowledge Essays: France

World Literature Essays: United Kingdom

IB Exams Begin May 4



After the long-awaited Easter break, IB students will be gearing up for exams beginning on Tuesday, May 4 and concluding Friday, May 21. The shortest exam is forty-five minutes for Chemistry Paper 1, and the longest is two and a half hours for History Paper 3. Informational meetings will be held during the last week of April to acquaint students with the exam regulations and procedures. Please see the Ib exam schedule posted on our website at: www.trinityhs.org. We wish everyone the best of luck with this final stage of their IB assessments!

Extended Essay Launch for the Class of 2011

A special informational meeting for the extended essay is planned for the end of March. IB full diploma juniors will be selecting topics of interest along with faculty mentors to assist them with this nearly year-long research project. In early June a formal launching session will be held in the library to assist students with the first stage of the process. All diploma juniors are required to attend and mentors are invited as well. The session will be held from 9 am to noon.



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