



IB matters

A World for Learning

Douglas County High School
2842 Front Street
Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

Volume 10 Issue 3

Huskie IBPO Sponsors Extended Essay Sessions

*Advisors and Students Attend
Meetings to Kick Off Process,
Summer Workshop Also to Be Held*

On January 10 the Huskie IB Parent Organization sponsored several sessions to provide additional guidance to both our IB juniors and teachers as they embark upon the IB Extended Essay process this year.

The IB Extended Essay is a 4000-word research paper, which is due in the fall of the senior year. Students must develop a research question/topic in an approved IB subject area. They must then research this topic, develop an outline and write a rough draft for submission soon after school starts in the fall. The student's work is guided by an advisor, a DCHS teacher selected by the student, with expertise in the chosen subject.

The speaker for these sessions was Rebecca Parnell, former librarian at Littleton High School, which also has an IB program. While at Littleton, she advised many IB students on their extended essays which covered a variety of subject areas. She also developed a workshop for students that reviews the essay process and trains them on research methods. Now the librarian at Kent Denver, she continues to conduct these workshops for Littleton students, as well as IB students from Smoky Hill High School.

The first session on January 10 was with a group of DCHS teachers and staff, in their role as essay advisors. Ms. Parnell explained her view of the essay as a "capstone project" which



Students in TOK listen to Rebecca Parnell provide advice about the Extended Essay Process.

Huskie IBPO Presents:

College Research: How to Find the Best Fit

**Tuesday, March 20
7:00 p.m., DCHS Auditorium**

- *The national spectrum of college admissions*
- *Situations that affect early preparation timelines*
- *How to interface with admissions offices*
- *The application: activities, resume, essays*

Our speaker, Diane Schaefer, is an Educational Planner who consults with families. Information about her can be found soon at her website, Schaefer Educational Planning, www.schaefereducationalplanning.com

IB parents and students invited--9th, 10th, 11th

moves the student from the status of being just a "student" to that of being a "young scholar," which in her opinion is what IB is all about. She described the essay as primarily a "literature review," in which students are often required to review the source material that exists for their topic, and draw their own conclusion. Attendees asked many constructive questions regarding their role as advisors, and Ms. Parnell explained how she herself acts as a guide in the essay process, often requiring three drafts of the essay by her students. Of primary importance is the need for both the advisor and the student to review the published guidelines and rubrics together to enhance the student's understanding of what is required for a successful essay.

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Coordinator's Corner

by Matt Wigdahl,
CAS and Extended Essay Coordinator

Some thoughts upon leaving . . .

Editor's Note: Mr. Wigdahl has been involved in the IB Program at Douglas County since its inception. In light of Mr. Wigdahl's impending retirement at the end of this year, Mr. Fleet has asked him for a few words of reflection about his involvement with the program.

There is no severance from this business. This is not a business. This is a life. There is no token final payment that tersely and contractually and conclusively cuts the teacher from his relationship with his very "life." You never sever from that which feeds you. I have been nourished in my life as a teacher. I am linked in my reinvigorated mind and in my renewed heart and in my continually reshaped soul to the students I have taught in this IB program since 2000. *They* and *you* are the reasons for my renewal. Students have moved me, formed me, and vitalized

me since 1977. I really don't know why I got into this "business," but I do know that I stayed in this "life" for me. I have been—since way back then to this current year—as inextricably attached to my students as the polar star is linked to the stars of the Dipper that rotate eternally around it. I am as close in my heart to a wheel chair-bound Tim, a kindergartner I worked with thirty years ago as I am to Acadia whom (like so many others) I dearly cherish—an endearment that I demonstrated today by publicly chastising her. A foolish overreaction from which we mutually learned.

Severance, of course, might cut the other way; however, I trust that *you* and *they* will not sever yourselves from us. Where *they* are now and where *you* will go are to be determined by choices, reasons, instincts; by the lay of the land, the

luck of the draw, by the way the wheel turns. I know that we will remain orbiting in each other's mutual constellations—adjacent or remote. And those spheres are commingled by the experience of learning. I couldn't tell you what teaching is. I can't define it for myself. But I do know that learning is the formative experience of humanity, and it's the learning that joins us. In times and places far from here and far from now, the learning will link us.

Ultimately, you will not sever from your ever changing self. This is the most important tie that you must bind. Your continuous expansion depends on it. Your intellectual and academic, athletic and aesthetic experiences here will translate, transfer, and transport you to where your emerging character now points.

IB matters

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IBO Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the IBO works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

IBPO Hosts IB Graduate Panel

On the evening of January 10, former DCHS IB students graciously returned to visit their old high school to discuss their IB experience and its impact on college life, and to give advice to those considering or currently enrolled in the program.

The panel included Jennifer Nelson (Columbia—formerly DU), Liz Jeffries (CO School of Mines), Cassidy Higgins (Univ of CO, Denver), Sarah Stephens (Colorado State Univ.), Maddy

LaRue (Jacobs University, Germany) and Jon McMahon (DU).

IB Parent Jock Patel moderated the panel and asked questions for the panel members to address. He also took several questions from the audience.

Panel students remembered their IB days fondly, comparing the program to “kind of a college atmosphere.” The most common example of the benefit of IB was in preparing them for writing college essays, with one student commenting that his first research paper was “so much easier for me than for the others who hadn’t been through the IB program.”

Other words of wisdom and advice from the panel:

- “The Extended Essay trains you like an athlete.”
- IB students in college are always the ones who get involved and are passionate about their activities.”
- “IB takes the fear out of education and makes it more pleasurable.”
- “IB students have so much more confidence in themselves than those who weren’t in IB.”
- IB provides “an appreciation for world culture in all subjects.”
- “Sometimes you come out of IB classes glowing because it was so exciting.”
- IB “asks you to step out of your comfort zone intellectually.”



Extended Essay Sessions

(continued from page 1)

At the end of this session, the IBPO provided a meal for the attendees, to thank them for their attendance and to allow them to continue discussing essay issues with Ms. Parnell. IBPO members served a hot fajita meal, with both chicken and beef choices, various toppings, side dishes and desserts.

Then, at the beginning of TOK, which followed the meal, our 11th grade IB students got their own formal introduction to the IB Extended Essay process by Ms. Parnell. Much of her talk centered on the formulation of the research question (topic) and sub-questions students should develop. She advised them to have a personal interest in the topic they choose. Also, contrary to common belief, students do not have to create “new knowledge” from their research. The purpose is to show their research capabilities of investi-

gating and comparing source material, analyzing it, and presenting their own conclusions. She also reiterated the need for the students to pay close attention to the guidelines and rubric, advising them to “take your advisor out for coffee” and review them together.

Passionate about her desire for students to create a successful essay, she also offered herself as a reference for the students throughout the essay process, encouraging them to email her with their questions.

The Huskie IBPO has engaged Ms. Parnell to conduct her Extended Essay Workshop for our 11th grade DCHS students this summer. The 4-day workshop will be held June 11-14 at the library at the University of Denver. The workshop will cover such topics as the essay structure, research strategies, selection of valid sources, and outline development. Sample essays will also be available for the students to review. In addition, each attendee will receive a DU

library card, good for one year.

The fee for this session will be \$60, which includes \$10 for the library card. Registration for the workshop will begin soon, with information to be mailed home



Huskie IBPO Highlights

The Huskie IBPO is a relatively new group that works to enhance communication of IB information between the school and the parent/student community. It also supports the activities of the DCHS IB students and staff.

*Activities are solely supported by IB family donations (suggested at \$25 annually)
But we need more families to donate to keep up our work . . . and we'd like to do more!
Please consider making a donation!!*

What We're Doing So Far—

- Publish **IB newsletter** 4 times a year
- Developed and maintain **IBPO website** for communication to students, parents and staff.
- **Send email notices** to students and parents regarding IB items and events
(if you haven't received these, you didn't provide your email address to us! To do so, write HuskieIBPO@yahoo.com)
- Hold **IB Graduate Panel** presentations annually.
- Hold **college presentations** on college selection, admission strategies and financial aid by outside speaker.
- Sponsor **Extended Essay sessions** for both students and advisors to enhance the essay process, as well as holding Summer Workshop to support students in completing their essays *(see article in this newsletter)*.
- Provide volunteer and monetary support to IB Dept with their events, such Ice Cream Social and Junior Induction.
- Assist the IB Department in holding informative meetings to further explain the IB program.

What Else We'd Like to Do—

- **Monetary stipends to Extended Essay advisors** to support their help with our students outside the classroom (as done by other schools)
- **Reduced Essay workshop fees**, more scholarships
- **Educational seminars** for students
- **Senior celebration banquet** for both teachers and students
- **Social activities** for parents and students

Please send your tax-deductible donation to:

Huskie IBPO
c/o DCHS IB Department
2842 Front Street
Castle Rock, CO 80104

or, have your student deliver a check to Deborah Wick, IB Administrative Asst., in the South Main Office.

Make checks payable to "Huskie IBPO"

Huskie IBPO		
August 2006 - July 2007		
thru 1/07		
Revenue	Budget	Actual
Beginning balance	\$623.95	\$ 623.95
Donations-general	\$550.00	\$ 715.00
Donations-exam snacks	\$200.00	\$ -
Donations-other	\$0.00	\$ -
Other income	\$0.00	\$ -
Essay workshop: registrations (40)	\$2,000.00	\$ -
Essay workshop: DU Library cards (40)	\$400.00	\$ -
Gross Income	\$3,773.95	\$ 1,338.95
Expenses		
Essay workshop: trainer fees	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
Essay workshop: DU Library cards	\$ 400.00	\$ -
Essay workshop: scholarships	\$ 250.00	\$ -
Essay workshop: dinner for advisors	\$ 200.00	\$ 252.70
Staff appreciation	\$ 400.00	\$ 249.43
Bank Charges	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions to IB senior party	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Exam snacks	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Postage	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Supplies for events	\$ 150.00	\$ 85.34
Printing/copying	\$ 125.00	\$ 85.36
Web Site Aug-Jul	\$ 120.00	\$ 59.20
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	\$ 89.46
Contingency	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 3,395.00	\$ 821.49
Net Income/Account Balance	\$ 378.95	\$ 517.46

Note: Costs for the Essay Workshop / DU Library Card are being charged to participants, but the IBPO is liable for the full contracted trainer fee. 40 participants are needed to cover the trainer

IB Bulletin Board

Seniors—Give Thanks!

Don't forget to send thank-you notes to the teachers and counselors who have helped you with college recommendations letters, and especially, your extended essay!

Juniors—Register for summer Essay Workshop!

An Extended Essay Workshop will be held for DCHS juniors June 11-14 at Univ of Denver. Sponsored by the IBPO, the workshop will cover essay components, guidelines, rubric, and research methods. Cost: \$60, which includes \$10 for a DU library card. Registration forms to be sent home to all juniors in February—*register ASAP . . . first come, first served!*

Thank You to . . .

. . . **Judy Ellington, Jackie Feely, David Keehn, Brenda Ledger, Cheryl Monroe, Smita Patel, and Julia Radtke** for helping Ms. Hire with conducting the Senior English orals in January.

. . . **Norm Byers, Geoff Stephen and Debbie Studebaker** for recently joining our IBPO working board.

On the Huskie IBPO website

(www.HuskieIBPO.com)

. . . A complete description of the CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) requirement is available on the website (see upper right on home page). Information on TOK and the Extended Essay, as well as the CAS info, is also available in the IB Guidebook, also on the site (see "Resources").

. . . A recent TIME magazine article entitled "Bringing Our Schools Out of the 20th Century" cited the IB Program as a model for school curriculums. See it on the website!

. . . The topics chosen for recent DCHS Extended Essays will be up on the website soon. . . if they aren't already there!

. . . CAS opportunities !!!!

ACT Test at DCHS on April 25

All juniors throughout Colorado will be given the ACT test during the school day on April 25 at no charge. Students must pre-register in March. Many colleges accept this test for admission purposes, however, some colleges require the writing subtest of the ACT, **which will NOT be included in this state mandated test**. In any case, this is a great opportunity for students to test for free.

There will be a delayed start on this day for all freshmen, sophomores and seniors (12:00), who are being asked to provide their own mid-day transportation. However, a supervised "study hall" will be provided for those that need to take the regular district transportation.

11th Graders—Senior Options for Next Year?

If you have registered for Senior Options for next year, remember that you must submit ALL of the required DCHS (not CAS!) community service hours to the Counseling Office by May 1. You can get the form at the front desk in the Counseling Office.

District Technology Testing

The District Technology test will be given on March 22 at DCHS. There is only one test given each fall and spring—no individual tests are given. To sign up for the test, contact Chad Bryan (Chad.Bryan@dcsdk12.org). To learn more about the test, see the DCHS website, and select "Technology Proficiency" on the left side of the home page.

College Planning Night—Feb 27 (6:30 Auditorium)

The DCHS Counseling office will walk you through the college selection, application and basic financial aid processes. **Note this is NOT the same meeting as the IBPO-sponsored College Research presentation to be held on March 20!**

Tales from the IB Council Brigade

by Kate Spencer '07

It's that time of year again...registration season has begun! To help meet the needs of students with questions about scheduling for next year, IB Council will be making our advisement (room 35 North) available at any time for students to ask for advice about classes they should be taking.

We are also in the process of instituting a mentor system, in which freshmen and sophomores will be paired with juniors and seniors so that they will have the opportunity to ask more experienced IB students specific questions regarding their own classes. This mentoring system will also serve to institute a system of support among all levels of IB students. Of course, any student with questions regarding classes, tests, internal assessments, CAS

hours, TOK, the Extended Essay, or any other IB related topic is always welcome to visit us in advisement room 35 North.

In regards to other projects, IB Council is focusing on meeting the needs of both IB students as well as the general student population. In the last couple of weeks, members of IB Council have created a survey to gauge both IB and general student interest regarding the addition of new languages to our school such as Chinese, American Sign Language, and German (among many others). These surveys will then be taken to the school administration and used to encourage action toward adding a wider variety of languages to the school curriculum.

IB Council members have also been investigating the possibility of adding an activity bus for the Highlands Ranch and Parker areas. Unfortunately, the school does not currently provide activity buses for these areas, which oftentimes proves to be an inconvenience for IB students from those areas. However, fear not! IB Council understands that this is an issue of some concern, and is looking into it.

We are still waiting to hear back from other IB schools regarding holding an inter-school TOK class. If successful, the class would be held at the University of Denver and would most likely include Littleton, Smoky Hill, and George Washington high schools.

Spring IB Dance Concert Scheduled for April

The next IB Dance production will be called "Walkabout." The spring IB Dance concert will be held on April 12th & 13th at 7 p.m. in the DCHS auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students.

This dance concert focuses on the creation stories from Australia's Aboriginal storytellers. The IB dancers have choreographed pieces that depict short stories from different Aboriginal tribes, such as how Kangaroos got their pouches, how birds got their colors, and how butterflies were created. The styles of dance that were studied during the course of this year are a blend of traditional tribal dances with modern dance.

"Walkabout" promises to be the most creative dance concert to date!



The IB Dance students pose with the performers from the Kim

Faculty Profile

Roy Safstrom

IB Music



Mr. Safstrom currently teaches three Orchestra classes, Piano 2 and IB Music. It is his second year teaching at DCHS and his 32nd year teaching in general. In addition to teaching, he also helps with the pit orchestras for the school musicals and other activities dealing with the performing arts.

Mr. Safstrom is well qualified to teach. He earned a Bachelors' in Music Education, along with a Masters' in Music Conducting from University of Denver. He also holds an Administrators Degree from CU.

Outside of school Mr. Safstrom can be found photographing wildlife and nature, skiing and hiking, traveling, and playing with computers. He also enjoys model Rail-roading and spending time with his two cats, Nutmeg and Glacier.

When asked about his favorite type of music, Mr. Safstrom replied "Music is like food, you can't have only one type." His opinion is the same for songs. His favorite book that he has recently read is *Trusty in the Tool Room*. He prefers forest green to any other color, and bears over any other animals. Though he has been to Europe, Canada, and the Middle East, the United States is naturally his favorite country.

—Jillian Radtke, '09

Upcoming Overseas Trips!!

Spain 2008!

May 28 to June 12, 2008

Trip Teachers:

Sra. Quintana Georgina.quintana@dcsdk12.org and
Srta. Baker Annemarie.baker@dcsdk12.org

Meetings are at 6 pm in Trailer 1 on:

Tuesday, February 27th

Thursday, March 1st

Thursday, March 15th

- Will discuss fundraising, chaperones, itinerary
- **\$2,668** (Fee increases April 1, 2007)
- Group size: 35 people total
- Tour company: *Explorica*



Mysteries of Mexico 2007!

Mr. Berkun (photography teacher) is sponsoring a trip to the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico this summer, with EF Educational Tours.

Students will visit the colonial city of **Merida**, **Uxmal**, one of the major ruin sites of the Mayan empire, **Chichen Itzah**, the most famous site, **Playa del Carmen** and **Tulum**, the most beautiful Mayan city by the sea.

Participation is limited so if you have an interest in this trip, please see Mr. Berkun right away! (Sheldon.Berkun@dcsdk12.org). Early registration will insure lower prices! Prices are expected to go up soon.

Education credit is available for those that wish to apply.

And What Exactly IS the Group 4 Project??

And Will I Have to Do One Too?

Each year IB students, as part of their science class choice, complete a science project referred to as their “Group 4 Project,” one of the IB internal assessments. The “Group 4” designation refers to the fact that Experimental Science is the 4th Subject Group of the IB curriculum that all IB students must complete.

The project is a short investigation into an “umbrella” theme chosen by all current science students. It is carried out by students in all the science classes—biology, chemistry and physics.

The students work in groups of 3 or 4 to design and test a hypothesis on their own. The project/experiment must fit within the chosen group theme, and must stress reflection, action and evaluation. The team must keep individual journals, conduct the experiment, and create both a group written report and poster presentation. Approximately 15 hours of work go into the project by each student.

The results of the projects are then shared with the science teachers and other IB students. Projects are evaluated by both peers and the science teacher.

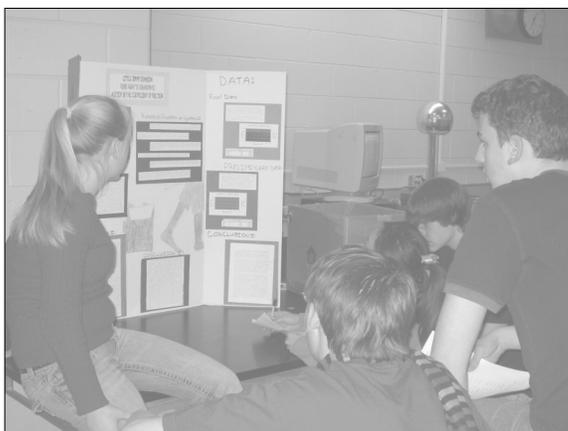
When is the Group 4 Project done?

The project is only performed once during the two-year curriculum of each science choice. It also must be done during the student’s junior or senior year. For physics and biology, this is generally during the first class of the sequence, HL Biology I or SL Physics I. For chemistry, since many students take IB Chemistry I during sophomore year, it is performed during the IB Chemistry II class.

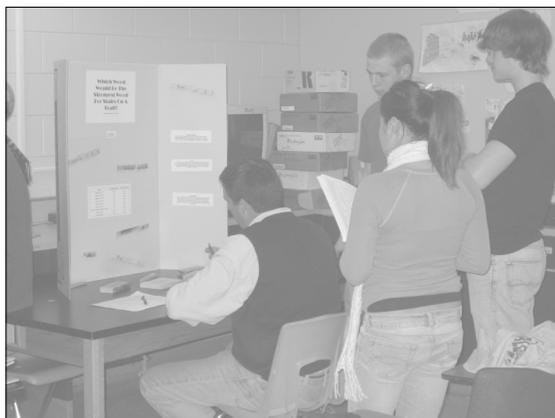
If a student chooses an additional science as his 6th subject, must an additional Group 4 project also be done?

Yes, the project must be completed for each science sequence taken.

Little Jimmy Johnson Runs Away to Grandma’s: A Study in the Coefficient of Friction Elizabeth Crumb explains this project to other students. The team measured the friction coefficient involved in dragging a box across various surfaces. Team members include Lauren Koppell, Jill Radtke and Courtney Seter.



This year’s Group 4 theme is “vacations.” These three projects were performed by teams in Mr. Kingery’s Physics I class.



Which Wood Would Be the Strongest Wood for Stairs on a Trail? Brendan Hall outlines his project’s purpose: to test the strength of different woods. Team members include Trever Tompkins and Bri Treffner.

Neither Rain, Nor Snow...



The Air Resistance Lab Joe DeLuca and Sheridan Monroe (with friends to help) conduct their experiment to determine how air resistance affects the distance that different balls will travel when launched at a constant force (using a water balloon launcher on the football field...in the snow!). Team member Kareem Shaban (not shown) is downfield noting the balls’ landing.

Auskunft aus das Vatterland (Arrival from the Fatherland):

An Interview with Lauren Greyson and Maddy LaRue '06

by Kate Spencer, '07

Brechen sie nie in mein haus ein! Who would have thought that my interview with Lauren Greyson and Maddy LaRue would have included them quoting the venerable Judi Dench from the new James Bond movie: "Never break into my house [again]!" But yes, that is a sentence one would have to expect from two recent IB graduates who have found their place in Bremen, Germany. Now attending Jacobs University Bremen with full tuition scholarships, these two Douglas County IB graduates were gracious enough to allow me to interview them while they were home over winter break.

My question about the nature of their classes opened up yet another can of worms (so to speak), as it led to a rather dizzying discussion about the use of the words "qualify" and "clarify" (well, what else would you expect from two IB students?). Semantics settled (though of course none of us could even remember the original question), Lauren and Maddy proceeded to inform me that the amount of work itself seems to be less than that of IB. However, the reading material (particularly in their literature classes) is quite intensive, but manageable due to preparation from IB. Lauren comments that IB did overprepare them as far as workloads, but that the course material they cover is very different than anything they did in IB. Such a light homework load may be due in part to the fact that the coursework associated with their majors (both are majoring in History and Theory of Art and Literature) is not very work intensive at the beginning, though the workload has been promised to increase.

When asked whether living abroad was what they expected, I received a resounding "no" from Lauren, along with an equally resounding "yes and no" from Maddy. They had both visited Europe on previous occasions, and so they had some idea of what to expect, yet suddenly moving to a new place that is quite different from where you have spent the last 18 years of your life must be an experience you cannot exactly prepare for. After some time, one does become accustomed to shopping at smaller stores and buying less, as is common in European countries where Wal-Mart does not lurk on every corner. And yes, there is the constant cloudy weather that dominates the German skies (something that Maddy has grown to love, whereas Lauren is considering investing in a UV lamp), coupled with the limited daylight (the sun rises around 8:30 am and sets around 3:30 pm) and wet winters (with little snow so far). And of course, the truly marvelous aspect about Europe is the transportation system. According to Maddy, "Trains are amazing." Just imagine – not having to scrape the insides of your wallet to pay for gas! Lauren chimed in to say that her transportation also included "the occasional small pack animal." I found this rather exciting at first but then felt slightly disappointed as she and Maddy burst out in a fit of giggles over my gullibility.

As for future plans? "Yeah, I'm trying to put off actual work as

long as possible," says Maddy. Maddy hopes to travel to Africa for aid work, perhaps even to a drama school for orphans in Tanzania. After this, she plans to attend graduate school either at the University of Chicago or Paris-Sorbonne University. Armed with her advanced Art History degree, Maddy hopes to find work in museum curation and cultural preservation.

Lauren has much the same mindset about her future. She doesn't see herself going straight to graduate school from her undergraduate studies; instead, she is considering volunteering in Central America. Ideally, however, she hopes to buy a boat and sail down random rivers, working her way from Western Europe to Eastern Europe. After her adventuring, she may consider settling down at Berkeley for her PhD in Rhetoric with an emphasis in Critical Theory. Sounds like both of them have got quite a bit on their plates.

In regards to those of us applying to college, Maddy and Lauren both advocate at least investigating, if not applying to, international universities. "At least know your options", Lauren says. When asked about how well IB had prepared them for college, Maddy promptly responded "Too well!" They both agree that IB gives you the writing and analytical skills it takes to scratch out an essay of Extended Essay proportions in one night. IB also gives you such a broad base, they said, especially in regards to the language requirement. "It prepares you to be a more open-minded person," Lauren says.

Of course, what is the one thing they miss most about Douglas County? "We miss our IB teachers!"

DCHS Student Council Update



The DCHS Student Council has been quite busy this year, and has adopted a goal of forming a strong community environment within the school. The Rubber Chicken, a competition between the classes, promotes attending school functions. There have been other activities hosted by Student Council aimed at school unity including karaoke night, holiday treat distribution, a canned food drive and toy drive, monthly school updates (The Toilet Paper), holiday cards sponsored by various school clubs, and continued support for the school's activities and groups.

Look forward to more events, including the Sadie Hawkins Dance, Random Sports Olympics and movie night, the annual Dodge Ball Tournament, the creation of a Student Council website, and, of course, Prom 2007! If students ever have questions/comments/concerns, they can talk to their numerous Student Council representatives or come to Ms. Schultz's room. Remember: your high school experience will only be as wonderful as

A High Schooler's Guide to London and Paris

Thinking of visiting the great cities of London and Paris? In the IB world we have little time to read lengthy travel books between finishing our nightly math homework, Internal assessments, Extended Essay, TOK Essay/Oral, and other tasks of similar nature. So here is my attempt to condense these cities into one page for all those lacking initiative, time, or some combination of the two. This guide is a result of the recent student trip sponsored by IB instructors, which I was fortunate enough to attend.

— Casey Shoemaker '07



Food: I have been told that you can't go to London and not eat the fish and chips. Honestly I find this combination rather repulsive. It's an extremely greasy dish that tastes little better than the fish sticks from your local freezer. One thing is certain about the food of London, you will never go hungry. With hefty portions and hearty meals it's difficult to leave on an empty stomach.

People: Don't be fooled by thinking that American English and British English are the same language because you will learn that although you are technically speaking the same language it is difficult to comprehend. For instance, "my plates of meat are going up the apples and pears" (translation—"my feet are going up the stairs"). The people were extremely cheery and pleasant to talk to.

Hotel: Very clean and comfortable room equipped with tea. Shower time was always an adventure for the bathroom was no larger than that in an airplane and it was near impossible to avoid soaking the entire room. Our second night in London the fire alarm went off at 3:00 in the morning. I assumed it to be my roommate's alarm clock or perhaps a car alarm outside so ignored it and remained comfortably in bed. It's a good thing it wasn't a real fire because much to my disdain I would have been roasted and considered well done by many steak house chefs. A very pleasant stay.

Top 5 Sites:

Blue Man Group Performance— Enjoy this very powerful comedic and sensual experience.

Covent Gardens—shopping!!!

House of Parliament and "Big Ben"— You can't go to London and not see these two landmarks.

Hampton Court House— Visit the house of King Henry VIII and his many wives. Test your skills at his life size garden maze.

Protesting—See Mr. Fleet grab a picket sign and join in the fun of protesting. Experience was complete with whistles and police barricades.

Food: Given the opportunity try the Alsace version of pizza. This delectable dish consists of a thin baked crust topped with cheese, onions, and minced ham. Or if desert is more your specialty try a desert pizza with chocolate chips or cinnamon apples. Of course one must try a French Crepe. Bon Appetit!

People: I now understand where the perception of French arrogance comes from. I found many of the people to be both pompous and occasionally outright rude. Mind you, this could be largely because we were wandering through the city in a group of 30 while we line up against walls blocking traffic (just stamp American Tourist on our foreheads?). It also didn't help our case that we were traveling perhaps with the loudest, most obnoxious tour guide in all of Europe. (Our waiters in London remarked on how they wished to stick a boot up his ass). Nevertheless, I found the people to be less than friendly.

Hotel: One thing for certain can be said about our hotel in Paris: It had character... from shower fungus to beds held up by concrete blocks. Your stay at the Petit Louvre is sure to be anything but ordinary. Quite the view though.

Top 5 Sites:

Eiffel Tower ascent — Travel to the top of the Eiffel Tower and see the sights of Paris from a new angle.

Louvre — Visit some of the greatest works of art including the *Raft of Medusa*, *Venus de Milo*, and the infamous *Mona Lisa*.

Notre Dame — Even if you're not religious, appreciate the magnificent architecture of the building.

Palace of Versailles— Here's your chance to visit one of the most important and beautiful palaces in the world.

Paris Opera House — Take a personal tour of the building that inspired the Phantom of the Opera. A beautiful, historical structure that everyone will enjoy.

IB Calendar

FEBRUARY

16 NO SCHOOL (Comp Day)
19 NO SCHOOL – President’s Day
27 College Planning Night @ 6:30 pm DCHS Auditorium
28 DCHS Ensemble Music Concert

MARCH

2 NO SCHOOL – No students
5-9 CSAP Testing
6 DCHS Choir Concert
8 DCHS Orchestra Concert
8 SAC Meeting (School Advisory Council—open to parents)
@ 6:00 p.m. DCHS Library
9-11,16-18 Senior Portfolio Art Show @ Castle Rock Outlets
16, 17 Jam Fest
22 District Technology Testing
26-30 **SPRING BREAK**

APRIL

4 IB Student Art Show 6-8 pm North Rm 42
12 SAC Meeting (School Advisory Council—open to parents)
@ 6:00 p.m. DCHS Library
12,13 IB Dance Show @ 7 pm (\$6 students, \$8 adults)
16-18 Continental League Fine Arts Show @ Curtis Art Center, Littleton
21 PROM @ DC Events Center
21-27 DCSD Art Exhibit @ Park Meadows

MAY

2-23 **IB EXAMS**

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