



# Texas IB Schools



Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2011-Vol. 5, Issue 3

Busy, successful, and HOT!! These three words describe the summer of 2011 in the world of TIBS. We had many projects that kept us busy all summer. Thankfully, all of them were a success! And wow, was it hot?!?! We hope all of you enjoyed your time off and got the opportunity to participate in at least one of the IB events around our great state this summer.

It's hard to believe that school has been back in session for a month now and that it's officially fall. (It sure would be nice to see some fall temperatures...along with some rain!) Our Fall Coordinators Meeting and Roundtable are quickly approaching; we have some great sessions and hope everyone gets the chance to attend. Also, don't forget to join TIBS for the 2011-'12 school year. Membership forms can be found on our website. We are looking forward to another exciting year!

Courtney Smith & Karen Phillips  
TIBS Associate Executive Director TIBS Executive Director

## **IB Conference of the Americas a record-breaking success!!**

The IB Conference of the Americas in San Antonio, from July 21-24, was a huge success! From the moment we learned that the ARC was going to be in Texas, we knew it had to be the biggest and the best, and this conference broke attendance records and set new standards. TIBS and Rice University coordinated a college fair as part of the opening night events, the first college fair to ever be a part of an ARC. The conference also featured more students than any past conference, and Texas students played a huge role. The drum corps from Leander High School in Leander and the mariachi band from Stony Point High School in Round Rock were featured on the opening night of the conference while the polka band from Grisham Middle School in Round Rock entertained participants during lunch. The PYP choir captured the hearts of the audience on the final day of the conference and was made up of students from Anderson Mill and Spicewood in Round Rock, Magellan International School in Austin, Grandview Hills in Leander, and Peebles and Iduma in Killeen.

The emphasis on service learning that was the focus of the TIBS February roundtable at UTA provided the perfect connection to the

Service in Action theme of the ARC. Schools from all over the state participated in a fundraising project for the Khaled Hosseini foundation to build homes in Afghanistan. Using the idea from Hosseini's novel, The Kite Runner, IB students created original kites that hung on display at the conference and represented the spirit of the statewide project. Adrian Bogart, IB student from Killeen High School, presented his service learning project, Winds of Enil, during the second general session where he also introduced Khaled Hosseini and presented him with a check for \$30,000 on behalf of the IB schools in Texas. Destiny Price, IB graduate from James Bowie High School in Arlington and current student at UTA, shared her IB story during a general session. Art work created by IB students from all over the state was on display throughout the conference.

The success of the ARC in San Antonio could not have happened without the hard work of the Local Arrangements Committee and the many volunteers who manned registration tables, facilitated sessions, and collected tickets at events. We could not have had such successful student participation without the hard work and dedication of the teachers, sponsors, directors, and parents. We can all smile with pride in knowing that the teamwork paid off. The 2011 IB Conference of the Americas in San Antonio was everything we wanted it to be.

### Summer Events

**~Houston ISD on-site training—** One of TIBS' many partnerships includes working with the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies at Rice University. For the second summer, TIBS and Rice teamed up to host an on-site training for Houston area schools on June 9-10, on the Rice University campus. This year, we offered 20 different PYP, MYP, and DP sessions. We trained 396 people, from 33 different schools in and around Houston, during the two day workshop. A special thanks goes out to our workshop leaders and the wonderful Rice staff for helping to make this training a possibility!

**~TIBS July workshops—**A caravan of people literally drove north on I-35 from San Antonio to Austin on July 24. The ARC ended at noon on July 24 and registration for our 2011 PYP & MYP workshops began at 4:00pm. TIBS trained 1,264 teachers in PYP & MYP Categories 1, 2, & 3 from July 24-30 in Austin, TX. It never ceases to amaze us how international our conference is each year. We had attendees from 22 different countries and 37 different states. Of course, Texas always has a big turn-out, which indicates the continued growth of IB in our state. Registration and the plenary sessions took place at the Renaissance Austin Arboretum Hotel. They are definitely our go-to hotel in the Austin area! For the second year, the workshops were held at McNeil High School in Round Rock ISD, and the added space of a high school (bigger

classrooms, a larger cafeteria, and more parking) is very beneficial. The 2011 workshops were, once again, a huge success. A special thanks goes out to our MYP and PYP Conference Coordinators—Ulrike Puryear and Karen Van Eaton—who without their help, the TIBS workshops wouldn't be possible. We would also like to thank our amazing trainers, Round Rock ISD staff, volunteers, and of course, YOU—TIBS would not be where we are today without the support of our schools!!

**~North Texas TIBS Roundtable**—For the third year in a row, one of the 2010-11 TIBS grant winners was for a North Texas Roundtable. Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD, along with TIBS, sponsored this DP Roundtable on August 3. The *North Texas TIBS Roundtable, Got IB3?* took place at Trinity High School in Eules, TX. 55 teachers, coordinators, and administrators from 11 schools or districts attended one of 7 subject matter groups (English, World Languages, History, Science, Math, Electives & TOK/CAS, and Coordinators & Administrators). In summary, the teachers appreciated the opportunity to work together on curriculum issues and develop a network of teachers in the area who share common subjects. The day was spent focusing on internal assessments and the challenges they faced. We received great feedback from H-E-B ISD and want to thank Kim Kamin, Judy Chapman, and Betty Edgington for their hard work in organizing this successful event!

**~Fall Institute in Gifted Education**—Karen brought greetings at the annual G/T conference at Baylor University on Friday, September 9, and facilitated an information and discussion group concerning how IB can serve gifted students. The two-day conference was attended by teachers and administrators from Waco area schools.

**~IBA Workshop Providers' Meeting**—Karen attended the annual workshop providers' meeting on Thursday, September 22, and Friday, September 23, in Bethesda, MD. Contractors from both North America and Latin America heard updates from IBA staff concerning the goals of the organization and guidelines for workshops. According to reports from IBA, Texas is in the top three states for growth in all three programs. We currently have 108 candidate schools in the state.

**~Presentations and meetings**—TIBS remains active in spreading the message of the IB as well as staying involved in events that play a role in shaping its future. The following is a list of upcoming presentations and meetings that will impact the IB in Texas:

- Youth Leadership Conference—Longview (September 29)
- Learner Profile Book Launching—Longview (September 30)
- Rice DP Workshops—Houston (October 9-11)
- North Texas Service Learning Institute—Ft. Worth (November 11)
- TAGT—Austin (November 30-December 2)
- TASA Mid-Winter Conference—Austin (January 29-February 1)
- IBA Regional Associations Meeting—Bethesda, MD (March 2 & 3)
- Spring Coordinators Meeting & Roundtable—Houston, Rice University (February 24-25)

# ★ TIBS Spotlight Section ★



We would like to welcome the newest member of the TIBS family, Bolton Bradley Smith. Bolton was born on July 31, 2011, at 1:23am. He weighed 6 pounds, 4 ½ ounces and was 20 inches long. This picture is Bolton at 6 weeks old. Courtney was very thankful that he waited until after the conferences ended to make his debut! ☺

Meridian School in Round Rock officially opened its doors with a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 29. Karen Phillips, representing TIBS, Ann Wink, representing IBA, and TIBS advocate Bill Haley attended the ceremony. Rick Fernandez, Head of School, and Kelly McBride, Primary School Principal, will oversee the application process for IB authorization in all three programs. Pictured from left to right are Kelly McBride; Karen Phillips; Bill Haley; Ann Wink; Rick Fernandez; and Karalei Nunn, founder and President of the Meridian Board of Directors.



## ★ Upcoming TIBS Activities (Mark your calendars!!) ★

### **October 7, 2011     Austin, TX     Coordinator Meeting**

The Coordinator Meeting will be held at the Renaissance Austin Arboretum hotel from 1-5pm. Please email Courtney at [tibs.courtney@gmail.com](mailto:tibs.courtney@gmail.com) to register for this meeting (it is free to attend).

### **October 8, 2011     Austin, TX     Fall Roundtable**

Our annual Fall Roundtable will be held at the Renaissance Austin Arboretum hotel.

DP: IB Career-related Certificate (IBCC)

MYP: Standards-based grading in the Middle Years Programme

MYP: Unpacking the Unit Planner/Curriculum Mapping

PYP: Integrating the Arts into the IB classroom

Registration information can be found on the website, under activities.

**February 24, 2012 Houston, TX Coordinator Meeting**

The Coordinator Meeting will be held at Rice University from 1-5pm. Registration information will be available in January 2012.

**February 25, 2012 Houston, TX Spring Roundtable**

Our annual Spring Roundtable will be held at Rice University, hotel TBA. Topics are also TBA. Registration information can be found on the website, under activities, in January 2012.

**July 22-28, 2012 Austin, TX Summer Workshop**

Registration and the plenary sessions will be held at the Renaissance Austin Arboretum hotel.

PYP Categories One, Two, and Three: July 22-25

MYP Categories One and Two: July 22-25

PYP Categories One, Two, and Three, July 25-28

MYP Categories One, Two, and Three: July 25-28

Registration information can be found on the website January 1, 2012.