



# Texas IB Schools



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The cool weather has arrived and it's dark before 6:30pm which only means one thing—autumn is here. It's hard to believe the holidays are upon us! We hope everyone's first three months of school have gone well. It seems like each year flies by faster than the previous—or maybe it's because we are busier and busier. It may not seem possible, but it's definitely true. IB in Texas is growing by leaps and bounds, and TIBS is trying to stay one step ahead by making sure everyone's needs are met. Between parent & school meetings, IB workshops, local roundtables, and everything in between, we are constantly on the go making sure we are serving you. So if something comes up and you have a question or need anything, please feel free to call or email the TIBS office. We are here for you ☺

We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!!!

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

## **2013 IB Conference of the Americas Innovate, Educate, Create**

We know many of you are planning to attend the 2013 ARC in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 18-21, and TIBS will be playing an active role once again. Karen Phillips has been appointed to the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) and will be working to help coordinate a region-wide service learning opportunity for all schools that want to participate. The first meeting of the LAC took place on September 14 in New Orleans where members of the committee brainstormed opportunities for the project. On January 14 Karen will assist in conducting interviews and field visits with the goal of identifying 3 to 4 organizations that could be part of the project. We anticipate a large number of Texas participants at the conference, and we look forward to working with you on the IB service learning project. Registration information can be found at <http://www.ibo.org/iba/conference/register>. We encourage everyone to

register and to secure your hotel room at the Hilton Riverside Hotel as soon as possible. We know the room block will fill up fast.

As we move toward planning the 2013 ARC, we at TIBS want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you who helped make the 2012 ARC in Riviera Maya, Mexico, a success. The QR codes project was well received and highlighted not only all the impressive projects you have completed at your schools but also the successful collaboration that exists between TIBS and AMEXCAOBI. Ludwig Barragan, 2006 IB Diploma recipient from Lamar Academy in McAllen, was selected to share his IB story and to introduce a keynote speaker at the conference. In true IB fashion, he offers his reflections which can be found at the close of this newsletter.

### Summer/Fall Events

~**Commissioner's Advisory Council (CAC)**—Karen met with other members of the CAC on June 13 to hear legislative updates and to discuss G/T initiatives for the state. The group discussed Webinar planning and reviewed the Program Evaluation resource document. Monica Brewer, formerly with Dallas ISD, was recently named to the position of statewide coordinator for G/T education. Monica joined the Curriculum Division at TEA on November 1 and will be working with the CAC.

~**TIBS July workshops**—July 2012 brought a big change to our summer PYP & MYP workshops. For the first time, our workshops were held at an IB school—Westwood High School in Round Rock ISD. We were extremely excited to show off one of our IB schools to the world and look forward to our future conferences taking place at Westwood. This summer we trained 1,204 teachers in PYP & MYP Categories 1, 2, & 3. Of those 1,204 teachers, 622 were from Texas. The remaining 582 people represented 35 states & DC and 23 different countries. While our conference certainly has a large representation from Texas, it is also very much a multi-state and international conference, too. 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.

~**Imagine International Academy of North Texas**—Karen attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on August 13 that marked the official opening of the first Imagine charter school in Texas. The academy is a candidate school for all three IB programs. Congratulations to the administrators, teachers, parents, community members, and students who have played a role in these accomplishments.

**~Fall Institute in Gifted Education**—Karen brought greetings at the annual fall conference on Friday, September 7, and again on Saturday, September 8. The institute featured experts in gifted education from all over the U.S. Karen also facilitated a roundtable discussion concerning the role of IB in gifted education. This was the third year TIBS and Baylor have collaborated to bring this conference to educators in Central Texas.

**~IBA Workshop Providers' Meeting**—Karen and Courtney attended the annual workshop providers' meeting on September 17 & 18 in Bethesda, MD. Various staff members were on hand to provide updates across the organization as a whole. According to IB's latest numbers, Texas has 52 authorized DP schools, 39 authorized MYP schools, 33 authorized PYP schools, and 4 authorized IBCC schools. We are also in the top 5 states in the US for candidate schools and new applications filed in April. IB in Texas has been growing for the past few years and doesn't look like it will be slowing down any time soon!

**~Fall Seminar Report**—The Fall Seminar took place in Austin on Saturday, October 13. Due to some conflicts with the Renaissance, the seminar took place at the Austin Marriott North hotel. While we love the Renaissance, we are always open to exploring other hotels in the area for our fall meetings. Sometimes it is nice to change things up a bit—especially when free internet is offered ☺ 110 people attended the Saturday sessions. We had 24 people attend the DP CAS session which was led by Theresa Biggs. The MYP Assessment “Nuts & Bolts” session was our biggest with 46 people and was led by Jeanette LaFevers. Not far behind, was the ICT Integration in the PYP session led by Maru Busico-Flight with 40 people. Thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday to attend one of our sessions. We truly hope you find these seminars worthwhile and please know that we are always open to suggestions on what you would like to see offered at future seminars. Also, a huge thanks to our presenters—we couldn't do it without you!

**~Round Rock ISD District Parent Nights**—Karen presented to parents, teachers, and community members at Stony Point High School on October 22, and at Westwood High School on October 23. The presentations included an overview of all three IB programs and emphasized how the attributes of the Learner Profile and the perspective of international mindedness equip students with the soft skills to compete in the job market of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**~Killeen ISD IB Professional Development**--TIBS and Killeen ISD collaborated to bring a professional development opportunity to the district's MYP teachers on November 1 and 2. Bill Shell, MYP trainer from Colorado and Ann Wink, IBA Regional Development Specialist, served as presenters. Karen Phillips was present to offer input and bring greetings from the TIBS organization.

**~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:

- South Texas PYP Roundtable—Pharr (November 17)
- Long Middle School Professional Development Session (November 17)
- TAGT Professional Development Conference—Dallas (November 28-30)
- Humble ISD Administrator Meeting—Humble (December 10)
- Spring Coordinator's Meeting & Seminar—Dallas (February 15-16)
- IBA Regional Associations Meeting—Bethesda (February 22-23)
- TIBS PYP & MYP Workshops—Austin (July 7-13)
- Dallas Area Onsite Workshop—Carrollton-Farmers-Branch (July 29-30)
- Houston Area Onsite Workshop—Houston (August 1-2)

## **TIBS Spotlight Section**

**Recently authorized schools**—Congratulations to our newly authorized schools in Texas!!! We are so proud of all of your hard work!! (If you are not on this list and have been authorized, please contact the TIBS office and let us know.)

- Lakeland Elementary—Humble
- Peak Preparatory (MYP)—Dallas
- The Magellan International School (PYP)—Austin
- Williams Preparatory (MYP)—Dallas

**Local Roundtables**—Thank you to everyone who has hosted a local roundtable in the past few months. These events are proving to be well attended and highly successful. TIBS is pleased to sponsor the opportunity for teachers and administrators to collaborate and share best practices. An official TIBS representative is onsite at the roundtables so that teachers and administrators can communicate with the organization. If you are interested in hosting a future roundtable, please watch for the application which will be available in December. The following roundtables have been offered:

- North Texas TIBS Roundtable, Got IB4?—Hurst (August 1)  
TIBS representative: Karen Phillips
- North Texas MYP & PYP Roundtables—Carrollton (October 24)  
TIBS representative: Karen Phillips
- Central Texas PYP Roundtable—Austin (November 3)  
IBA representative: Ann Wink  
TIBS representative: Courtney Smith

Upcoming TIBS Activities  
(Mark your calendars!!)

## **February 15, 2013      Dallas, TX      Coordinator Meeting**

The Coordinator Meeting will be held at the Omni Dallas Hotel—Park West from 1-5pm. This meeting is free for all coordinators to attend (interested schools, candidate schools, and authorized schools are all welcome)

## **February 16, 2013      Dallas, TX      Spring Seminar**

Our annual Spring Seminar will be held at the Omni Dallas Hotel—Park West.

DP: 5-year review & Implementing Learner Profile into specific subject matter/CAS/TOK

MYP The Next Chapter

PYP: Inquiry-based Learning

Registration information can be found on the website in January 2013.

## **July 7-13, 2013      Austin, TX      Summer Workshop**

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

PYP Categories One, Two, and Three

MYP Categories One, Two, and Three

Continuum Category Three

Registration information can be found on the website in January 2013.

## **IB Americas Regional Conference**

July 18-21, 2013

New Orleans, LA

### **Ludwig Barragan's reflections on the 2012 ARC**



During the month of July, I had the opportunity to participate in this year's IB of the Americas Conference, in Cancun, México. Above all things, it was a thrilling experience that reminded me how fascinating the IB world really is.

Earlier this year, I received a call from Ms. Jeanette LaFevers, the former IB Coordinator at Lamar Academy in McAllen, Texas. She told me about an exciting opportunity in Mexico, and invited me to deliver a brief presentation about my experience in the program. She wanted me to talk about

what the IB meant to me, and how it helped me to become a successful student and a responsible adult. The eagerness in Ms. LaFevers voice was contagious, and she sounded genuinely happy about this chance to share my story. Later that month, through email exchanges with Ms. Marisa Sarabando, the current Coordinator, I understood something that I had always known, but that now I got to experience it firsthand. I am proud of the IB, but the IB is proud of me!

The entire conference was a similar exchange, to a greater magnitude. Everyone in Cancun was proud of being part of the IB. All of the participants—from teachers to staffers, from the leadership to the merchants, from the keynote speakers to my fellow alumni—shared their stories and experiences with pride and happiness. Just like proud parents do, everyone there wanted to talk about how inspired and talented their students were. The teachers humbly shared best practices among each other; the leadership reported on the global successes of the program, and they told us about innovative new routes the IB will be taking in the next few years; the vendors offered cool-looking gadgets and books tailor-made for the IB that made me want to be a high-schooler again; and the keynote speakers offered spirited speeches that rekindled the audience’s commitment and love for the live-long learning mission of the IB.

Besides the ocean-side, all-inclusive beautiful hotel the IB provided for us, there were two things that I particularly enjoyed. The first was hearing the experiences of the other IB students and alumni. All of them had accomplished great things since they left the program, and they were particularly excited about being an IB kid. It is even clearer now that the energy and dynamism we need to succeed in this program continues to exist in our lives. The IB gave us many of the tools we need to navigate through life with more ease.

My other favorite thing in the conference was the interaction with the people who make up the great IB network. Everyone believes in what the program represents, and they all have a clear commitment to ensure that the students succeed and grow into all that they can be. I want to thank particularly Karen Phillips and Courtney Smith at TIBS, for making my participation possible. They are the best!!!

In the end, I was there to give a brief speech. I arrived in Cancun with my presentation finished and rehearsed. However, every session I attended, every person I met, every new friend I made reminded me of something else I loved about the IB, but that I had forgotten. I ended rewriting my speech at 3am the day of the presentation. However, I was very pleased with the outcome. I titled my presentation “The Magic of the IB.” I am including a few lines here:

“The first type of IB magic is family. You know how many people love to say that this group or that company is like a family, and it usually turns out not to be true. Well, during my first day in the IB, one young teacher said the same thing: we are family! But even before she finished, the oldest and meanest looking teachers there interrupted to say : “in every place where they tell you this is like a family, they are lying to you...” “except here.” I think all of us know this is true.

Well, an IB education is like a ticket to inquiry. It empowers us to remain curious about the world and very excited about changing it.

(...)

Esta semana tuve la oportunidad de visitar el parque ecológico Xcaret, cerca de Cancún. COMPRÉ UNA CAMISETA... En la etiqueta en la parte de adentro dice que “esta camiseta

fue hecha con lo mejor de México: sus manos, sus fibras, y su corazón”. In that same way, the students who graduate the program take with them the best of the IB: its people, its values, and its heart.

(...)

To sum it all up: I love IB! I love it so much, than during my senior I wrote a poem about it. It wasn't an assignment or homework, just something I wanted to do for the IB and my classmates. It's based On one of the works we studied in English HL: “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,” by T.S. Elliot. Please let me share with you just a few lines:

There will be time  
Time for you and time for me,  
And even for conversations while taking pictures at Presentation.  
Before we take our History Paper 2.

And indeed there will be time  
To ask, does this poem rhyme?  
And to wonder, do I dare graduate?  
Time to climb the stage, pick up our diplomas and then regret  
The many Saturday nights spent listening to a cassette.  
Learn to dance, skip a class—but don't forget Oral Commentary!

I have seen the future, and then I have looked at the past,  
And cried because high school slipped away so fast,  
While I was learning how to compare and contrast.

And would it have been worth it, after all?  
After the homework, the studying and the failing,  
Among TOK essays and physic paper twos,  
Would it have been worth while?

I have measured my life between a one and a seven  
And forgot that there are other ways to heaven.  
Life exists beyond a group-four project  
Life is more than a school subject.

Thank you for what you do for us, the IB kids. It is our responsibility to pass forward the magic of the IB. I can assure you we will not let you down.