



# Texas IB Schools



Newsletter Fall 2013. Vol. 7, Issue 1

Fall has arrived! We hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather and getting some much-needed rain. It's hard to believe we are already two months into the school year—time sure does fly when you are having fun! Then again, time also flies by when you are incredibly busy, and that is exactly what life is like in the TIBS world. We didn't think it was possible to 'top' the crazy summer of 2011...but the summer of 2013 was one for the record books!

The holidays are fast-approaching and we are looking forward (hopefully) to a little bit of downtime before we gear up for another exciting year! We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!!

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

## **New Member Joins TIBS Staff**

We are pleased to announce that the TIBS Board of Directors has hired Alejandra Adán as the new TIBS Assistant Director. Alejandra is a biliterate professional with a Master of Science in Education and 10+ years of experience in education, communications, and program management. Alejandra served as the Marketing and Communications Associate Manager for IBA from September 2006 to September 2010. She recently relocated from New York to Austin, and we are excited to have her as part of the TIBS team. Welcome to TIBS, Alejandra!

## **TIBS Trains 2,819 Teachers Across Texas During Summer 2013**

Can you believe it...2,819 teachers in one summer!?! That's got to be some kind of record! And that number doesn't include the teachers trained in McAllen and at Rice. From Lubbock to Austin to Dallas to Houston, TIBS spent the summer zig-zagging across the state bringing IB training to some of our largest areas where the program is exploding! Karen & Courtney (and many of our workshop leaders) literally spent more days away from our homes/families than we spent at home during

the month of July. But it was all worth it to be able to train so many people in this great state—many who would have never had the chance to attend IB training had we not offered it in their ‘backyard’.

One of the reasons we were able to train so many people this summer is because we partnered with IBA to offer on-site district workshops in three different regions. As you all know, we have been doing the on-site district training in the Houston area for the past 4 years. This year, we received permission to expand these ‘pilot’ on-site district workshops to Lubbock and Dallas, and to continue with Houston.

You are probably asking yourself what is the difference between on-site district workshops, the Austin workshops, and the other workshops that are run throughout the country. Other than who ‘runs’ the workshops, there is not any difference. It is all official IB training by officially trained IB workshop leaders. We all use the same database of workshop leaders and essentially, you should get the same information regardless of when or where you attend a workshop. To read up on the different ‘types’ of workshops, please visit the IB Professional Development [website](#).

We want to acknowledge Ann Wink for all of her hard work, help, and support this summer. She was instrumental in helping coordinate and plan the on-site district trainings this summer, and also served as the PYP Field Rep during the Austin training. If there was one person who was busier than Karen and Courtney, it was definitely Ann! We all love having Ann in Texas and constantly joke that she really works for TIBS instead of IB. Maybe one day that will actually be true! Thank you for everything, Ann! You are THE best!!

Lubbock on-site district training—Lubbock was our first workshop of the summer. The workshop was held at Lubbock High School on June 11 & 12. We had 10 different sessions, Category 1 & 2 DP, MYP, & PYP, and trained a total of 100 teachers. The majority of the teachers that we trained in Lubbock attended the PYP training. We want to thank Lubbock ISD for all of their help in coordinating this workshop—particularly Marybeth Hines!!

Austin Workshops—Austin was our largest workshop of the summer with 1,248 participants. It was a little earlier this year (July 7-13) due to a conflict with the IB Conference of the Americas in New Orleans. We originally thought that the earlier dates, coupled with the fact that the first session backed up to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holidays, would negatively effect our registration numbers. However, that was not the case and this year’s workshop was actually larger than the 2012 workshop. For the first time, we offered Continuum training in Austin and it was a big hit. The Special Needs workshops were very popular and we even offered a Common Core workshop that was one of the first to sell out. We plan on

expanding our Continuum workshop for 2014, in addition to offering some new Category 3 PYP & MYP workshops (along with the normal Category 1 & 2s). The Austin workshop is the only workshop that we offer each year that is open to the public and people from all over the world can attend. As always, if there is a particular workshop you would like to see offered in Austin, please send your suggestions to Courtney.

Dallas on-site district training—The first-ever Dallas on-site district training was a huge success! During our initial planning, we were expecting to have about 400 people attend. When it all came down to it, we trained 770 people in DP, MYP, & PYP Categories 1, 2, & 3! 303 PYP teachers were trained, 338 MYP, and 129 DP. The workshops took place at Ranchview High School in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD on July 29 & 30. A HUGE thank you goes out to Tina Flatt, Gerry Charlebois, and Sharon Kotarski for all of their help in planning and coordinating this training. We seriously couldn't have done it without you!!!

Houston on-site district training—Last, but not least, was the Houston training. We barely had time to catch our breath after the Dallas training before Houston started—because it started two days after Dallas ended. And what did we do on the 'day off' in between? ROAD TRIP!! We literally piled all of our workshop leaders, and all of the materials, onto a charter bus Wednesday morning and made the drive from Dallas to Houston, with, of course, a pit stop at Buc-ees on the way! For our 4<sup>th</sup> year in Houston, we had a venue change. Instead of having the training at Rice University, we moved to the Lamar High School campus. We trained 701 people on August 1 & 2, in all three categories and all three programs. We trained 28 DP teachers, 323 MYP, and 350 PYP. Once again, a GIANT thanks to Penny Tschirhart and the staff at Lamar High School for all of their help in making the Houston training a wonderful success!!!

### **Other events throughout the summer & early fall**

Believe it or not, when TIBS wasn't running a workshop, Karen and/or Courtney were busy with other events this summer. One day, we'll each have a clone...or two!

**~IB Conference of the Americas**—The ARC took place in New Orleans, LA from July 18-21. TIBS was well represented at the conference with a large contingency of Texans attending. The Longview Jazz Band kicked off the conference with a performance at the opening reception, and the PYP choir from Jardin de Ninos in Austin closed the event on Sunday. TIBS hosted a booth as part of the global sponsorship.

**~IBA Workshop Providers' Meeting**—Karen and Courtney attended the annual workshop providers' meeting on September 26 & 27 in Bethesda, MD. It's always great to share best practices with the other workshop providers across the Americas region and the IB staff. According to IB's latest numbers, Texas has 52 authorized DP schools (4<sup>th</sup> most in the Americas region), 39 authorized MYP schools (3<sup>rd</sup> most), 39 authorized PYP schools (2<sup>nd</sup> most), and 4 authorized IBCC schools (2<sup>nd</sup> most). We have 59 schools in the candidate phase—36 PYP (the most out of any other state/country), 16 MYP (4<sup>th</sup> most), and 7 DP (5<sup>th</sup> most). It's wonderful to see IB continuing to grow in our great state!

**~IB Heads World Conference**—The IB Heads World Conference took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on October 3-6. Karen represented TIBS at the conference and hosted the booth as part of the global sponsorship. Mary Brinkman from Sci-Tech Prep in Austin and Alexandra Castro from Magellan in Austin were also in attendance. Conference topics focused on the need for and importance of technology in education.

**~Fall Institute in Gifted Education**—The Fall Institute in Gifted Education took place at Baylor University from October 11-13. Karen brought greetings at the annual event entitled "Down To Details: Differentiation in the Content Areas." Dr. Todd Kettler, University of North Texas, was the keynote speaker. Strand workshops included English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. A big thank you from TIBS goes to Baylor University and Dr. Susan Johnsen, Dr. Krystal Goree, and Dr. Mary Witte for bringing such a valuable institute to the teachers in Central Texas. TIBS has served as a sponsor for the institute for the past four years.

**~Middle Years Program Seminar**—TIBS hosted the first IBA Middle Years Program Seminar specifically designed for leaders and decision makers interested in learning more about the options the MYP can offer. The Seminar took place at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin on Thursday, October 24. The invitation only event was limited to 50 participants and included central office administrators, principals, school board members, and leaders of state organizations and universities.

**~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:

- TAGT Professional Development Conference—Houston (December 4-6)
- Spring Coordinator's Meeting & Seminar—Dallas (February 14-15)
- IBA Regional Associations Meeting—Bethesda (February 22-23)
- Rice University DP Workshops—Houston (March 3-5)
- IB Conference of the Americas—Washington, DC (July 10-13)
- TIBS PYP, MYP, & Continuum Workshops—Austin (July 20-23 & 23-26)
- Dallas Area Onsite Workshops—Ranchview High School (August 4-5)
- Houston Area Onsite Workshops—Lamar High School (August 7-8)

# ★ 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.)
  - Alonzo De Leon Middle School—McAllen
  - Caldwell Heights Elementary—Round Rock
  - Chandler Oaks Elementary—Round Rock
  - Henry W. Grady Middle School—Houston
  - James S. Hogg Middle School—Houston
  - John H. Reagan High School (MYP)—Houston
  - Meridian School (PYP)—Round Rock (Charter)
  - Summit International Preparatory (MYP)—Arlington (Uplift)
  - Walter W. Fondren Middle School—Houston
  - Williams Preparatory (PYP)—Dallas (Charter)
  
- ✓ **IBCC Schools**—The following schools are authorized to offer the IBCC in Texas!! Congrats!!
  - Mirabeau B. Lamar Senior High School—Houston
  - The British School of Houston—Houston
  - Western Hills High School—Ft. Worth
  - Woodrow Wilson High School—Dallas

*Midwestern State University & Wichita Falls ISD join forces on scholarship opportunities  
(Excerpts from the Times Record News, Wichita Falls, TX)*

Wichita Falls—A new scholarship agreement between Midwestern State University and the Wichita Falls Independent School District aims to keep the district’s top students in the area for college, the superintendent said.

“This partnership between MSU and the WFISD accomplishes three important goals,” said Superintendent John Frossard in a press release. “First, it provides a financial incentive for many of our top students to remain in the area to help us expand our local economy. Second, it has the potential to increase enrollment at MSU with more local students. And third, it makes guaranteed scholarship funds available for many of our top students who work hard and excel academically.”

Among the various scholarship opportunities, a \$8,000 scholarship recognizes students graduating with an International Baccalaureate diploma. In addition, students who graduate from any of the three senior high schools with a class rank in the top 10 percent are automatically eligible to receive a scholarship valued at \$2,000; with a class rank between 11 and 25 percent will receive a scholarship valued at \$1,000.

To access the full article, please click [here](#).

### *U.S. Department of Education Awards \$89.8 Million in Magnet School Assistance Program Grants*

Please click this [link](#) to access the article. The following districts in Texas received grant money:

Galveston Independent School District - \$4,000,000

Houston Independent School District - \$3,999,597

Waco Independent School District - \$2,199,120



## **News from past TIBS scholarship & grant winners**

TIBS Innovative Teaching Award 2012 Winner  
*Building a Campus of Lifelong Readers*  
Diane S. Hance – Librarian, Grisham Middle School

The Building a Campus of Lifelong Readers project had a tremendous impact on the morale and attitude about reading on the Grisham Middle School campus. The funds were used to purchase 17 Playaway audio books that complement our Language A and Humanities curriculum while also supporting the library's charge to provide an array of literature in translation. Many of these titles are also on the Texas Library Association Lone Star Reading List for 2012, thus they support existing library reading incentive programs.

This audio book format makes it possible for our low readers and English language learners to interact with new challenging texts in an array of genres they may not be able to read independently. We regularly used the Playaways for this purpose in Language A classrooms. Students were able to read and listen to paired titles (print/Playaway) in order to read texts beyond their Lexile range. This allowed those students to not only improve reading and fluency skills, but also to engage in meaningful academic discourse about

literature. These students were previously unable to comprehend complex texts due to their reading level. With the Playaway audio book and print book pairs students could then read the same literature as their peers and thus participate more actively in classroom discussions and activities. This was a research based intervention strategy that is making a big impact on our campus.

Lexile data for struggling readers and economically disadvantaged students is closely monitored. During this project, 61% of at-risk students increased their Lexile score by 100 points or more between the final test in the spring of 2012 to the fall of 2012 (testing administered October-November, 2012); 18% of at-risk students increased their score by 50-99 points during the same period. Overall, 82% of at-risk students showed reading improvement based on the Lexile data. Additional Lexile testing will be administered at the end of the school year (May) and will be compared with the existing statistics; improvements are expected to continue.

Developing our selection of Playaways in the library allows us to provide current material in an interesting avenue for introducing low and reluctant readers to the love of reading, while enhancing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century literacy skills of all students.

TIBS Innovative Teaching Award 2012 Winner  
*Setting the Stage for Tomorrow*  
Mary Samantha Tate – Kujawa Elementary

When applying for the Texas IB Schools Innovative Teaching grant in 2012, our hope was to provide students in every grade level at Kujawa Elementary with opportunities that they might otherwise not have. Through these operas and performances, we wanted students to gain an awareness of rich cultural experiences that would positively impact their educational journey. The funds provided through this grant allowed students to experience Storybook Opera from Houston Grand Opera, a dance production from Young Audiences of Houston, and attend The Nutcracker at the Wortham Center in Houston.

Storybook Opera involved an opera singer telling a story, but the story was told through song. The students followed along with the story pages on screen, while the singer sang the story. This front loaded our students for a storytelling unit they were entering upon and introduced students to another form of communication through song. This also provided students with a new genre of music that many had never encountered. After the story, students were asked questions about the narrative and were allowed to ask the singer questions of their own. Students then wrote their own narratives in class and wrote reflections about the opera story.

The group called Soul Street from Young Audiences of Houston performed a diverse dance production for the students this Spring. The group not only showcased, but described and defined different genres of dance throughout the centuries that ranged from classical to hip hop. Students watched in amazement as dancers did flips, spins, and told stories through the dance moves. This again, provided students with another outlet for

communication and how to express yourself through the arts.

The remaining funds from the grant were used to assist students in the cost for a trip downtown to see The Nutcracker ballet. Students dressed in their Sunday's best to see the show and prior to the performance discussed the story line and the different acts that would occur during the ballet.

The experiences provided to our students through the grant funds received from Texas IB Schools made an enormous impact in the educational journey of our students at Kujawa Elementary. The performances that students were able to see were unique and gave them various avenues to express themselves through the arts. These are the types of opportunities that we want to continue to bring to our students each year.

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

### **February 14, 2014      Dallas, TX      Coordinator Meeting**

The Coordinator Meeting will be held at the Marriott DFW North Hotel from 1-5pm.

This meeting is free for all coordinators to attend (interested schools, candidate schools, and authorized schools are all welcome).

### **February 15, 2014      Dallas, TX      Spring Seminar**

Our annual Spring Seminar will be held at the Marriott DFW North Hotel.

Topics TBA.

Registration information can be found on the website in January 2014.

### **July 20-26, 2014      Austin, TX      Summer Workshops**

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 2014.