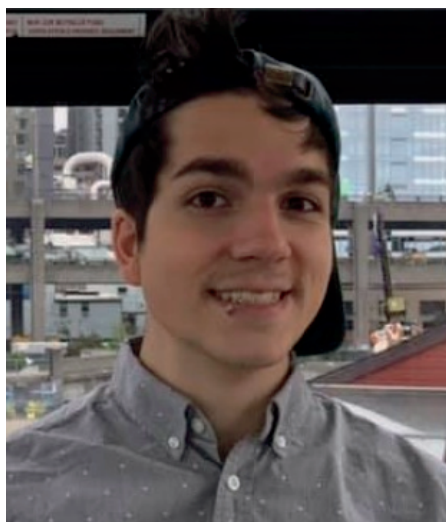


THE IB UPDATE

*The Official Newsletter of Samuel Clemens
International Baccalaureate Program*



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WELCOME TO THE IB UPDATE!

by Lauren Rollins - IB Coordinator

Welcome to the October edition of the Samuel Clemens International Baccalaureate newsletter! Our goal is to keep all stakeholders (students, parents, SCUC community) apprised of the amazing opportunities that are going on within the IB program here at Samuel Clemens. We will publish this newsletter monthly and feature our current IB students as well as our IB alumni. If you have any questions about the program or suggestions for the newsletter, please email it to LRollins@scuc.txed.net
Thank you for your time!

Lauren Rollins
IB Coordinator





left: Voter Registration for IB Seniors c/o 2023 Middle: IB seniors making thylakoid models with green pancakes. Right: Ofrendas for IB Anthropology class.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN IB CLASSROOMS IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER?

IB Literature HL for Juniors - taught by Mrs. Rollins - Students completed a research project on Sri Lanka, the setting of our current novel in order to fully understand the history and the cultural impacts of the memoir *Running in the Family* by Michael Ondaatje. They also looked at the effect of a non-linear plot line and characterization to fully understand the novel's nuances.

IB Literature HL for Seniors - taught by Mrs. Crawford - Senior English students analyzed a collection of poetry by William Blake by annotating and discussing poems in class. They completed a poem illustration and analysis revealing the connection between Blake's themes and social commentary made during the Romantic period.

IB History of the Americas HL for Juniors - taught by Mrs. Baker - Students are currently working on their "practice" IAs. We are evaluating sources and will start the paper soon. Also, we are covering the changing role of women in society in the 1830's.

IB History of the Americas HL for Seniors - taught by Mrs. Frink - Students have finished our unit on the Great Depression and are beginning our study of the Cold War and the Americas. Students have also been diligently working on their History IAs.

IB Anthropology - taught by Mrs. Baker - Students have completed their Ofrendas as we wrapped up our mini unit on how different cultures remember their loved ones. Students have started on Feminist Theory and discussing the 2nd wave of Feminism.

IB Math Applications - taught by Mrs. Smith - Students have been working on sequence and series, lines, parent functions, and transformations. They have focused on the intricacies of the IB level of questioning that mixes multiple topics into one long multi-part question.

IB Biology HL for Juniors - taught by Mrs. Alvarado - Students have been working to establish their microscopy skills during the cell's unit. They used the microscope to visualize nuclei and chloroplasts in plant cells and nuclei in their own cells. They will continue to hone these skills while learning about the cell cycle and cell division.

IB Biology HL for Seniors - taught by Mrs. Alvarado - Students investigated the action of enzymes by testing the action of lactase in different situations. This was our unit on cellular processes for energy. We started with photosynthesis, which starts in the thylakoid membrane. Students even made thylakoid models with green pancakes!

IB Theory of Knowledge (TOK) for Seniors - taught by Mr. Seiler - Students have been busy with an exhibition in the library covering how TOK manifests itself in the world; three real-world objects are all connected using a single knowledge question. Students submitted the exhibition to IB and then dove straight into the unit on Knowledge and Mathematics.

IB Spanish - taught by Señor Hecox - Students have learned how to text in Spanish. :o) We will also circle back to famous Hispanic Americans to continue the theme of Identities: Lifestyles and see what IB Profile traits they display/ed.

IB Visual Art - taught by Mr. Lewis - Students have learned about Aesthetic Experiences and discussed curating and creating an Aesthetic Experience with their artwork. We used the critical method for understanding artworks to compare and contrast two works of art from different cultural contexts.



Kean Martinic class of 2014



"Most things in life only give you what you put into it. IB is a bit different; I saw people who didn't put much in, yet they still left with a better grasp on the world around them. There is something special about IB."

KEAN MARTINIC C/O 2014

ALUMNI UPDATE

Kean Martinic is no stranger to challenges. A Samuel Clemens graduate (class of 2014) who went through the IB program, he then went on to Texas State University and obtained a BS in Applied Physics.

From there, he went to Idaho State University and obtained his MS in Nuclear Engineering. Following that, he went to the U.S. Particle Accelerator School and obtained his MS Beam Physics/Technology.

During this time, he received a few GPA awards and a lab instructor recognition award. When asked how he decided upon his majors and this career path, he replied, "It wasn't any one particular thing, nor was the decision made all at once. I started college as a philosophy major of all things. I'd say my educational path is a result of good relations with university faculty."

Participating in IB in high school helped refine some skills that were beneficial to him in college, graduate school, and beyond. One of which was reducing the procrastination habit. "IB prepared me for dealing with loads of homework which in turn allowed me to be just mentally calloused enough to avoid experiencing any overwhelming homework-related moments."

Another skill that was honed was being comfortable enough to speak to people who you may not already know.

Kean says, "Interacting with community members helped me build communication skills. This skill came from fulfilling my CAS hours with outreach. Networking and communication has gotten me a lot farther than I ever anticipated it would."

When asked what helped him survive those formative IB high school years, he shared, "Well, when I was in IB, there was a strong sense of unity amongst my colleagues and I. We were 'all in this together' and that support group helped foster my engagement a lot. Now, I establish similar work-families wherever I go, and I see overall productivity increase as a result."

Starting college can be intimidating, however there are always people around who are willing to help. Kean offers this advice, "You don't have to figure everything out all at once. Talk to academic advisors.

Advocate for your passions. Don't ever let academic failure dictate your ambitions as persistence will get you a lot farther than book smarts ever will."

Anyone who is interested in the IB program should expect the program to help them become a better version of themselves.

This mindset carries forward in life. "IB taught me to strive for excellence and to encourage others to do the same," Kean states.

LEARNER OF THE MONTH

Trait: Balanced

The International Baccalaureate Program is known for having 10 Learner Profile Traits that make its program distinct from other higher education programs. IB Students are Inquirers, Knowers, Thinkers, Communicators, and Risk-Takers, who are Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Balanced, and Reflective.

October's trait is "Balanced". According to IB, balanced students "understand the importance of balancing different aspects of their lives— intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. "

Each month, the IB students and teachers vote on the student who consistently displays this trait - not just in October but year round. The student who has been awarded with the Balanced Learner Profile trait for the second year in a row is Clarence Woods (2023 cohort). Clarence has been on the Varsity Football team for the past two years and is able to balance his IB workload and his football commitments while being successful at both.

One peer said, "Clarence balances both football and his IB work and always seems to be in a good mood."

"Despite having a rigorous IB schedule with extra things like TOK & football, Clarence is still usually one of the most prepared for class!" his teacher shared.

November's learner profile trait of the month is "Thinker". For more information about the learner profiles, click [here](#).



Clarence Woods c/o 2023



Logan Michael 2023 cohort participating in Unified Sports bowling event



EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXTRAS!

Unified Sports

For Logan, art has always been a passion. But this passion for art lead her to opportunities to help others as well. "I'm in Art Partners, so I'm friends with a lot of the kids who compete in Unified Sports, and I wanted another way to be involved with the kids and the program outside of class." Unified Sports seeks to connect students with mental or physical disabilities to their peers in school around them. The goal is to break down stereotypes about people with disabilities in a really fun way and promote inclusion. Long-term, the idea is that training together and playing together can be a quick path to friendship and understanding.

Although Logan's partner and she medaled silver at the Unified Sports bowling competition, these events mean so much more than a placing. Logan says, "Unified Sports, for me, has been a lesson in getting outside of my comfort zone. I'm not an athletic person, but it's a really welcoming environment where the only real requirement is trying your best."

It can sometimes be difficult to manage time between IB academics and other extra curricular activities, however Logan shares, "It's not hard balancing IB and Unified Sports because the time commitment is minimal. If anything, it's a nice break from academics to just have fun and do something different."

Logan is currently a senior who is participating in Unified Sports for the first year, but she encourages others to do it too no matter what grade they are in.

"The best thing about Unified Sports is just how fun it is."



Various IB students who are excited and ready to play during the October IB teambuilding event which featured charades.

CAS CORNER

Creativity - Activity - Service

Creativity-Activity-Service (CAS) is one of the three essential elements that every student must complete as part of the IB Diploma Program. The goal of CAS is to show students the benefits of Creativity, Activity and Service in their life as well as for the community around them. It is an essential counterbalance to the academic rigor of the program.

Some people think that if you are in IB, you have to be serious all the time. However, that is not the case! The IB teambuilding events, which have been running for the past year, are all about having fun and getting to know other IB students. Every IB student, from freshmen to seniors, is invited to participate. This also gives the older IB students a chance to answer questions and mentor the younger IB students. These events are completely led by a student volunteer as a service experience for CAS. The student is in charge of the process from start to finish. This month, Caitlynn Phipps (2024 cohort) hosted a charades event. Students got into groups of 5 or 6. One student would act the words out while the rest of the group guessed. When the timer went off, they counted up how many correct and rotated student actors. There was even a run-off to determine an ultimate winner. This event was a hit with some hilarious mime-ing of words! For more information about CAS, please click [here](#).

EXTENDED ESSAY (EE) EXHIBIT

As part of the IB diploma requirements, students are required to write a 4,000 word Extended Essay over a topic which they are passionate about. Layla Randolph was interested in the impact of deployment on our service men and women. Her Extended Essay is over the question "To what extent do veterans lean on Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors to aid their PTSD after deployments?"

When asked what drew her towards this topic, she replied, "I chose to write my EE on this topic because both my parents are veterans, and they have had friends that have faced addiction to SSRIs after their deployments." No project is without challenges to overcome. "The challenges that I've faced so far writing my EE is doing the research for my topic. Finding unbiased sources for my topic has been very difficult because most of the sources are from medical pages and articles that have a negative bias towards them," she says.

Students start working on their EE in May of their junior year. They are then asked to continue the research during the summer. Layla says, "If I could change anything about my EE experience, I would have worked on it more over the summer." She gives the following advice to the juniors who will start their EE in a few months. "Please don't procrastinate writing it. The deadline is going to come faster than you think!" For more information about EE, please click [here](#).



Layla Randolph (2023 cohort)