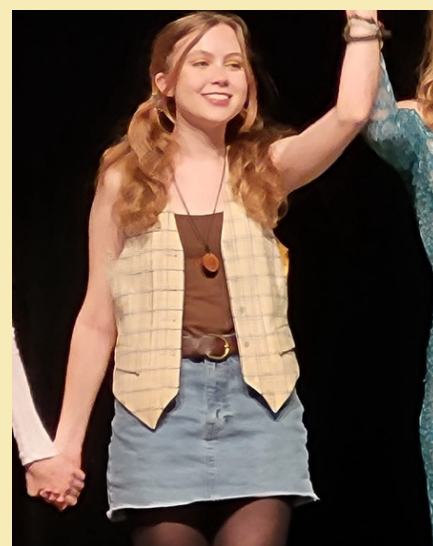


# THE IB UPDATE

*The Official Newsletter of Samuel Clemens  
International Baccalaureate Program*



Kelsey McFatridge Alumni c/o 2009. Elijah Flores and Clara Pickering (2024 cohort) dissecting a sheep heart. Clara Pickering playing the ukulele in the talent show.

## *Look Out*

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## WELCOME TO THE IB UPDATE!

*by Lauren Rollins - IB Coordinator*

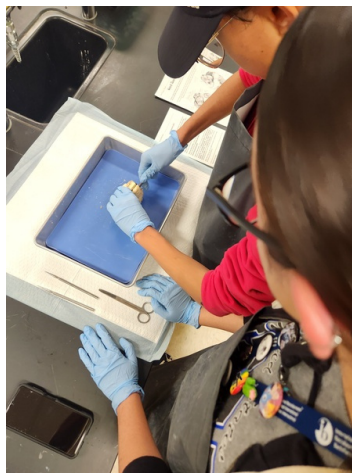
Welcome to the February edition of the Samuel Clemens International Baccalaureate newsletter! Our goal is to keep all stakeholders (students, parents, SCUC community) apprised of the amazing opportunities that are going on within the IB program here at Samuel Clemens. We will publish this newsletter 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](mailto:LRollins@scuc.txed.net). Thank you for your time!

Lauren Rollins  
IB Coordinator





left: Congrats to Braelyn Ramirez, Logan Michael, and Margaret Zentil for ranking 7, 6, and 12 respectively in their graduating class of 2023. Middle and Right: Caitlynn Phipps, Richard Nguyen, and Aiden Frawley dissecting a sheep heart in IB Biology.



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

**IB Literature HL for Juniors** - taught by Mrs. Rollins - Students are analyzing the poetry of Robert Frost and applying historical context and the author's biographical history to gain a deeper understanding of the poems.

**IB Literature HL for Seniors** - taught by Mrs. Crawford - students finished analyzing a collection of poetry by Robert Browning. They annotated and discussed the poems in class as well as completed a poem illustration. They had their Higher-Level essay teacher conferences and are currently making revisions

**IB History of the Americas HL for Juniors** - taught by Mrs. Baker - Students are continuing to cover content for Paper 3. Currently we are covering The Progressive Period and will soon start WWI.

**IB History of the Americas HL for Seniors** - taught by Mrs. Frink - Students have started our study of authoritarian states. Our case studies are Fidel Castro in Cuba and Mao Zedong in China. Students will test over authoritarian states before spring break in order to practice Paper 2 exam skills.

**IB Anthropology** - taught by Mrs. Baker - Students submitted their museum projects for our 2nd ethnography. We are introducing our next Area of Inquiry: Production, Exchange and Consumption with a focus on Pierre Bourdieu's Practice Theory which highlights the relationship between social structure and human agency within society.

**IB Math Applications** - taught by Mrs. Smith - Students are currently working on Derivatives as part of the Calculus unit. They applied the power rule to determine the derivative of a function. They found tangent lines, determined graph shapes, found velocity/acceleration, and modeled real-world applications.

**IB Biology HL for Juniors** - taught by Mrs. Alvarado - Students have finished their study of the classification of all living organisms, in which they learned about the 4 phyla of plants and 6 classes of chordates. Now they are studying human health and physiology.

**IB Biology HL for Seniors** - taught by Mrs. Alvarado - Students worked on their IA's. They are now focused on learning more about human physiology, specifically they are studying how the immune system works to fight infection and keep us free from disease.

**IB Theory of Knowledge (TOK) for Juniors** - taught by Mr. Seiler - Students wrapped up their study of the history area of knowledge (aok) and are moving on next AOK in math.

**IB Theory of Knowledge (TOK) for Seniors** - taught by Mr. Seiler - Students have continued writing and revising their IA written responses to their selected prescribed title.

**IB Spanish** - taught by Señor Hecox - Students looked at the theme "Entertainment" looking at 2 very different musical styles: Caribbean salsa & Mexican corridos. Then we looked for elements, in a song from each genre which told stories, and compared/contrasted with a song from the student's culture that told a story.

**IB Visual Art** - taught by Mr. Lewis - Students focused on preparing for public exhibition by matting and formatting finished artworks. They also met with the instructor and received feedback on Comparative Study and are working to finish the document by the appropriate deadline.





**"Probably the most applicable skill (that I learned in IB) was the exercise of thinking more independently."**

KELSEY MCFATRIDGE C/O 2009



Kelsey McFatridge (class of 2009)

## ALUMNI UPDATE

Kelsey McFatridge went through and graduated from Samuel Clemens and the International Baccalaureate program in 2009. From there, she obtained a Bachelor of Art in Music Performance from Texas State University in 2013 before pivoting to medicine. She earned her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in 2018. She now works as an Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant.

For her, practicing medicine is a family calling. She shares, "Growing up, my mother was a critical care nurse. She worked in the intensive care unit as well as in the catheterization lab. I remember going with her on occasion to the hospital and thinking the machines were so cool! As I grew older, I discovered how rewarding service to others can be. Diagnosing and treating illnesses is a good mental exercise while establishing a meaningful connection, comforting, and educating my patients is a gratifying experience as well."

For some students, learning to become proficient in speaking a second language for the IB program is just another task to accomplish. But for Kelsey, it comes in handy in the emergency room. "Señor Hecox gave me a solid foundation for the Spanish I use today in my emergency medicine practice," she stated.

For many students, one huge benefit of doing the IB program is that for those students who obtain the IB diploma, they earn 24 hours of college credit before they even step foot in a college classroom. Kelsey agrees that this is an important endeavor by saying, "It's a worthwhile experience! Completing the IB program helped me complete coursework that qualified for college credit. This let me focus on core class work in college directly related to my music and medicine degrees."

The IB program also allows students to study more things of interest to them, to think critically, and to practice applying that thinking independently on projects or papers. Of her time in IB, Kelsey said, "Many of our IA papers/assignments were self guided which is similar to collegiate and post graduate level academia. The further along in your education and career you progress, you start to identify problems or concepts you want to test, address, or study."

While in college, students get a chance to try out new opportunities and Kelsey encourages students to do so. "Get involved in extracurricular activities! While college is about learning, it's also about growing. Try new things and hobbies. Meet new people! It is a time to find out more about yourself and help you develop more parts of yourself beyond academia. Try a new language or instrument. Take an art class or theater. Try out for an intramural sports team! Do something fun for YOU. College is stressful; balancing your coursework with a way to blow off steam is good for your mental health."

# LEARNER OF THE MONTH

## *Trait: Communicator*

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. For more information about the learner profiles, click [here](#).

February's trait is "Communicator". According to IB, students who are communicate "express his or herself confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. He/She collaborates effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups."

Each month, the IB students and teachers vote on the student who consistently displays this trait - not just in February but year round. The student who has been award with the Communicator Learner Profile trait is Margaret Zentil (2023 cohort).

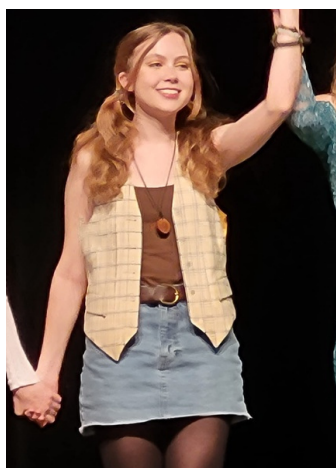
One peer said, "Margaret is a great communicator by always clearly stating her needs and the needs of the cohort. I know I can depend on Margaret to say what I am doing well on as well as what I need to work on."

Another peer said, "Margaret always communicates with students and teachers when there is something wrong."

Margret is an easy-going personality who gets along with others when working in a group. In addition, she always thoughtfully listens to other students' opinions before voicing her own opinion. She works hard to demonstrate the learner profile trait of communicator each day. March's learner profile trait of the month is "Principled".



Margaret Zentil c/o 2023



Clara Pickering (2024 cohort) performing with her ukulele in the Talent Show

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXTRAS!

### Ukulele Performance for Talent Show

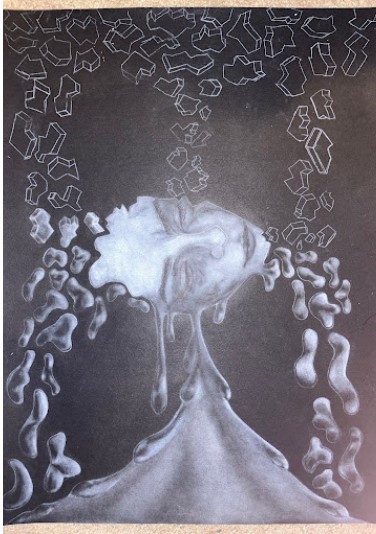
When Clara was eight years old, she got her first ukulele. She played it off and on, but a trip to Scotland re-ignited a passion for learning more. She says, "But my true interest in learning started when I visited Scotland. My grandparents had one in the room that I was staying in. There was also a Johnny Cash book that had tabs and chords for it. I practiced with it, and the first song I remember memorizing was 'I Walk the Line'."

Not only is the ukulele a creative outlet for Clara, but it has also built up her self confidence. "I used to be extremely shy and could barely perform for my parents, but eventually I started getting used to singing and/or playing in front of family, and then friends, and then an audience. I realized that all I need to focus on is singing/playing which is what I enjoy. When I only started focusing on this, it helped my stage fright," she shared.

Her favorite part about playing the ukulele is expressing and releasing emotions. However, she also stated, "but it's not always about just that. It's also just fun to play what you like listening to or songs that you've written."

While her life since joining IB is busier now which leaves her less time to enjoy playing the ukulele, she still picks up the instrument. Clara said, "I do play when randomly inspired; I also turn to it when I'm overwhelmed or bored."

Keep using this skill as an creative outlet, Clara. The world needs more beautiful music!



Brianna Carrillo (2024 cohort) with her self portrait entry into the V.A.S.E. art competition

## 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 their community.

The IB program encourages students to express themselves creatively as a way of practicing creative thinking and self expression. Brianna Carrillo (2024 cohort) created a self portrait with abstract finishes made with white charcoal.

When asked what motivated her to create this pieces of artwork, Brianna said, "I created this piece for V.A.S.E. (Visual Arts Scholastic Event). I also wanted to challenge myself to use white charcoal as my medium and to create values." The art competition is in the division 3 category which means she is competing against other students who also have 2.5-3 credits of high school art.

"Through the experience I learned I'm a very meticulous person as I constantly went back and re-worked certain components on my piece. I also learned I have the ability to create rich values just from white charcoal which was a medium I didn't have much familiarity to begin with," she shares. 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. Dalton Lacy chose to write his EE on an impact of Covid-19. His EE is titled "A Season Apart - The Great Barrier Reef Before and After COVID-19".

He encourages other students to "Choose a topic that you really love to learn about. You don't need to be an expert on it because you'll be doing tons of research on it throughout regardless of how much you think you know so just pick one you'll enjoy."

When asked what skill he has grown in because of this process, Dalton says, "Finding sources and information that will remain relevant to my topic was challenging. Keeping your writing on track is definitely a challenge. This was something I learned the value of and got better at as I wrote.... this was after I deleted at least four billion words of course! Remaining on task and maintaining a consistent field of focus is critical. It will be essential to every project you do in the future."

For more information about EE, please click [here](#).



Dalton Lacy (2023 cohort) at the aquarium