



Tri-Association Highlights-Spring 2020

Save The Date

We are beginning to push out information on our Annual Educators' Conference/Panama 2020 taking place at the Westin Playa Bonita September 24-26, 2020. The theme of the main conference "Sustaining Tomorrow" will provide a backdrop for conversations around the concept of "SUSTAINABILITY" and "SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES" using a wide lens approach. Two different certificate programs will be launched in Panama as part of the pre-conference program: Math Specialist in International Schools for K-8 math teachers and Certificate in Special Needs & Exceptionalities for classroom generalists and learning support teachers. Both of these certificate programs are being subsidized through grants from A/OS making them very affordable to our educators. We will also offer Level I and Level II Training in Child Protection. This month you will receive a flyer with conference highlights in preparation for the opening of registration at the end of April.

You should all have received the message with the link to the *SCHOOL PROPOSAL PRESENTATION TEMPLATE*. Be reminded these are to be submitted online on or before March 31, 2020.

<http://www.tri-association.org/schoolproposals>

Hotel Reservations - A room block has been reserved at the Westin Playa Bonita. The conference rates will be held until **AUGUST 3, 2020**.

I encourage you to book early because reservations at the group rate are subject to availability.
Hotel reservation link

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1581440006418&key=GRP>

Website Redesign & What We Need From You

We have been working on a re-do of our Association page and we need your help! The new design improves the website's overview and usability, making it easier to navigate and fully responsive to work across desktop, tablet and mobile devices. Our goal is to represent as many schools as possible through a revolving display at the top of the home page.

Below is what we need from you:

Photo Specs: 1600 width x 1200 height with a description of photo. To avoid privacy issues please do not include any photos with children's faces.

Send your photos to contact@tri-association.org

New Mission / Vision Statements & Strategic Goals

At our December meeting in Atlanta, the Board drafted new Vision and Mission statements based on our guiding principle of supporting our membership through relevant professional learning programs and opportunities.

At a glance

- A United Voyage

By Chanmi Kim

- Integrating a Sustainability Mindset in your Curriculum

Nicole Swedlow

School Articles

- The ASF Art Fair Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

By Nina Blake

- Colegio Bolívar Students in Cali, Colombia Lead Sustainability Projects in their School Community

- Supporting International Baccalaureate Students with the QFT
by Ali Swenson (American School of Tegucigalpa)

Below are the two slides that depict our new Vision/Mission.



Identity *The Tri-Association is a non-profit organization, comprised of private, accredited, independent schools, offering an American-style education, and residing in three geographic regions (Central America, Mexico, Colombia, Caribbean)*

Mission *The Tri-Association nurtures mutually supportive communities to transform learning.*

Vision *Schools and students as agents of responsible change*

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Strategic Focus Areas

- 1. Successful leadership succession, aligned with new mission/vision and member school needs within a sustainable business model.**
- 2. Larger variety of Professional Learning options (methods of delivery, differentiation).**

29

Based on the expanding landscape of professional learning and the change in Association leadership at the end of 2021 we also drafted two strategic goals moving forward.

Thanks to your support, the success of our professional learning events and the focused investment strategies we have been following, we now have a solid investment portfolio which sets us up for the creation of a new business model as we move into the next development phase. This is an exciting time for us as we continue to support the successful development of future generations of leaders in our schools.

Emerging partnerships are also key in our attempt to expand services. In Atlanta we held a joint meeting with the AASSA Board in which we explored ways the two Associations can collaborate in ways that are mutually beneficial and still maintain the identity of each. Similar conversations are also taking place at the macro level with Executive Directors from regional associations around the world as we seek creative ways to continue to better serve our respective regions.

Be Prepared!

At this point it seems inevitable that the Coronavirus will spread to our region of the world. I will continue to bring you updates as new information and resources become available. If your school does not have a platform that enables you to provide online learning and long-term academic continuity, I encourage you to consider the World Virtual School option. Even though school closures for schools in the Tri-Association may seem unlikely, the best course of action is to be prepared. If you are interested in more information about World Virtual School please contact Ken Paynter, who is the WVS Project Facilitator nvsproject@gmail.com

Here are the 2019 WVS Academic Continuity Plan Best Practices which can be used to evaluate your school's level of preparation.

<http://www.tri-association.org/winter2020wvscontinuitybestplan>

Thank you to the schools that submitted articles for this edition. In closing, please let us feature your school through our new webpage by sending pictures as requested above.

*Warmly,
Sonia Keller,
Executive Director*

A United Voyage

By Chanmi Kim

As my years of high school head for the grand finale, I can not help but look around at times and exhale in satisfaction. Although we are all going our different ways, we have all finished this race together. Whether it was fighting tooth and nail for our grades, or defending the volleyball court, or painting our hearts out in the art department... we are all heading for graduation united.

As my years at high school eclipsed, I began to ponder and daydream about the incredible things that my generation has ahead of it. The news and the media do not seem as positive as I am, but as I look around at the tech-savvy coders, the artists, the musicians, the poets, the athletes, I can not help but feel a spark of blistering hope.

As a Senior, I have ultimately realized that as a generation, we have a long way ahead but we must remain hopeful that we will not fall into the perils of idleness and silence. I now understand that as we continue our education after graduation, we are proving a basic economic principle right: Doing the best things for ourselves, is making everyone better off.

I realize that when I step into the world and start my professional journey, I am not doing it only for myself, but as a representative of my generation. As my friends launch themselves into entrepreneurship, medicine, the arts or whatever they might be headed towards, we are all contributing to the clockwork of change. When I receive my diploma, it will be for those who could not, for those who did, and for those who will. At the end of it all, we can not afford to let each other down. We can not afford to give up on each other, for we are our only hope to make this world a more humane place.

Through my education, I will fight to hold myself up to the standard that the incoming change needs me to be at. There will be no waving of white flags because I advance this voyage with the hope that I am not doing this only for myself but for the united voice of a generation that fosters change. I plan to foster international collaboration through a nonprofit. I want to create an environment of innovation that knows no boundaries, and that relies upon the exploration of ideas across political borders.

I truly believe that the only way forward is united. Past generations have experienced war and division, now, however, let us thrive in unison and not wither in quarrel. I am excited to take my next steps and walk with a deep hope that we will change the surface of the globe, hand in hand, side by side.



Integrating a Sustainability Mindset in your Curriculum

Does your school mission statement include any of these terms - *Global citizenship, sustainability, 21st century skills, service?* Does your school promote *social emotional learning, inquiry based learning or the development of soft skills in the classroom?*

As teachers we are asked to integrate these concepts into our classroom while at the same time accomplishing our curricular goals and preparing our students for standardized tests and reviews. Preparing students in a rapidly changing world is a monumental task that every teacher takes on every day.

In February, The American School of Puerto Vallarta expanded on their commitment to be a regional changemaker in sustainability education by hosting the *Compass Education Level 1: Social Innovation for a Sustainable Future* certification workshop. The workshop was the first ever taught in Spanish by the Compass Education organization and was the first time it had been updated to include a direct integration of 21st century learning, inquiry based learning, and social emotional skills. In the two day workshop, 27 teachers representing regional institutions including: The American School of Puerto Vallarta, The American School Foundation of Guadalajara, Costa Verde International School, ISPAC Puerto Vallarta and the Instituto de las Américas Bilingüe, explored the concepts of sustainability and systems thinking. The dynamic workshop demonstrated how the simple but powerful Compass systems thinking tools can transform the way we (and our students) think and act in this world. Importantly, the workshop focuses on ways that the tools can seamlessly integrate into every classroom's curricular framework and satisfy multiple academic expectations while promoting sustainable habits of mind.

To learn more about systems thinking and how it develops real world skills, read this excellent article [5 ways Systems Thinking can Jumpstart Action](#)



To learn more about hosting a Compass Education workshop at your school, visit the website at

www.compasseducation.org

or contact Nicole Swedlow at

nicole@compasseducation.org

Nicole Swedlow



The ASF Art Fair Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

By Nina Blake

On November 9, art lovers from far and wide convened at The American School Foundation's Art Fair, which proudly celebrated its 50th anniversary. The Parent Association's most important fundraiser and highly anticipated community event offers visitors the opportunity to interact with artists and purchase art and crafts from over 100 emerging artists who display their work around campus. Guests are treated to live music performances, food and beverage booths from different school clubs and sponsors, and an interactive children's art area run by volunteers, hosting creative workshops for the younger students.

An excerpt from Focus Magazine published in 1991 reads, "For the uninitiated, the words 'Art Fair' convey only a nebulous image of a social affair obviously related to the arts and artists. But for hundreds of volunteers, their families and friends, the Art Fair is a way of life, a frame of mind and a point around which large groups of people rally. For months at a time, at homes throughout the city, phones start ringing at 8:00 a.m., routine tasks go undone, and children no longer ask why there are strangers in the hallway or paintings in the car."

ASF is a recognized leader in artistic education, thanks to its rich K-12 arts curriculum and state-of-the-art facilities. The School advances the arts by offering both IB and AP arts programs to its students, and by hosting exhibitions, performances, lectures and workshops with visiting artists and creators over the course of the school year. The Art Fair, which is held on the second Saturday of November every year, helps highlight the role that art, sculpture, photography and design play in ASF, and embodies the reasons that make this School such a unique place. During the fair, a strong sense of community and an appreciation of the arts come together for a day of family celebration.

Fifty years have seen the fair evolve from a small, private gathering to a public event that welcomes thousands of guests on campus. So how did it all start, and who were the visionaries behind it? An excerpt published in 'Amistad Magazine of American Society of Mexico' states, "The original idea grew when Jeannette Martínez, Lola García and Harriet Austin approached the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Robert McBride and Mrs. McBride for their support in helping to put on an art fair. Ambassador McBride, whose father was Curator of the National Museum in Washington D.C., not only was taken with the idea but offered the grounds of the U.S. Embassy residence as the setting." Therefore, from 1970 to 1982, the Art Fair was held in the U.S. Embassy residence.



An excerpt from Focus magazine published in 1991 reads, "Over the years, a wide variety of projects have been financed by Art Fair profits, among them, the contributions to the building of the auditorium, gymnasium, swimming pool, Middle School, snack bar and language center, the opening of a computer center and the purchase of every conceivable type of educational equipment."



In times of tragedy, the Art Fair jumped on board. For example, the enormous need generated by the 1985 earthquake motivated the Parent Association Organizing Committee to allocate part of its ticket sale profits towards a total reconstruction of the Alberto Correa School. Years later, after the tragedy of 9/11, an excerpt from Focus magazine published in 2002 reads, "the PTA mounted a special gallery of donated art, which was sold to benefit the victims of September 11. Because of the generosity of artists and friends of ASF we were able to send the "Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund" a check for over \$5,000 USD to commemorate the first anniversary of this tragedy."

It was also a family affair. "It was definitely a huge influence in my life. I remember going to artist's studios with my Mom and sitting quietly while she discussed their art. There I heard about how artists approach their work, and learned about materials, color and texture. It's where I cultivated appreciation for art in general and Mexican artists in particular, something I am extremely grateful for as it has enriched my life immeasurably," shared Lolis García-Baab, Lola García's daughter.

You can read the unabridged version of this article here

<https://www.tri-association.org/winter2020ASF50thArtFair>

Colegio Bolívar Students in Cali, Colombia Lead Sustainability Projects in their School Community

10th Grade students in the GIN (Global Issues Network) class, at Colegio Bolívar, approach the problems identified in their community, and the world, through an analytical viewpoint, taking into consideration historical, political, legal, cultural, economic, religious, and scientific perspectives. The knowledge gained from these different angles is very relevant as it allows the students to understand the context around them and make responsible decisions about their present and their future as citizens.



As an example of this work, GIN students have led educational activities in the community about the causes and effects of plastic consumption to raise awareness among the families in order to reduce it in their daily lives and promote the appreciation for and care of the biodiversity of the ecosystem through a change in culture. In addition, they have been offering different alternatives to replace utensils made from this material, with organic, biodegradable and environmentally friendly products. This year, they have focused on reducing the consumption of single-use plastics during the macro events of the school community, such as our upcoming 5K Run. In consequence, the race kit is packed in an EarthPact bag made 100% with sugar cane fiber and totally free of bleaching chemicals. In the production of this bag, 20% of water is saved, 7% of energy and CO2 emissions as well as 100% of optical whiteners are reduced. To hydrate the runners, instead of water bags, PET bottles will be used which will be completely recycled after consumption. At the end of the race, these bottles will be collected to take them to the plants where the plastic is pre-washed, milled, washed again, dried and its quality is evaluated to become new bottles made 100% of others. Students have also been promoting the option of bringing to the race reusable containers with water such as thermos, CamelBacks, and water bottle belts.

Another community project, The Bolívar Garden, led by our Agricultural Science students, will be associated with the 5K Run, in partnership with local governmental and non-governmental organizations. With the campaign, "**Sí! Sí! Sí! Plant a Tree!**", the community was invited to intervene the Cali river basin, planting one indigenous-species tree for every runner, and to support the further development of our garden by planting coffee, cocoa, or citrus trees.

It's great to see how our students' voices and agency are very present in the life of our school community. They inspire the adults to do their best in supporting these ecofriendly efforts.

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► From the Executive Director

Please send me articles featuring the important work and events taking place in your school!

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- Spring-Summer 2020:
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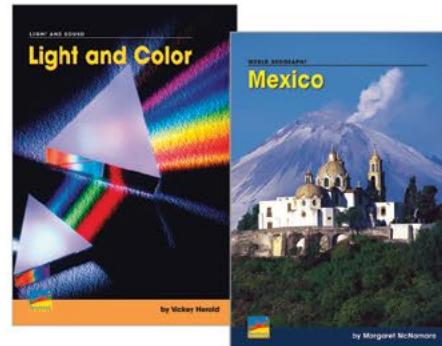
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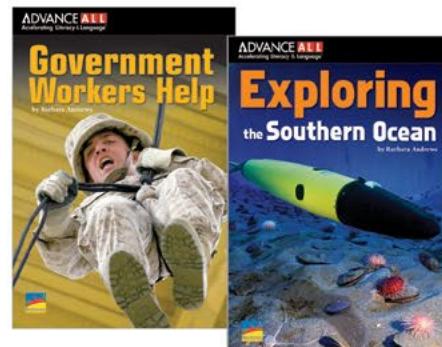
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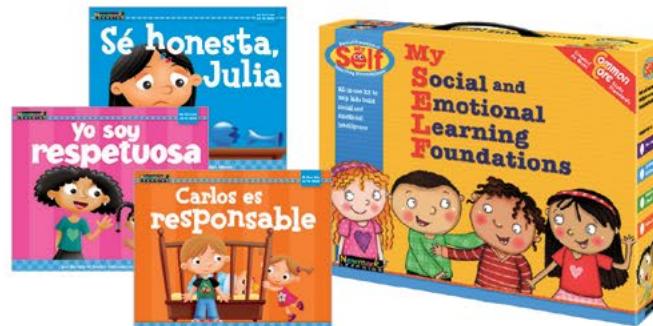
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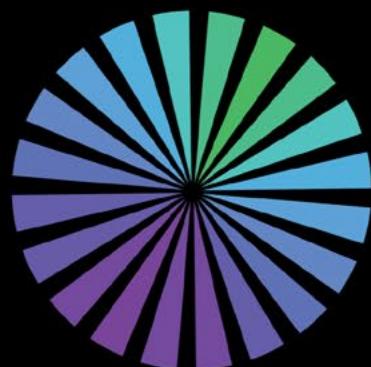
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2019-20 Changes to AP: A Path to Success for All Students



AP® students do college-level work in high school. And if they score a 3 or higher on the exam, they can earn college credit. To help them make the most of this opportunity, we're supporting their teachers with a suite of online tools and introducing new policies for the 2019-20 school year.

More Students Succeed When They Register in the Fall

More than half of schools that offer AP ask students to commit to taking the exam in the fall, boosting their chance of earning a score that translates to college credit. We've seen the benefits firsthand.

New Resources

Students will get personalized feedback through new digital tools that provide daily support for every AP classroom. Their teachers will be able to track their performance throughout the year using an online bank of real AP practice questions and monthly personal progress checks.

Your Student's To-Do List

Here is what students need to do to prepare for the 2019-20 AP school year.

THIS SPRING

- Students sign up for AP classes at school.

BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR

- Students visit apstudent.collegeboard.org to learn more about AP courses and exams.
- Students without a College Board account should create one and set their password. They'll need their username and password when their AP classes start in the fall.
- Students who already have an account should make sure they know their username and password.

FALL 2019

- **First week of class:** Teachers will give students a join code for each of their AP classes. Students use their College Board username and password and join code to enroll in their class section.
- **October/November:** Schools submit exam orders.

SPRING 2020

- **March:** Schools submit any changes to their exam order and order exams for students in spring courses.
- **May:** Students take AP Exams.

SUMMER 2020

- **July:** AP Exam scores are released.

Questions? Contact your AP coordinator or AP services for students, or email us at apexams@info.collegeboard.org



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What?

Global Entrepreneurship & Leadership Innovation Pre-College Course is a pre-college one week intensive, college level course exposing high school students to the theory and practice of entrepreneurship and innovation. Students are guided through the new venture creation process applied to their own original ideas by Columbia Business School Faculty.

Where?

This course is taught off campus to high school students within the US and globally in Asia, Africa, Europe, The Middle East and Latin America.

Take Away

- Learn the process to take your venture idea from ideation to launch. The course has the same framework as the Columbia MBA course “Launch your startup”.
- Critical thinking, planning, setting timelines and targets, implementation of “out of the box” ideas.
- Public speaking, leadership, develop an entrepreneurial mind, team building, collaboration and connecting the dots.
- Research driven project viability prepares you for college level work.
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Curriculum

- Module 1 : Opportunity**
- Module 2 : Strategy**
- Module 3 : Innovation**
- Module 4 : Leadership**
- Module 5 : Execution**



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