

ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Issue 2

In this issue:

- Student standouts
- IB Grant Money
- IB Olvera Street field trip
- IB field trip to the theater
- Recruitment
- What are IB students learning?
- Next year's diploma candidates & IB program

IB Receives \$15,000 Grant

With the help of Jake Finch, district Resource Development Coordinator, and the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Simi Valley Unified School District IB program received \$15,000 from the City of Simi Valley to develop and expand our IB opportunities. This will not only help to pay for the costs of the IB program here at Royal, but to develop a Middle Years Program at Sinaloa Middle School, which will function both at Sinaloa and for the 9th and 10th grade years at Royal High School. This money will help to pay for annual fees, the application process and training to implement the academic classes necessary for the program for our teachers at Sinaloa Middle School. In the upcoming year, Royal and Sinaloa will partner together to look at the connection of the two program and how they will work in conjunction with one another to develop a solid academic partnership. We are excited for this growth and the great things that this could mean for our students, program, community, and our district.

IB Olvera Street Field Trip

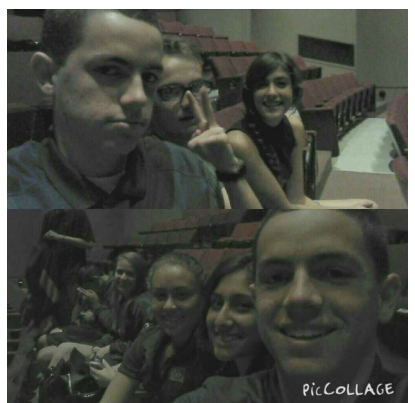
This semester our IB students used local resources to explore other cultures. A train derailment prevented us from going on our originally planned February trip. However, we thankfully rescheduled for April 30th and our students took the Metrolink to Olvera Street in Downtown Los Angeles. They visited Avila Adobe, the Chinese American Museum, and the America Tropical Interpretive Center, as well as enjoying authentic Mexican food. The IB program hopes to take more cultural trips next year.



Left :Ryan Feigenbaum, Drew Vincioni, and Jeffrey Ho standing in front of the historic Avila Adobe on Olvera Street Right: Elisabeth Marciano and Rebecca Duncan enjoying the sights

Much Ado About Nothing at Moorpark College

Once again John Loprieno and the students at Moorpark College offered a free showing to local students of their current production. This time the students were able to see Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*. This free showing allowed our students a taste of Shakespearean comedy that they had previously studied in 10th grade and provided a good contrast for the tragedy of *Hamlet* that they will be studying in their senior year of IB Literature.



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Sinaloa “Where Are You Going Day?”

Six of our current IB students visited Sinaloa for the day to talk to students about IB at Royal High School. These students offered a spectrum of IB involvement from full diploma candidates to students just taking one IB class. This allowed the middle school students the opportunity to see that they could all find a way to be involved in the IB program, despite their academic, social, and extracurricular commitments. Thank you to Jennifer Healy and Cynthia Visage for their invitation and to all the Sinaloa students for their hospitality and participation!



CAS coordinator, Sandy Porter, with some of our IB diploma candidates enjoying come cultural treats on Olvera Street.

In **history**, **Jenna Ohler** continues to show incredible consistency and work ethic. Her dedication to being a better student is inspiring.

Student Standouts 2nd Semester

Robert Ota easily masters the new grammar in **French** and always contributes to discussions, His presentations are well done and entertaining.

Kelley Lam has shown continued hard work and effort in **Spanish** and **Theory of Knowledge**. She contributes to discussions with passion and articulation. She is a positive student who can smile even when she is challenging someone's argument. She loves to question and analyze any topic in any subject

In **English**, **Elisabeth Marciano** and **Garrett Brown** are always contributing to discussions and willing to share their opinions with the class. They do a great job of being inclusive and thoughtful with their classroom contributions.

Featured IB Diploma Candidates

Derek Garcia

Favorite subject: Math

Favorite IB Class: Physics

Favorite food: Soup

Favorite thing about the IB program thus far: My classmates

Extracurricular activities: Concert and marching band

What do you do when you aren't studying?: Sleeping

Jenna Ohler

Favorite subject: Biology

Favorite IB Class: English because of the class discussions

Favorite thing about the IB program thus far: Being a cohort because we can rely on each other for help

Extracurricular activities: Marching band, soccer, dance, Key Club, NHS, French Club

CAS projects: Holding a reading intervention at Hollow Hills for second language learners K-6

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Next Year's IB Program

Next year we are lucky to have 13 incoming diploma candidates! Welcome to the program, Frank Candelaria, Laura Stuck, Kayla Hitt, Tyler Tran, Mark Kaneshiro, Abdullah Khan, Parker Nolan, Abigail Rogers, Alex Stanton, Parker George, James Lemkin, Kaitlyn Gelfman, and Damion Johnson. That will make a total 28 students working on their diplomas next year, not to mention the over 125 other students that will be enrolled in IB courses next year. We have doubled the amount of students in our program for next year! These students will also be taking classes in our new and additional course offerings such as IB Psychology, Mathematical Studies, Computer Science, Band, and Sports Exercise and Health Science. For the future, we are also looking at adding a Business and Management class as well. We would like to welcome Mr. Borth, Mrs. Sciarillo, Mr. Shuster, Mrs. Pate, Mr. Saldain and eventually Mr. Jezina to our IB teaching team. We are looking forward to a great year!

What are our IB students doing in class?

TOK- In the theory of knowledge class, we are wrapping up the rough draft of our 4,000 word Extended Essays. We will soon be working on the abstract and other formatting aspects of this research project. Students will be setting up the rough draft meetings with their wonderful supervisors to receive the last official commentary and suggestions in order to create their polished, final draft by Nov. 2, 2015.

TOK has one internal assessment, the TOK presentation. This presentation begins with a real life situation that inspires a larger knowledge question connecting to various areas of knowledge (such as the natural or human sciences, the arts or mathematics, and religions, cultures, and ethics) and ways of knowing (memory and reason, imagination and sense perception, language and intuition, and faith of kinds). Through these connections, students clarify the possibilities and problems related to the knowledge question and to other real-life situations. The idea is to how we know what we know in a given situation and how does that relate to other situations and areas of knowledge. Students can work alone or in a group when they present their discoveries. We will be presenting the last two weeks of May.

History- We are currently focusing on the development of modern nations in the Western Hemisphere and the impact America had on other countries. Next we will be exploring the causes of the Great Depression and the repercussions felt around the globe.

Art & Physics- Visual arts and Physics completed the first ever IB assessments at Royal High School. Our students submitted their art portfolios in April and hope to hear good news of success in July when we hear the results. They also filmed candidate statements for their portfolio where they discussed their own personal art pieces for the IB. Physics recently completed their final papers and will also hear back results in July.

Spanish- Students have learned about the history of Cinco de Mayo and made Cinco de Mayo flowers to celebrate the holiday. We will also be covering the life and art of Pablo Picasso. The culminating project will be painting in one of his styles in class at the end of the year.

French- After the attacks on the editors of Charlie Hebdo, we began a unit on tolerance and assimilation. We've had some great discussions. The kids did a presentation on what the curriculum would be for French immigrants taking a course on American culture. It covered holidays, foods, school, shopping and sports. There were a lot of fun! We also had two debates; one on whether France should have all their Catholic holidays since they have the largest Islamic immigrant population in Europe and the second one whether France should continue to offer French as a second language course. We will also be reading an excerpt from *Les Misérables* and discuss the intolerance and tolerance shown to Jean Valjean.

English/Literature- This semester we are working on works in translation, meaning every book we have read was originally written in a different language. This has allowed us to look in more depth concerning the cultural and historical backgrounds of the authors, time period and setting each of the pieces of literature. We have read *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *The Plague* and *A Doll's House*. The students will also complete their first external assessment, writing on a topic about one of these works.