

A Look Towards Internal Assessments

The internal assessments are well underway in all IB classes. The internal assessment or IA can look different, depending on the class. It can be:

- oral work in languages
- laboratory work in the sciences
- investigations in mathematics
- artistic performances

The IB teachers at LHS work tirelessly to explain the IA to students, work with them to find a suitable topic, and guide them throughout the process from start to finish. In most cases the IA can be worth 20%-30% of the total grade for each IB course. It is important that students work diligently on these assessments, not only because of the mathematical weight of each assignment, but also for the deeper content understanding that students will gain.

- Sincerely Anthony Fischetti
IB Coordinator



This issue

- IB Biology Connections **P.1**
- Greetings from Makenzie **P.2**
- TOK Time Capsule **P.3**
- IB French Success **P.4**

IB Biology Promotes an Approach to Research and Career

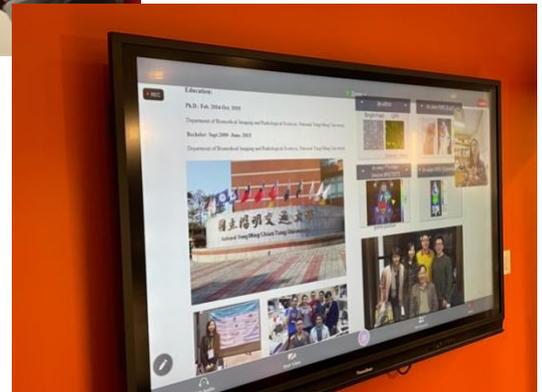
Recently IB Biology teacher, Mrs. Pramila Natarajan, invited Dr. Zammam Areeb, Dr. Xue Yang and Dr. Chun-Yuan (Tracy) Chang from [Dr. Wenwei Hu's lab at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#) into her classroom, virtually, on Nov 23rd. Dr. Hu's lab is researching the function and regulation of the tumor suppressor p53 gene, which plays a huge role in tumorigenesis. Her class of IB Biology juniors are learning about experimental design and writing lab reports. The scientists took a careful approach to explaining their road to their career and the process of experimental design. It was truly beneficial for students to comprehend the framework for experiments in real time research labs. Students learned about experimental design and cancer research, but also about the importance of research to society. The scientists did an amazing job sharing their journey into cancer research, and perhaps motivated LHS students to consider future careers in STEM.



(Left) Dr. Zammam Areeb explains his journey into the research field as a student growing up in Australia.



(Right) Dr. Chun-Yuan (Tracy) Chang discusses her education in Taiwan and her current work researching the function and regulation of the tumor suppressor p53 gene at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in New Brunswick, NJ.



May 2022 Update

Recently, the IBO made a very important revision to the May 2022 testing calendar. As a global program the IBO strives to accommodate and recognize the diversity, equity, and inclusion for all students. The IBO stated the following in their global announcement:

We are adjusting the schedule for all examinations that were due to be held on May 2 and May 3. An updated examination schedule has been created to ensure all our students have equal opportunity to fulfil their school's and IB's academic requirements.

We were able to make this change for May 2022 without extending the examination schedule due to the adaptations that have been put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your understanding and continued collaboration.

Anton Béguin

Chief Education Officer

The full amended schedule can be seen by visiting the link below:

[May 2022 Exam Schedule](#)

All seniors enrolled in IB courses, and any juniors enrolled in a single year course, should consult the schedule so they are aware of their testing dates.



From a Linden Tiger to a Kean Cougar

Makenzie Kuntz '21 shares insight about her first semester at Kean University

Recently, I was able to exchange some emails with Makenzie Kuntz '21 who now attends Kean University. In the short time that she has been an undergraduate, Makenzie has already started to make her mark, and explore what Kean has to offer. She also wanted to share a message with the students currently attending Linden High School:

Hey LHS!! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Makenzie Kuntz, and I just graduated Linden High School this past June! I am currently attending Kean University with my intended major of Speech Language Hearing Sciences. During my time at LHS, I was an IB Certificate student, where I took IB English, IB Biology, and IB Psychology.

I would have to say that college life is treating me pretty well! I am very involved in my campus community, as I am a member of the Kean Leadership Institute, Kean Theatre Council, Cougar Volunteers, and serve as Secretary on Cougar Hall Council. I was also just recently elected as Freshman Class President- so that's pretty cool!

Anyway, one thing that I definitely want to make clear about IB is that it is really helpful when trying to adapt to the transition from high school to college. And if you are hesitant to do it- please don't be! It really is not as scary as it may seem. The IB community is an inclusive one, and I strongly recommend taking at least one course. The kind of workload and curriculum which you face in IB courses are very similar to those you will be exposed to in college, and taking these courses provided me with a strong foundation which I have been able to build upon since. Besides the fact that it looks really good on your transcript or resume, IB opens a lot of opportunities for you to learn and expand your knowledge, ultimately for your own benefit. If you are willing to take on a challenge, and push yourself to new limits, IB is definitely for you!

With this, I just ask that you remember to keep working hard and stay focused on your own goals! That's what got me through my IB journey and will continue to motivate me as I continue throughout college. You got this!"



IB Worldwide Data

The IBO does an excellent job of reporting on their data and makes it a point to share that with the public. Recently, due to the pandemic, the IBO has made historic data for each school available. This is useful for many reasons:

- Tracking school success over the life of the program
- Comparing our success on a worldwide scale
- The ability to provide accurate grade predictions for our students

As a program that has existed for 20 years and counting, there is a great deal that our school-specific data can tell us about our trajectory. Our program has grown from a small cohort of about 12 students, to now include roughly 25% of the junior class and 25% of the senior class. The IB is world-recognized and, as you can see from the graphic below, serves nearly 2 million students in over 150 countries.

FACTS AND FIGURES
ABOUT THE IB



1,950,000
students



5,400
schools



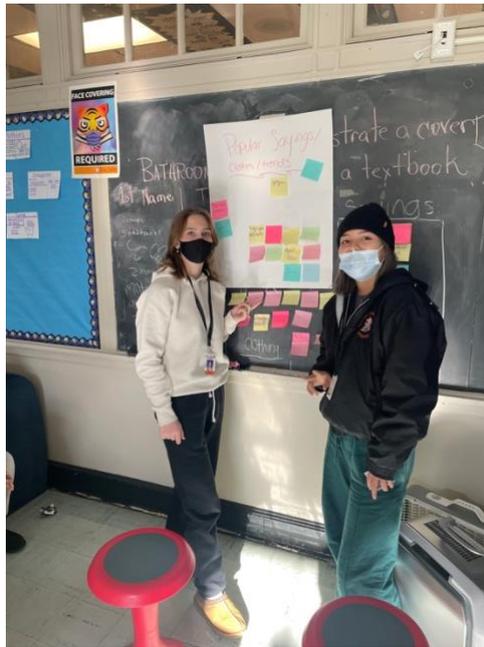
159
countries



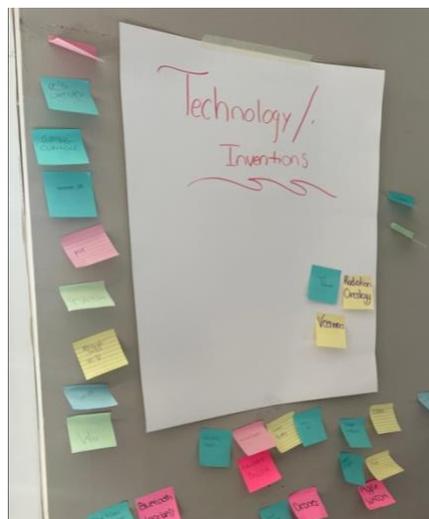
TOK Preserves 21st Century Artifacts

Theory of Knowledge Allows Students to Look at Present-day Life Through a Historical Lens

The IB diploma program, albeit rigorous and challenging, offers some unique incentives regarding the curriculum of study. Students that choose to follow a full IB diploma course load engage in the thought-provoking Theory of Knowledge (TOK) class which is presently taught by Mr. Gary Mazurek. TOK is the type of course that requires a dynamic teacher, and Mr. Mazurek is that and more for his students. While there are essays and presentations that are required in the course, Mr. Mazurek also brings in his own flare for history and love of information into the learning. Recently, students spent time brainstorming 21st century artifacts that would theoretically be placed in a time capsule. Students moved from station to station around the room, quickly filling up boards with their ideas ranging from popular sayings to historical events, songs, and inventions, to name a few. Mr. Mazurek facilitated the student-led class, which required guided proposals and responses from the participants.



TOK @ LHS





(Left & Above) Roger Rotondi, MS, ATC Head Athletic Trainer demonstrates care and treatment for student athletes.

IB Sports Exercise & Health in Action

The IB Sports Exercise & Health class provides students with a unique opportunity to learn anatomy, physics, physiology, and biology, all through the lens of sports and performance. Ms. Kelly Gallagher leads instruction for this exclusive SL class. As a single year class, it is open to juniors and seniors alike, and provides students a distinctive look at practical applications of science. Kelly Gallagher recently shared the following regarding Mr. Rotondi's visit to her class:

Mr. Rotondi visited both periods of IB Sports to talk about his career & responsibilities as an Athletic Trainer for Linden

Public Schools. He shared his academic journey in choosing a major and career and eventually where he chose to work. He walked students through scenarios they might encounter on the field while caring for a team as well as treatment and follow up he provides for our athletes in

between games and practices. During each class he worked with student volunteers to demonstrate some taping skills! A big thank you to both Mr. Rotondi and Ms. Gallagher for their work and commitment to our students! Additional photos from this experience can be found [here](#).



(Above) Roger Rotondi explains the importance of his role and further demonstrates his expertise in this field.



This Quarter's Advice from the IB Coordinator

Q: I like my IB class, but I am struggling a bit. What should I do?

A: With the first marking complete and the second nearing an end, it is a good time for all students, IB and otherwise, to take stock of where they are right now and where they want to be in the near future. I often teach my students about the difference between long-term and short-term goals. It is important to avoid setting too many "lofty" goals. Rather, I encourage my students to set SMART (specific, measurable, achievable,

realistic, & timely) goals for academics and beyond. Keeping yourself accountable is key, and if you are struggling, seek help with your teacher, your classmates, or within the NHS tutoring sessions after school in room 218 on either Tuesday or Wednesday immediately after school.



Contact your coordinator! afischetti@lindenps.org 908-486-5432 Ext. 8343

IB French Success

For years the IB French program at LHS has seen consistent, albeit quiet success. If you did not already know, the IB scores range from 1-7 with a score of 4 or better considered passing. Over the past four years Madame Foy can boast an average student score of 4.5. Her students always attain high achievement and I recently asked her what she loves most about the IB:

Being an IB teacher has given me a great opportunity to be part of a unique family in an educational setting: the IB family. The IB program has enabled me to grow intellectually in ways that I couldn't imagine. Above all, the challenge of teaching high schoolers to become lifelong learners through high critical thinking skills, gives me satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment.

The LHS IB program is lucky to have such a dedicated teacher, who is not only compassionate, but also attentive to the needs of her students.

