



The Partner

The Newsletter of the Strawberry Crest
High School IB Partnership

As of February 23, 2011, we are officially an IB World School!



Important Dates

August 18	Meet & Greet
August 23	First Day of School
August 31	Costa Rica Trip Meeting
September 5	No School
September 13	Spaghetti Dinner & Bake Sale
October 13	Junior Class Pinning Ceremony
October 21	No School
October 28	Homecoming



The Partnership will again utilize the One Call Now™ system as a means of communicating with our members. The One Call Now™ system will ensure you and your student stay connected with other Strawberry Crest IB parents and students regarding upcoming events, activities, and announcements.

What is the IB Partnership?

We are a volunteer parent organization whose goals are: promoting camaraderie and providing support for IB students and their parents; providing for the instructional needs of IB teachers above and beyond what the county can support; increasing communication between the IB faculty/staff and parents; and increasing parental involvement in the IB program. The IB Partnership is in the process of applying for 501(c)3 nonprofit status. We will raise funds to promote the educational environment of the IB students, coordinate parent volunteers to support school activities, and develop extracurricular programs and purchase materials for the enhancement, enrichment, and furthering of educational development of the IB students at Strawberry Crest High School.

Your IB Partnership Executive Board for 2011-2012 is:

Kelly Shirley, President
 Bobbi Camp, Vice President of Membership and Committees
 Melissa Gonzales, Vice President of Fundraising and Events
 Miriam Leech, Secretary
 Cindy Flowers, Treasurer
 Debbie Olney, Historian
 Arlene Vest, Junior Class Liaison
 Liz Russo, Sophomore Class Liaison
 Teri Locke, Freshman Class Liaison

**We encourage everyone to join the
Partnership!**

Look for the IB Partnership table at Meet & Greet or contact Bobbi Camp (bcamp@zuckerman.com) to join or renew membership, update your information, and volunteer!

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From London and Paris (Summer 2011) . . .

The IB Partnership planned and executed the **2011 Across the English Channel** trip this summer, with a total of 30 student and adult travelers along for our journey to London, Paris, and the Normandy region of France. We were escorted by our experienced guide Mirka Mrazova. She is originally from the Czech Republic and is a long-time resident of both London and Paris.

In London, we visited Piccadilly Circus, Covent Garden, Westminster, Trafalgar Square, and the Tower of London. Many in our group took advantage of the opportunity to see all of London from the vantage point of The London Eye, followed by a Thames River cruise. We had ample free time to experience local shopping, culture, and food, too! Many chose to go to Harrods to see the world's largest and most exclusive store or to Hyde Park for some relaxation and a nice picnic lunch.

We then took the comfortable Eurostar train between London and Paris. We experienced many sights and much history while in Paris, including a visit to the Eiffel Tower and an evening cruise along the Seine. We also saw the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame Cathedral, and many historic sites and buildings. We had an entire afternoon to spend at the Louvre and saw many works of fine art including The Mona Lisa. The days in Paris also included free time to experience many of the edible things Paris is famous for including macaroons, glaces, bread, and pastry. We had time to shop in trendy Parisian stores and also to bargain with the local street vendors for their goods and wares. Many of our travelers have said that the highlight of their tour was our visit to the palace of Versailles. Our group was able to take a guided tour of the Chateau and see many of its vast rooms, including the famous hall of mirrors and Marie Antoinette's bed chamber. The visit included time for a nice picnic lunch in the beautiful gardens and time to explore the enormous estate, lakes, and extensive manicured grounds and its mazes.

We then explored the areas of Rouen, Honfleur, and the beaches at Normandy. We visited a cheese farm and tried goat's milk cheeses and ice cream. As we continued to explore we were guided on walks that included cathedrals and other points of interest and great photo opportunities. We were humbled and inspired by the visit to the Caen Memorial and the American Cemetery. We learned of the immense sacrifices and the bravery of our American troops and also the French citizens' tremendous loss during WWII and on D-Day specifically.

We explored, learned, ate (a lot), and created memories to last a lifetime! One of our student travelers, Krisha Patel, summed it up well, "While in Europe I got to see so much in so little time! I enjoyed seeing not only the big cities (London and Paris), but also Normandy and the quaint fishing towns we stopped by on the way there. I also enjoyed seeing many historical sites that I had learned about in history (like Versailles). My overall experience in Europe was outstanding."

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. . . to Costa Rica (Summer 2012)

Our IB Parent Partnership put a lot of thought into the choice of a trip for Summer 2012. We listened to input from parents and students. We considered overall cost, travel time, and a focus on science, biology, and ecology for our students and their continued interests and course of study.

So get ready for **Discover Costa Rica 2012!** This trip will be a real adventure! We will boat on Lake Arenal, visit the Fortuna Waterfall, and take a canopy tour by zip line in Sarapiquí. We will see hot springs, go white water rafting, and visit the crater of the Arenal volcano. Along our journey we will visit many Bioparques and National Parks, and see much wildlife like monkeys and reptiles. We will learn about the rainforest, uplands, and conservation efforts in Costa Rica. We will experience the local food and rich culture of its people, too! From another one of our student travelers, Surya Nagesh: "The trip to Europe was a lot of fun. Though my feet still hurt from walking around so much, the trip was great. It was educational but not in any boring kind of way. The time spent in Costa Rica next year will definitely be fun and if not better, because if it is even as half as good as this trip I will start packing my bags right now! I definitely recommend that if possible everyone should sign up for the trip to Costa Rica because it will also be hosted by EF tours and they really seem to know what they are doing."

The Costa Rica tours are the most popular of any that our tour company offers---we will soon learn why! If your student is a Sophomore or Junior this school year, they are eligible to travel. We also encourage parent chaperones to travel with us. You should have a brochure in your "2011-2012 Welcome Packets." We will have an informational tour meeting on Tuesday, August 31, at 6:00 pm in the Media Center at SCHS.

We will answer all of your questions about the trip then. We hope to see you in Costa Rica next summer!

Kelly Shirley, President of the IB Partnership
kshirley451@aol.com
 690-5392



SCHS students having fun outside of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Summer 2011.



Educational Tours

International travel for teachers and students

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Welcome From Tiffany Ewell, IB Coordinator

Parents and Students,

It is hard to believe that we are now entering our third year at Strawberry Crest! The high school experience seems to move by so quickly. In 2 short years we have welcomed three new groups of IB freshmen to our campus, been authorized as an IB school, and now we will begin offering our first Diploma Programme courses. Before you know it we will be watching the Class of 2013 (our inaugural IB class) walk across the stage at graduation! Cherish these days.....they pass far too quickly.

I hope everyone has had a restful summer and returns to the 2011-2012 school year excited and motivated about what lies ahead. Our teachers returned from their summer vacations in early August, and they have been working feverishly to prepare for your return. When school begins on August 23rd we will hit the ground running! Please come to school on the first day prepared and ready to learn.

It is my belief that the education we offer students in our program is second to none. This year we have welcomed six new teachers to our already outstanding IB staff. All of our teachers are committed to the IB mission, which aims to “develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people” through a “challenging program of international education.” This year we will have a number of activities both inside and outside of the classroom to help our students achieve this objective.

The best way for you to know what activities we have planned for the upcoming year is by checking our website frequently. On the home page of the school website you can find a link to the IB page .

On the Strawberry Crest IB page you will find links to a number of resources, including teacher websites and Edline.

Our IB Parent Partnership also plans to post regular newsletters on our website throughout the year.

The website address is <http://strawberrycrest.mysdhc.org>.

Again, welcome back to the new year! Don't hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns as the year gets under way.



The IB Partnership-sponsored Welcome Back Teachers Luncheon on August 10, 2011.

Tiffany Ewell
Assistant Principal for Magnet Curriculum
and IB Coordinator
707-7522, ex. 244

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Welcome to IB Class of 2013!

I hope you have had a great summer and are well rested and ready for a busy year!

My name is Arlene Vest, and I am your IB Partnership Junior Class Liaison--my daughter is Erica Vest. Now that you are Juniors, you are official IB students! This is going to be an exciting year for all of you. The IB Partnership is busy planning events and fundraisers for this year. Remember, the money raised by the Partnership goes toward your Pinning Ceremony on October 13 of this year and your Senior Banquet next year, which we will begin planning for you soon. We also provide funds for your teachers to purchase items they need in their classroom to help with your education.

When you volunteer with the Partnership group, you earn community service hours in the form of action hours. Volunteer opportunities are posted on the school website--just click on International Baccalaureate, then click on Guidance.

We also notify families of upcoming events via e-mails and phone blasts, so check with your parents as well. If you have any ideas for activities for the Junior Class or have any questions, please feel free to contact me!! Looking forward to working with you and your families this year!

Arlene Vest, Junior Liaison
arlene41red@yahoo.com
 (813) 453-3759

Welcome Back Class of 2014

I hope you all had a great summer. I am confident that you spent your time this summer recharging your batteries and are ready to meet this year's challenges head on!

I am Liz Russo, your IB Partnership Sophomore Class Liaison. As the parent of a sophomore--James Russo-- I am sure, like me, you are all feeling more confident and well connected to how the program works. However, every year brings its new challenges. This year is all about **communication**. I want to make sure that the families of the class of 2014 are up-to-date on events, activities, and important facts! Now, you might be saying, "That is what the school website is for!" You are so right. The school website is a must see, every day, for important facts!! But also must-see are my e-mails that will contain not only already-communicated information, but also new and immediate information from the IB Partnership to keep you apprised of we are doing for you to make this year the best one ever.

Communication must go both ways. If you have questions, contact me! If you have any thoughts or concerns, let me know! If you have an idea that will help us make this year a great one, pass it on to me! I look forward to seeing you and your families at our IB Partnership meetings and events!

Liz Russo, Sophomore Liaison
russoe16@gmail.com
 813-315-8828

COMING SOON!

This fall the IB Partnership will be launching our very own website to improve communications with our parents and students! Please watch for details on the school website and in your e-mails!

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PARTNERSHIP BOARD

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Sophomore Liaison	Liz Russo	813-650-3530	russoe16@gmail.com
Freshman Liaison	Teri Locke	813-707-7522	teri.locke@sdhc.k12.fl.us

From the IB Partnership Historian

Woot! Woot! I hope your summer was an awesome one. Mine was a totally adventurous, globetrotting event! I am the historian this year and, as such, am in charge of keeping an accurate pictorial history of all our wonderful kids and their accomplishments. But I need your help! Please send me any pictures you may take during the year at school events!! I look forward to making history with you!

Debbie Olney, Historian

dolney1@verizon.net

928-5492



Where did the Summer Go?



It came and went in the blink of an eye! Although the summer break was short, I hope it was enjoyable for everyone.

The IB Partnership Board is busy preparing for another fantastic year, and we hope you share our excitement.

- Welcome Class of 2015!
- Good luck Class of 2014 as you move forward to more challenging pre-IB course work!
- Way to go Class of 2013! In September you will be pinned as our first IB Class!
- And welcome new staff and welcome back returning veterans of the SCHS IB Programme!

New IB Swag On Sale Now!!

Available at the IB Partnership table during Meet & Greet and all home football games.

Get yours while supplies last!

**IB Magnets and Notebooks
SCHS String Backpacks
T-Shirts**

Be on the look-out for important information from the IB Partnership during the first week of school, including your application to join or renew your membership. Our success depends on your participation. Please take a minute to complete the application and return it to the IB Office as soon as possible.

I look forward to working with each of you to make the 2011-2012 school year the best yet.

Bobbi Camp, VP of Membership and Committees

bcamp@zuckerman.com

431-1494