

Student Council activities promote awareness

caption 1

From wrapping trees in red ribbons to support alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention causes others to engaging in global discussions through simulations of United Nations talks, Student Council addressed cultural and social issues through student activities.

For one activity, the group got the community involved in International Culture Day.

"We could wear white or an outfit from any country,

I decided to wear a white Ghanaian dress," senior Vanessa Anim said.

"This was important to me because some people do not know about Guinea, so I got to express my culture."

Through activities like these Student Council worked to create a better school environment.

"Student council is known as the voice of the student body," Anim said. "It is fun since you are trying to make this a better place for everyone."

Red Ribbon Week
October 23



1 Participants help environmental club members 2 Model UN participants 3 India Senior Miltra Nranthikumar, Ghana Senior Vanessa Anim, India Senior Alexis Roberts

Model U.N.
October 24



International Day
October 25



photos by Zach Guzman, Syeda Gilani, Kai Weems, Touchstone staff



caption 2

NHS members support those struggling with depression

"The suicide walk was bittersweet. I had someone attempt, and I was surprised because I thought they were happy. Now, I try to be understanding and listen. If it's serious, then I know I need to make sure to say something. I felt like I was a part of it and observing."

- Senior Savannah Gravit

photos by Touchstone staff

Community partnership helps students learn about business, gives the community an opportunity to learn about the school



In March, Academy Ambassadors meet with business partners in the library then lead a campus tour, starting with the ag barn and



ending in technology classrooms. 1 Senior Alyah Hucks. 2 The first business partner to arrive speaks with a group of ambassadors.

caption 3

photos by Zach Guzman, Syeda Gilani, Kai Weems, Touchstone staff

"Students grapple with questions about culture and the importance of taking a look at issues..."

-IB Coordinator Andi Brosche

Multicultural focus

IB programme offers students a safe, creative place to prepare for living in a global society

by Syeda Gilani

As a student wanders through the mall for the first time, she's nervous because her clothes are a little different and her accent is unique. As she looks up she sees a sea of flags hanging from the ceiling. One of them is hers.

"The IB program offers highly motivated students a safe space to be themselves, to share their opinions and to learn more about the world around them while engaging in the world's most challenging college prep curriculum," IB Diploma Programme Coordinator Andi Brosche said.

Building on their main foundation of international open mindedness, the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma programme prepares students for living a life with global focus through three major components of thinking and understanding: multilingualism, intercultural understanding and global engagement.

From speaking other languages to respecting cultural differences and understanding the complex nature of diversity, students develop strategies to overcome challenges that will serve them as they enter college and the work force.

"The programme is organized in such a way that students grapple with questions about culture and the importance of taking a look at issues from multiple perspectives," Brosche said. "From this, they learn objectivity and become more curious about the world around them. This leads to students stepping out of their comfort zones to interact with people of all cultures and backgrounds."

When students enroll in the IB programme, much of their curriculum focuses on comparing the differences in knowledge bases from around the world, like how eastern and western biology compare and how chemistry and medicine have evolved through the ages and across the various areas of the world.

In history, teacher Lesse Adams applies this style of thinking to social and cultural norms.

"What I attempt to do is, as we're going through the different points in history, is tell the story with an American take and then show the same story through the Soviets' eyes, the Germans' eyes, South Americans, Southeast Asians," Adams said. "It's an effort to [help students] understand that it's not always the official report that is closest to truth. It's the conglomeration of all the different viewpoints on a particular event."

Beyond the campus some IB students have already begun broadening their perspectives with this type of global thinking.

"Several of our students have participated in IB World Student Conferences," Brosche said. "They worked with students from around the world in Global Action Teams to raise awareness for global issues."

But, for IB, thinking globally means starting locally. On campus, program leaders and IB students continue to work on ways to engage all stakeholders and students and staff in discussions about what it means to foster international mindedness and have a more global take on issues.

"IB is about open-mindedness and about engaging with the larger world locally, nationally, and globally," Brosche said. "It should always be about more than just food, flags and festivals."

IB students gather together to complete Group 4 Project

With ten hours on the clock, IB students have to come up with a plan to survive on mars for 4 years.

Gathered around long tables, groups peek their heads around corners of laptops and books to communicate. Yet, most students remain too engrossed in their specific task to talk. They're all busy leaving no dimension of the topic uncovered.

For IB's Group 4 project, a requirement of IB, that this year was based off of "The Martian," students use four subject areas to investigate a technology or science related topic. By doing so, they quickly discover the limitations of research and the ethical, social and environmental factors that play a part in decision making.

Pictured above IB students complete their Group 4 project.

caption 5

"Community outreach with middle schoolers." - Senior Barbara Jardine

"I'm leading the decor and food for the prom." - Junior Reginald Bell

"I put together some events and plan prom." - Junior Reigna Johnson

Student leaders and IB Remember Multicultural Focus that day? I do. 107

Designed by Touchstone staff

Alumni panel addresses current students' concerns

The lecture hall was dim when junior Shelby Hughes walked in with her classmates. The hall buzzed with quiet nervousness.

"I figured that it was going to be one of those meetings where you hear all of the IB alumni talk about how stressful their experiences were," Hughes said.

On January 8, eight recent graduates traveled to speak to nearly 100 Pre-IB and IB students. The panel members explained how things from their IB experiences continue to affect their lives.

"When one of the alumni said that they didn't know what they wanted to do and college is where you can explore, I laughed," Hughes said. "I realized that these IB alumni aren't any different from the current IB students," Hughes said. "After that, the meeting wasn't what we thought that it would be. That moment fixed everything."

1 Freshman Darrin Nguyen 2 Senior Justin Sipple 3 IB students 4 Alumni panel participants

caption 4



photos by Zach Guzman, Syeda Gilani, Kai Weems, Touchstone staff

curiosity united 106 learners, instructors

Describe a time you had to lead a group of people to reach a common goal.

How do you choose to lead and help your community inside or outside of school?