

FRONT COVER



# The Advocate

Official Newsletter of the St. Petersburg High School International Baccalaureate Program **FALL 2013**

## Three Named National Merit Semifinalists

Three SPHS seniors, all IB students, were named as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. They will be eligible to compete for more than 8,000 scholarships valued at \$35 million that will be offered next spring.

The semifinalists were selected from a pool of 1.5 million high school students taking the 2012 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test. These winners represent less than one percent of the total United States 2014 graduating seniors. The SPHS semifinalists are *(left to right)* **Joshua**

**Grubbs, Reuben Russak-Pribble, and Benjamin Connelly.**

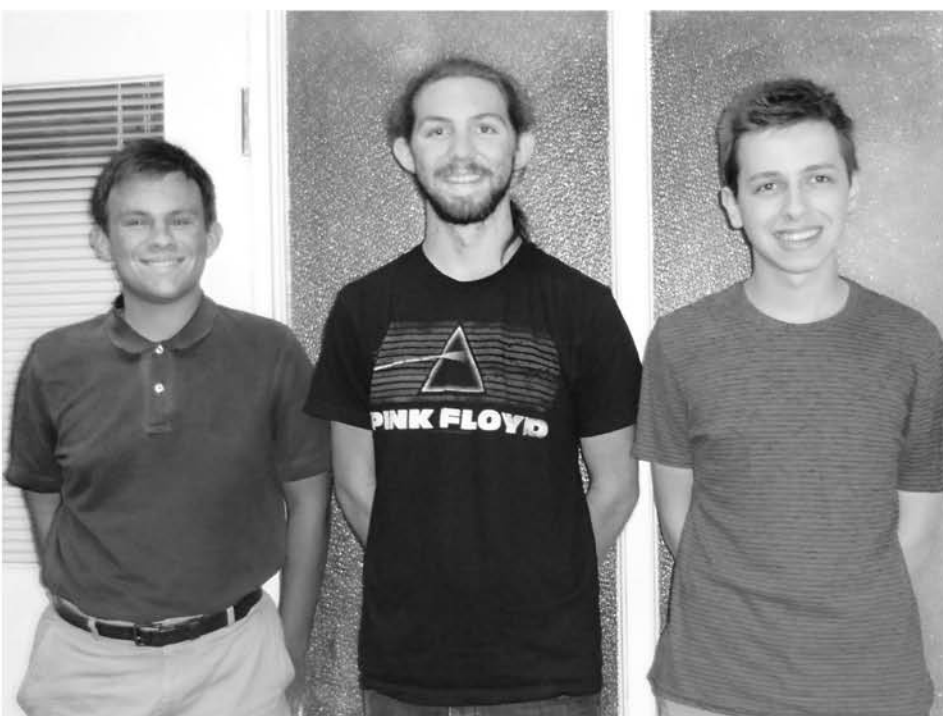
Additionally, another eight IB seniors were named as Commended Students for their academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2014 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who took the 2012 PSAT. They are: **Alexander Acevedo, Sorella Andersen, Samantha Beasey, Anthony Bender, Brett Buchert, Nyssa Hartman, Diego Lasso and Nicholas Walker.**

## National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalist

**Anthony Bender** also qualified as a semifinalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Semifinalists are designated within geographic regions and are the highest-scoring program entrants in the states that make up each region. Just 1600 students nationwide achieved this honor out of the more than 160,000 African Americans who requested consideration for the program when they took the 2012 PSAT. Anthony is now eligible to compete for approximately 800 scholarships to be awarded next spring.

## National Hispanic Scholars

**Alexander Acevedo** and **Diego Lasso** also qualified as National Hispanic Scholars. This honor went to just 5,000 of the highest-scoring students from over 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who took the 2012 PSAT. Many colleges and universities extend scholarship opportunities to these scholars.



# From the IB Boosters

Welcome to IB Booster members, new and returning. I am so pleased with the enthusiasm and energy from our incoming freshman class. Many of the freshman parents have already signed up and have started volunteering with our committees.

IB Boosters are here to support the IB program in every way we can. We support our students by organizing events for each class and proctoring the IB exams each spring. We support our teachers by fulfilling their classroom wish lists and providing monthly luncheons. And we support our parents, keeping you informed by publishing this Advocate newsletter, updating the website and posting to our facebook group.

You can help our efforts by joining or renewing your membership, and/or by volunteering your time with one of our committees this year. Don't let your students dissuade you from participating; they will appreciate it, even if they won't admit it to you now!

*Be part of our board next year!* Most of the current board members are parents of seniors, and there will be open positions for 2014-15 school year. Come join us at a board meeting and find out if one of these positions might be right for you. Our board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6PM in the IB office. By participating this year, you can be mentored by current board members for these future positions. All of the current

board members are full time working parents; we find time in our busy schedules and you can, too.

Check out our website by going to [www.stpetehigh.com](http://www.stpetehigh.com) and clicking on IB Boosters; join our facebook group at [www.facebook.com/groups/SPHSIBBoosters](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SPHSIBBoosters); or feel free to email me at [EAbernethy3@gmail.com](mailto:EAbernethy3@gmail.com).

Please contact us if we have not contacted you yet! Our goal is to have all IB families supporting each other.

*Liz Abernethy*  
President, IB Booster Board

## Message from the IB Coordinator

I would like to welcome our freshman class to St. Petersburg High School and welcome back the sophomores, juniors and seniors! It has taken us awhile to get into the groove of the new schedule, but the comments I hear are positive. The longer class blocks help the teachers and students accomplish so much more, especially in the sciences. And I understand that the students like the long study blocks as well!

Many thanks to Todd Maxwell, IB history teacher, for going above and beyond the call of duty to help prepare the students' schedules. We could not have done it without him!

Another change this year was to have the IB Pinning Ceremony in September rather than February. This ceremony is for the juniors and marks their official entry into the IB Diploma Program. As always, the ceremony was lovely, and I thank Dena Minning and her committee along with all the

IB Boosters, whose contributions make such ceremonies possible.

I am happy to announce that 90% of our students in the Class of 2013 earned their IB Diplomas, a passage rate of which we are very proud. The teachers continue to do an excellent job preparing our students for these exams, and I am honored to be the Coordinator of this prestigious program.

As the IB Coordinator and Assistant Principal, I am responsible for all aspects of the Program, from recruiting new students to ordering and administering the IB exams and everything in between. If you have any concerns about your experience here please feel free to contact me at [Fariass@pcsb.org](mailto:Fariass@pcsb.org) or by telephone at 893-1842 ext. 2012. My office is located in Room 157.

Also, please consider joining the IB Boosters and getting involved in one of their committees. As you'll see by

paging through this newsletter, the Boosters are responsible for many aspects of this program, including this very newsletter; the Pinning Ceremony we just had; refreshments at meetings and ceremonies; significant supplies for teachers; and the Senior Celebration for our graduating class. It's a great way to be involved in your students' education and to meet other parents.

Finally, please mark October 16 on your calendar and join us for an informal coffee and dessert social in the Media Center from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. This is your opportunity to ask questions, meet other parents, and learn your way around campus a bit! We look forward to seeing you.

*Susan Farias*  
Assistant Principal  
International Baccalaureate Program/  
Advanced Placement

# Advanced Placement Scholars

The following IB students, all current seniors, were recognized for outstanding achievement on their Advanced Placement Exams:

## AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams:

- Declan Abernethy
- Kayla Allen
- Andres Allwood
- Brett Buchert
- Benjamin Connelly
- Azmeer Khamisani
- Michael Levecque
- Adela Lilollari
- Ashley Major
- Zeenath Mohammed
- Amanda Puyot
- Reuben Russak-Pribble
- Alondra Summers
- Ken Tran
- Kevin Wong

## AP Scholar with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams:

- Aaron Torop
- Irina Trenkova

## AP Scholar with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams:

- Joshua Grubbs.

Additionally, 41 members of the IB Class of 2013 received AP recognition.

# Cast of Fall Play Announced

The IB Program will be well represented by the following students in the cast of SPHS' fall play, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee":

- Paige Crockett . . . . . Marcy Park
- Allie Maggs . . . . . Logainne
- Tucker DeGregory . . . Leaf Coneybear
- Trenton Sweigart . . Chip Tolento/Jesus
- William Gross . . . . . William Barfee
- Lara McCallister . . Michelle Mahoney
- Patrick Lynch . . . . . Vice Principal Douglas Panch
- Danielle Sackett . . . Volunteer Speller/ Leaf's Mom
- Olivia Buckley . . . . Volunteer Speller/ Leaf's Sister
- Michelle Lynch . . Women's Understudy

# Help Wanted!

This year, several members of the IB Booster Board have graduating seniors, including our President, Vice-President, and Advocate Editor. Our Proctoring Chair, who is responsible for training and scheduling volunteers to proctor the seniors' IB exams, graciously agreed to stay on another year even though her children have now graduated from IB! Therefore, this is your opportunity to take a larger role in your student or students' education. It's also a great way to meet other parents, get to know the faculty, and learn about all the important issues affecting our students. Please contact our Booster President, Liz Abernethy, at [EAbernethy3@gmail.com](mailto:EAbernethy3@gmail.com) or any of the following board

members if you can step into a leadership role. We'd all be happy to give you on-the-job training!

## Hospitality/Events

Cindee Connon  
[cconnon@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cconnon@tampabay.rr.com)

## Communications

Rebecca Connelly  
[becky.connelly@verizon.net](mailto:becky.connelly@verizon.net)

## Proctoring

Sandra Rosenthal  
[arosenth@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:arosenth@tampabay.rr.com)

## Senior Celebration

Julie DelVecchio  
[scottdelvecchio@earthlink.net](mailto:scottdelvecchio@earthlink.net)

# Extended Essay Elation Celebration!



On September 16, 2013 the Class of 2014 celebrated completion of the IB Extended Essay (EE) with cake and refreshments provided by the IB Boosters. The EE is a 4000 word essay in which the students demonstrate knowledge, understanding and enthusiasm on topic of their choice, and it is a requirement for the IB Diploma. The EE has often proven to be a valuable stimulus for discussion at college interviews and/or applications.

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**INSERT  
FRONT**

# CALENDAR

## October

- Oct 9 Report Cards distributed
- Oct 14 SAC meeting 7pm-Media Center
- Oct 15 Eid-al-Adha- Special Observance Day
- Oct 16 PSAT test administered at St. Pete High, mandatory for IB juniors.
- Oct 25 PTSA meeting-7pm in Media Center

## November

- Nov 11 SAC meeting 7pm-Media Center
- Nov 12 IB Booster Board meeting 6pm in IB Conference Room
- Nov 13 End of second grading period
- Nov 21 Report cards distributed
- Nov 21-23 Fall Play
- Nov 25 & 26 Teacher Work Days/ Professional Development - **school closed for students**
- Nov 27-29 Thanksgiving Holidays- **school closed for staff & students**

## December

- Dec 1 Bright Futures application opens for seniors. Seniors must apply at [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org) prior to graduation in order to receive Bright Futures aid next fall
- Dec 3 PTSA meeting-7pm Media Center
- Dec 9 SAC meeting 7pm-Media Center
- Dec 10 IB Booster Board meeting 6pm in IB Conference Room
- Dec 23 - Jan 3 Winter Holidays- **schools closed for staff & students**

## Mark Your Calendars

### Shadowing for 8th grade students begins October 14

Parents can access an application on our website at [www.stpetehigh.com](http://www.stpetehigh.com) by choosing the International Baccalaureate link and going to the Admissions tab.

### Fairs for Magnet & Application Programs

Countywide Fair is Saturday, November 16th from 9-noon at Pinellas Park High School.

South County Fair is Tuesday, November 19th from 6-8pm at Gibbs High School

## Homecoming Court 2013

Congratulations to the following IB seniors who were elected to this year's SPHS Homecoming Court:

Declan Abernethy  
 Andres Allwood  
 Keith Buxton  
 Sam Goodis  
 Josh Heller

David Phrathep  
 Noor Tasnim  
 RJ Rapatalo  
 Brett Buchert  
 Kendall Minning

## Alumni News

Kelly Vasbinder and Lena Weissbrot, both members of the IB Class of 2011, each received \$4000 undergraduate research grants from Florida State University for the Summer 2013 session. They also made presentations

at the Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence.

Eric Lynn, IB Class of 1996, serves as President Barack Obama's Middle East Policy Advisor.

## Little Things Mean a Lot!

As cold and flu season approaches, our teachers are thankful for any donations you can provide of tissues, large pump bottles of hand sanitizer and wipes. Small candies are also appreciated.

Also, general office items such as highlighters, white board markers, and folders can always be used. All donations may be dropped off at the IB Office.

# Faculty Wish Lists

Our dedicated IB faculty provides our students with a quality education on a public school budget—no easy task. There are numerous items that the school budget cannot cover that not only help our teachers enhance the students’ educational experience, but are also actually necessary for

the students to complete their IB requirements.

Thanks to our IB Booster membership funds, we are well on our way to fulfilling many of our teachers’ requests. But as you can see from the list below, the teachers still have many requests the Boosters cannot fund

at this time. If you aren’t already an IB Booster, please consider joining so we can fulfill all our teachers’ wish list items. Or, if you prefer, you can contribute directly toward the purchase of any of these items by contacting the IB Office. Thank you! Here are some of the items our faculty still need:

## **Biology**

Lab kits are needed for the junior class. These will be used for the students’ internal assessment, which counts for 24% of their final IB score. Prices range from \$125-\$750. If you are a parent of a junior taking IB biology, please consider donating.

## **Chemistry**

Two balances (\$225); printer & toner

## **Physics**

Labs \$30-200 each

## **Math**

IB practice exams

## **Psychology**

Books, printer and toner

## **History**

Office supplies, toner, books

## **World Languages**

Office supplies (white board markers, colored pens, hanging files, folders), toner, printer

## **English**

Classroom sets of books (\$500), books, office supplies, toner, DVDs

## **ITGS**

DVDs, Snagit Software (\$450)

# Welcome To Our New Faculty

The IB Program is pleased to welcome four new faculty members this year. Here is a little about each of them:

## **Chris Lindenburg**

*Biology*

Grew up in Clearwater and attended both St. Petersburg College and the University of South Florida. Prior to teaching biology, he taught private music lessons for eight years, and music is still one of his hobbies. He is married with a five-year-old, and his family has five chickens which he calls “almost pets.”

## **Brandon Rader**

*Pre-IB World History*

Is joining the IB faculty after teaching in the traditional program, and he still teaches AP Human Geography and AP Macroeconomics. An army brat, Mr. Rader considers Clarksville, Tennessee his home, but he has also lived in Germany, Louisiana, Washington, and Texas. He received a B.A. in sociology and an M.A. in teaching from the

University of Memphis, and he taught in both the Memphis City and Hillsborough County Schools prior to coming to SPHS. He is married to Trevor Bynum, and they have two boys, Yahshua (3) and Ryan (4). Mr. Rader’s hobbies are reading, being a foodie, and travelling around the world.

## **Susan Bailey Robinson**

*Director of Choral Activities/IB Music*

has over 25 years of experience as a professional conductor and piano and vocal instructor. She received her B.A. in music performance and psychology from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, her Master of Music in conducting from Ball State University, and her Ph.D. in conducting and fine arts from Texas Tech University. She founded the SPHS orchestra and was conductor from 2006-2010, and she also directed various musical productions at SPHS from 2008-2011. In addition to teaching here at SPHS, she also conducts the Pinellas Youth

Symphony and is on the music faculty at Eckerd College and St. Petersburg College.

## **Clara Sager**

*Spanish*

was born in Havana, Cuba and grew up in New England. She received her bachelor’s degree in foreign language from the University of Miami, and she also has a master’s degree in educational leadership. She has taught at Seminole High School, Hillsborough High School and The Academy of the Holy Names in Tampa. In between her teaching positions, she was an International Civil Servant with the United Nations and lived in Prague, Geneva, and Thonon les Bains in eastern France. She has one daughter in college and her mother shares her household. She also has a poodle named Pelusa and a giant New Zealand white rabbit named Lola. She recently moved to St. Petersburg from Tampa, and she loves travel, good food, good music and great friends.