

CIBO NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2008

Pat Prather, Executive Director

COORDINATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

One of my goals this year was to begin a newsletter to post on the CIBO website at regular intervals as a way to improve communication among IB schools, the Board, and this office. As of September 2007, California had a total of one hundred thirty Diploma, MYP, and PYP authorized or candidate IB schools. This number is cause for celebration as well as concern. We celebrate the amazing growth of the IB in the state but also we are uneasy that this expansion might contribute to us losing sight of one part of our mission statement which encourages us to support the unique interests and needs of each member school. Let's not forget that each voice and each school matter. I welcome your comments and suggestions as does the Board of Directors. Communication is the key to keeping the organization focused and strong even as it grows.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE VENUES:

In 2008 and 2009, all of our regional conferences will take place in San Diego at the Horton Grand and the Sheraton Suites hotels. This marks a departure from past practices but we needed more access to a nearby airport and good hotels with reasonable room and banquet rates that can cater to smaller conferences. We have found that school representatives from up north come to the conferences in the south and vice versa. So this year we'll locate in one place and do a trial run to assess the effects of the change.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE DATES – PUT THEM ON YOUR CALENDARS!

Our annual fall conference will take place the evening of October 19th and the day of the 20th at the Horton Grand. The theme will be "Access and Equity – Closing the Achievement Gap". This topic is an IB focus this coming year.

Our Orientation Seminar in 2009 sponsored by IB North America will take place on February 20th and 21st at the Sheraton Suites. . This seminar explores all three IB Programmes. Please communicate this information to schools that want to look at the feasibility of adding the IB to their curriculum.

Our spring conference in 2009 will take place the evening of February 22nd and the day of the 23rd. at the Sheraton Suites. The theme is yet to be determined. If you have suggestions, I would be happy to hear them.

TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Our summer Teacher Training Workshops will continue to be held in Granlibakken, Lake Tahoe. This summer, June 27-July 1, all classes except Mandarin ab initio and Environmental Systems and Societies are at capacity and therefore closed. Lisa Nicholson has established wait lists. Details are on the website.

CONFERENCES IN THE PLANNING STAGES

We are collaborating with the International Schools Theatre Association (ISTA) to bring an IB Theatre Arts Programme Symposium (TAPS) to San Diego. The dates and place are yet to be determined but this would occur in the fall of 2009.

Another possibility for CIBO is sponsoring an International College Fair in September of 2009 probably located in San Francisco. Watch the website for information about these events.

COMMITTEES

Another goal of mine was to form committees. So far we have established two:

One is for student scholarships, a program we plan to innovate in the fall of 2008 with Marlyn Bussey, Vice President of the Board, as the Chair. The protocols will be ready to present at the fall meeting.

The second one is for roundtables. Michael Winsatt from Andrew Hill HS in San Jose has agreed to be in charge and is working on formats. CIBO expects to offer at least one roundtable in the northern region and one in the southern. Volunteers from Diploma schools have agreed to host them but we do not yet have dates. I would also like to add a joint MYP and PYP roundtable and anyone who would like to sponsor one, please let me know.

LEGISLATION

Thanks to everyone who had parents and teachers call legislators in response to the *Action Alert* about the state grant for funding to IB schools. I know this was a very hurried affair but I am told by our Legislative Advocate that their offices got the information to us as soon as they could. Your efforts were truly appreciated.

ONLINE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The American Museum of Natural History in NY is offering online courses for educators entitled *Seminars on Science*. The website is seminfo@amnh.org. Robert V. Steiner Ph.D is the project director. Check our website for details and the brochure.

FINALLY

Testing is about to begin. Good luck to your students and to you!

*Best regards,
Pat*

