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International Baccalaureate Program Quartz Hill High School

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WELL DONE, THANK YOU, AND FAREWELL, MRS. PARKS

At the end of last school year, Mrs. Kathleen Parks retired from her positions as IB English 12 Teacher and IB Coordinator. She has taught in the Antelope Valley Union High School District for 39 years. She helped develop the QHHS International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and has been its only Coordinator.

Since 1997, Mrs. Parks has taught, led, inspired and supported thousands of students in the program. Mr. Tim House and Ms. Gail DeGross are teaching sections of IB English HL 1 and HL 2 respectively, and Mr. Jeff Cassady currently

serves as IB Coordinator. The IB Office has moved, and IB is now directly off the 300 Quad, behind the Book Depository. The telephone extensions are 326 for Ms. Smith and 327 for Mr. Cassady.

Within every public or private institution, there are people who simply cannot be replaced. When they move on at the end of their careers, it is for us only to preserve and protect their accomplishments, contributing what we can as we push forward. Kathleen is one of those people. You are loved and missed.



Mrs. Kathleen Parks

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JOINING IB SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Mr. Jeff Cassady, new IB Coordinator, is soliciting for parent members of the QHHS International Baccalaureate Support Committee.

Mr. Cassady believes that students, parents, teachers and administrators all work for the same goal—to give our children the best possible chances at the

greatest possible rewards in an increasingly competitive world. To that end, and toward protecting, preserving and cultivating our outstanding IB Diploma Program, Mr. Cassady asks that all interested parties contact him via email at:

jcassady@avhdsd.org

Please provide your name, your child's name, and your contact

information (email is good enough) so that Mr. Cassady can contact you with regular information. Two important focus areas will be student support and monitoring School Board policy proposals directly affecting the International Baccalaureate Program.

IB DIPLOMAS AWARDED FOR MAY SESSION 2011

The following students earned the IB Diploma based on their fulfillment of all IB requirements. Soon, if not already, they will be off to college. We are extremely proud of you!



- **Camille Becker** (University of Arizona)
- **Brian Chan** (University of California, Los Angeles)
- **Kyle Chartier** (University of California at Irvine)
- **Karen Cody** (University of California at Irvine)
- **Ian Conaway** (Arizona State University)
- **Erica Cruz** (University of California at Irvine)
- **Sierra Gomillion** (University of California at Irvine)
- **Erik Hernandez** (University of Virginia)
- **Dorothy Hsu** (University of California, Los Angeles)
- **Clayton Jacobs** (Embry-Riddle, Prescott, Arizona)
- **Gyunho Kim** (University of California, Los Angeles)
- **Brooklynn Lazarony** (University of California, Los Angeles)
- **Saachi Makkar** (University of California, Berkeley)
- **Joelle MacKenzie** (The Masters College)
- **Brian Mihaljevich** (United States Naval Academy)
- **Connor McCasland** (Texas A&M University)
- **Heather McCoy** (University of California at Davis)
- **Kevin Qiu** (University of California, Los Angeles)
- **Harika Sandhu** (University of California, Los Angeles)
- **Alyson Santa** (California Lutheran University)
- **Paul Seabury** (University of California at Irvine)
- **Ryan Tran** (United States Naval Academy)
- **Chidera Ufondu** (University of Pennsylvania)
- **Amanda Valenzuela** (University of California at Santa Barbara)
- **Julia Virtue** (University of Southern California)
- **Brandyn Ward**
- **Jared Wilkins** (United States Naval Academy)
- **John Young** (University of California, Los Angeles)

“The most important thing about getting the IB Diploma is framing it, putting it on the wall, looking at it, and saying, ‘Hey—I did that.’”
Brian Mihaljevich,
Class of 2011



Schedule of Events



IB Calendar

September—November 2011:

Mid-Late September: Coordinator Presentation to Honors English 9 and Honors English 10 Classes.

October 2011: Anticipated and Diploma Candidates Register for May 2012 IB Examinations.

November 15: Registration Deadline for All May 2012 Examinations; IB Coordinator expects that the examination fees will be submitted with exam registration form. Examination fees are \$96.00 per test. Students may also qualify for a fee reduction. To qualify, parents must complete an eligibility form and submit the form to the IB Office.

Please note that examination fees are due absolutely no later than December 15.

Quartz Hill IB Alumni Profiles

We intend to include alumni profiles in each edition of our quarterly newsletter. For September 2011, we spotlight **Mr. Raj Vaghjiani, IB Class of 2005**.

At Brown University:

Raj Vaghjiani graduated from Quartz Hill IB in 2005, then matriculated at Brown University in Rhode Island. The school is Ivy League. His accomplishments there include:

- Licensed Emergency Medical Technician and working part-time with an ambulance company. In that capacity, he became a Crew Chief and a practical skills instructor for new EMT students.
- Certified CPR Instructor and teaching classes in the greater Providence area.
- A former Ubiquity editor at QHHS, he was the co-founder and Chief Copy Editor for a student satire newspaper at Brown. Named “Best New Student Group” at Brown.
- Science Policy Director and President of The Triple Helix, Brown University Chapter, an international journal for science, society and law.
- Foreign study at University of Manchester, Manchester, England.
- Research Assistant in Electrophysiology and Pharmaceutical Clinical Trial Projects.
- 2010 Graduate, B.Sc. in Neuroscience.

At Brown University Medical School:

- Leader of Brown Agriculture, Nutrition, and Community Health outreach group.
- Volunteer at Rhode Island Free Clinic and Clinica Esperanza, currently working on bringing medical services to the uninsured.
- Peer Mentor for new medical school students.
- Humanities Teaching Fellow, working on integrating elements of humanities into medical school.
- Received grant funding and conducted HIV research in Uganda, with administrative and practical medical responsibilities.

Quartz Hill High School and Quartz Hill IB are very proud of Mr. Vaghjiani's accomplishments. He is one prime example of the tremendous good our IB graduates are doing in the world.

