

Interview with Ms. Close

By Sarah Nix

What do you do for the IB community?

“Whatever it takes! but mainly I coordinate events, testing, and the IB office.”

Why did you want to get involved in IB?

“Prior to WPHS my career was in the hospitality industry, but I wanted to be more involved in my community, so when the opportunity arose, I grabbed it. It is encouraging to see the success our students have and the superior adults they become.”

What do you want to do with IB in the coming years?

“This is a transition year for IB with our wonderful new coordinator Mr. Blackmon. There is great potential for growth within the IB program and working as a team we’ll strive to ensure students have the best opportunities and are able to look back on their high school years and be glad they were in IB.”

“I love how we all come together and go through the same challenges. It makes the rigorous curriculum less daunting.”

- Valentina Clavijo Bernal, 12

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Ms. Close, IB Assistant, poses in her office. She works diligently to benefit our IB Community.

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Photo of Florida Hospital volunteer program from floridahospital.com

CAS Opportunity: Florida Hospital is Welcoming You

By Katelyn Lucero

The Florida Hospital system is one of the largest not-for-profit health care systems in the nation. Each Florida Hospital location offers a wide range of ways to volunteer. Volunteers help at the different Information desks, gift shops, and patient units. Julie Meyer, a Florida Hospital volunteer coordinator, says the hospital offers “extensive opportunities to get involved and give back to your local community!” There are only a few requirements to get involved.

First and foremost, in order to participate, you must be at least 16 to join the Florida Hospital volunteering program. Then, an applicant must commit to volunteering for six months. While this may seem lengthy, the benefits are clear. Valeria Romero, an IB junior, says that “volunteering at the hospital is a great opportunity for consistent volunteer hours.” Finally, if those two steps are completed, register with your desired Florida Hospital location. In order to register with the Winter Park Memorial campus, email Sam Lewis at Sam.Lewis@flhosp.org. After you’ve gotten in contact with a volunteer coordinator, you’ll be asked to attend an orientation, an interview, and go through a series of immunizations. This admissions process takes a little over two weeks, so get started as soon as possible.

The Florida Hospital volunteering program allows you to either pursue a medical passion or simply test the field’s demanding and rigorous waters. Multiple volunteers recommend the program. Samia Chowdhury says, “I have always wanted to be in the medical field and I love helping others.” The hospital can prepare you for the future and allows you to grow as an individual.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, “the best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” The Florida Hospital volunteering program allows volunteers to achieve this realization and develop skills to positively benefit the community.

Tri-M at Florida Hospital

By Tina Lu

Music has the ability to influence our mood and emotions, but many do not realize that it can also be used as a form of therapy. At Florida Hospital for Children’s, I have been given the opportunity to play the piano in the Ginsburg lobby and volunteer under the Music Therapy department. Although I cannot be considered a professionally-trained music therapist by any stretch, I felt as if I made a difference in someone’s day simply by sharing my music.

This experience was almost more therapeutic for me, as during the past summer I had close family members and friends who were hospitalized. I wanted to share this performing opportunity with my fellow student musicians by initiating weekly performances at Florida Hospital through Tri-M Music Honors Society. We’ve already had some incredible performances by different Jazz groups, and we will also be hosting a winter concert at Florida Hospital. We are still looking for more musicians who are willing to share their music with the community. You don’t even have to be in Tri-M or in a WPHS music department to participate. Check out wphstrim.weebly.com or email wphstrim@gmail.com for information.



Anna Leedy, 12, performing in Florida Hospital’s lobby.

Movie Mayhem

By Danielle Allison

IB Students were asked the question: "If you could be a holiday movie character, who would you be?"

"Buddy because he got all the benefits of being a human, like a normal height, but all the benefits of an elf, like not having to deal with politics."

- Emily Evans, 11

"The narwhal in Elf, it's my spirit animal."

-Kelly Wright, 12

"Jolly ol' Saint Nick himself, because my last name is Jolly of course. 'Tis the season to be JOLLY and this is my time of year."

- Kevon Jolly, 12

"Buddy the elf, thank you very much, he's all peppy and tall. I aspire to be tall and enthusiastic one day, much like him."

- Mady Dorworth, 11

"Snow miser...because he's COOL. Get it? I'm hilarious."

- Jessica Gangle, 11

"Buddy from elf, so I can eat that disgustingly delicious looking spaghetti dessert without puking."

- Megan Williams, 12

Interview with Ms. Close (continued from Page 1)

By Sarah Nix

What advice do you have for IB students?

"Be caring and respectful of everyone. Have a balanced life, and don't forget to have fun. Be open to changing your major in college or your career once you get started—lots of people do. The world offers endless opportunities and you will be great at anything you put your mind to."

What are your goals for all IB students?

"To reach their potential and be a positive influence."

How do you suggest IB students manage their time?

"Make lists and prioritize. IB is a rigorous program. Be sure to take time away from your studies, even if only for a few minutes to recharge your batteries and refresh your mind."

What are the benefits of doing IB?

"Academically, IB is a springboard for moving into college and your future career. IB also offers a social benefit, building friendships and networks that last a lifetime."

If you were in High School, would you be in the IB program?

"IB was not offered in my small Pennsylvania high school, but I would have if I could have."

What about your job do you enjoy?

"I enjoy helping other people, whether that be the students or the staff—anyone here at this school. I enjoy being creative, doing bulletin boards. Right now, I'm working on the glass case, creating the senior toast, and the IB pinning ceremony."

What are the challenges of working in the IB community?

"Mr. Blackmon and I are like a liaison between IB in the United Kingdom and you all and the teachers. It's trying to translate what IB needs and wants for you all to get the best education and making that a smooth process."

What job would you want if you didn't work in the IB program?

"My dream job would be to run a small lakeside hotel or B&B with my husband where I could ski, boat and hike as much as possible."

Describe your average day in the IB program.

"I check in with Mr. Blackmon in the morning, and then I come up with a plan for the day. I go over to my office and work on the computer all day. I answer the phone calls from the parents."

Managing Homework Over Winter Break

By Sarah Houston

Working on homework and studying over winter break can be a serious challenge. The school year is halfway over, and we are in need of a relaxing break, but there's that one big assignment you *know* you have to get ahead on. Doing the required homework is hard enough, let alone trying to stay on top of future assignments.

With holiday festivities taking up most of our time, it's easy to push everything off to those last two days before school starts up again. However, that means two days out of the long-awaited break is essentially designated just to doing homework. So, in order to ensure a relaxing and productive break, create a schedule.

On the first day of winter break - or before it even starts - set aside twenty minutes to create a week-long study plan. Allot a reasonable amount of time to work on assignments throughout the week, breaking the work up into manageable chunks. For instance, starting the planning process for your math IA is not an easy task to do in one sitting. So, break it up over the span of a few days, and determine what part of it you are going to accomplish each day. To make it even easier, get the small tasks out of the way as soon as you can, and save the more time-consuming pieces for the second week when the holiday activities start to die down.

No matter what, completing homework over winter break is going to seem like a daunting task. Falling into the trap of procrastination seems inevitable, but do yourself a favor and create a schedule. With a plan in place, you not only will alleviate a ton of end-of-break stress, but also make the workload seem much more manageable.

Use the homework chart below to help schedule your assignments for Winter Break.



Homework Chart

Subject	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI

Homework chart from <https://www.template.net>

Foundation for Foster Children

By Danielle Allison

If you're looking for a fun and simple way to get CAS hours, this is the opportunity for you! Every month, the Foundation for Foster Children mails out birthday cards to children in foster care homes to show that someone remembered their special day.

The Foundation asks that you create a gender neutral card that reads "Happy Birthday!" on the outside and "Have a Great Day" on the inside. They also ask that you use cardstock and lots of color!

Our school's Key Club is involved with this, thanks to its Vice President, Nicolette Trandoan. When asked why she loves this program, she replied, "I know something so small like decorating birthday cards can make a huge impact in a child's life. I love how our club can have an impact within our community."



Birthday cards made by Key Club Members for children in Foster Care.

Holiday Traditions

By Madison Worrell

“For the holidays, we always go up to our grandparents’ house in Pennsylvania. We go sight-seeing and watch the reenactment of Washington crossing the Delaware.”

-Emily Marshall, 12

“We have friends and family over to watch the ball drop in Times Square on New Years. The kids all drink sparkling grape juice to celebrate.”

Sabrina Frot, 12

“Every year my family goes to the mall in Washington, D.C. to go look at the trees and take pictures with Santa. We walk around, do some last minute shopping, and have a seafood dinner on Christmas Eve. Then we make the kids sleep by using the Santa app.”

- Wanda Spottswood, IB Math Teacher

“We drive around in the car looking at Christmas lights.”

Sondra Dunlap, IB English Teacher

“I love making latkes, potatoes pancakes, at Hanukkah with my family.”

Sophie Libow, 12

How to Make the Most Out of Winter Break

Written by Valeria Romero

As the days get shorter, the weather gets colder, and the first semester comes to a close, it can only mean one thing: winter break. After four months of hard work, it’s time to take a breather and enjoy your break - the right way. Winter break is a time for family, friends, and relaxation. Here are five tips on how to make the most out of your break:

1. **Don’t worry about the upcoming semester,** live in the moment! After diligently working for two quarters, take this time to relax and spend time with friends. Before you know it, you’ll be back in school. Soak up the stress-free environment and maybe even find a new passion.
2. **Wind down and read a good book.** Now that you’ll have all this extra time on your hands just sit down and read. Kissimmee Crum, 11, plans on “relaxing with a good book or two just to escape reality for a moment.” Whether it be mystery, romance, or sci-fi, sitting down next to a toasty fire with a book in your hand creates a perfect Winter night.
3. **Explore.** If you’re traveling out of state, go to as many places as possible. This exposure to a new environment is unique to any other place - take it in. Travelling out of the state, Isabella Ahem, 11, shares, “I’m spending Christmas with my immediate family in Orlando, and then I’m going with my very closely knit Puerto Rican side of the family to a huge cabin in Georgia that holds 30 people (hopefully). I’m very excited to spend New Years with my family because it’s a Puerto Rican tradition to bring in the new year with family.” A staycation is also a wonderful way to spend winter break. The same applies, experience new things and go to places you’ve always wanted to explore like a new attraction or restaurant.
4. **Spend time with family.** The IB course load is demanding, especially when involved with extracurricular activities. This busy, go-go-go lifestyle may cause you to leave spending time with family on the bottom of your to-do list. Don’t forget to spend time with your loved ones and show them they matter during this holiday season. Maia Ruiz, 11, wants to make family her top priority: “I plan on spending some time with my extended family when I go up to visit them for the holidays”.
5. **Spread the holiday joy!** Give back this holiday season to your community, and those who have impacted your life. Not only will this demonstrate your gratitude, but it will also make them feel great inside.

Signing Day

By Martha Grace McLean

For most IB students, it is difficult to excel in a sport because of the overwhelming amount of schoolwork. However, two IB athletes, Francesca Raggi and Meghan McLean have managed to excel in both. After undergoing lengthy recruiting processes, both signed to Division 1 schools.

For Francesca Raggi, the recruiting road began early in her junior year. Recruiting, in her words, “was a lot of fun in the beginning because it’s always nice to hear how much a school wants you, but once the summer after junior year and the fall of senior year hit, reality started to set in... the schools started to get really pushy because they wanted people to commit as soon as possible” and that part was “stressful”. But considering the end result, she said “[recruiting] was overall a great experience”.

For underclassmen who want to be recruited, Francesca offered some advice. “When starting your recruiting process, you want to have as many options as possible so reach out to a lot of schools even if you’re not sure that you’re interested. It is always a good thing to have options! Coaches love to hear that you’re interested in their school, so reaching out to them first leaves a great impression.”

The recruiting road started for Meghan in the middle of junior year. She described the process as “involving a lot of emailing and calling a wide variety of coaches”. After narrowing down her list over the summer, she decided that Clemson was her number one choice. It appealed to her because of the “family at Clemson built around rowing”. After being able to multitask IB and crew, she is more confident in her ability to succeed at Clemson.

Her advice to future recruits is to “start the recruiting process as early as possible, make sure to show interest in the colleges you’re talking to, and take advantage of the official visits.” The celebration, where Meghan signed to Clemson University and Francesca signed to University of Texas, occurred November 8th in the cafeteria. Friends and family supported the athletes as they committed to their respective schools.

January Book Releases

By Katherine Terry

The Cruel Prince by Holly Black hits shelves January 2nd. This is the first book in The Folk of the Air series. The novel is written by renowned author, Holly Black, who has written novels such as the Spiderwick Chronicles, White Cat, the Coldest Girl in Coldtown, and the Iron Trial. This is a good choice for readers that enjoy fantastical adventures shrouded in mystery.

Gunslinger Girl by Lyndsay Ely includes a main character described as a cross between Katniss Everdeen and Annie Oakley. Readers can expect a wild ride with this book, which will be released January 2nd. It takes place in a western dystopia, which is very unusual for young adult books. Readers looking for a unique story with a fun heroine should give this novel a try.



Seniors Fran Raggi and Meghan McLean commit to UT Austin and Clemson, respectively.

Favorite Holiday Music

By Isabelle Barbato

Holiday music is one of my favorite things about this time of year. It unites people and helps them get into the spirit of the season. I asked a few of my peers what holiday music meant to them, and here's what they said:

"I believe holiday music starts the first day of November, no matter what anyone says! I love the classic Christmas songs. They really get me into the holiday spirit."

- Jessica Clunan, 11

"It's one of those things that everyone knows and can jam to together."

- Sarah Breske, 12

"My family and I love listening to Christmas music because it helps us get ready for the holiday season. Listening to Christmas music while decorating our tree is a fun tradition of ours."

- Brooke Hurst, 11

Student Spotlight: Maia Ruiz

By: Danielle Dietz

Maia Ruiz is a junior in the Winter Park High School IB Program. In addition to her rigorous curriculum, Maia plays the clarinet in the Sound of the Wildcats Band. She is the principal chair clarinet in the Wind Symphony for the band.

Maia started playing clarinet in the sixth grade in the Glenridge Middle School band. She has continued to practice and improve her skills, through her dedication to practicing every day, and even takes private lessons in her free time.

Her hard work has translated into success. Maia has been in the All County Band for multiple years in a row, and has been a member of the All State Band for three years. Her dedication resulted in her previous position as first chair in the All County band and principal chair clarinet in All State Band. Maia hopes to make first chair this year and continue playing clarinet well beyond high school.

How do you manage both IB and your dedication to clarinet?

"Everyday, I start my homework as soon as I get home. I like to then take small breaks, so that I can practice a scale or a chunk of song. It would be ideal if I could practice for a couple hours in one sitting, but with tests and homework it's hard to have long practice sessions."

What are your plans for clarinet in the future?

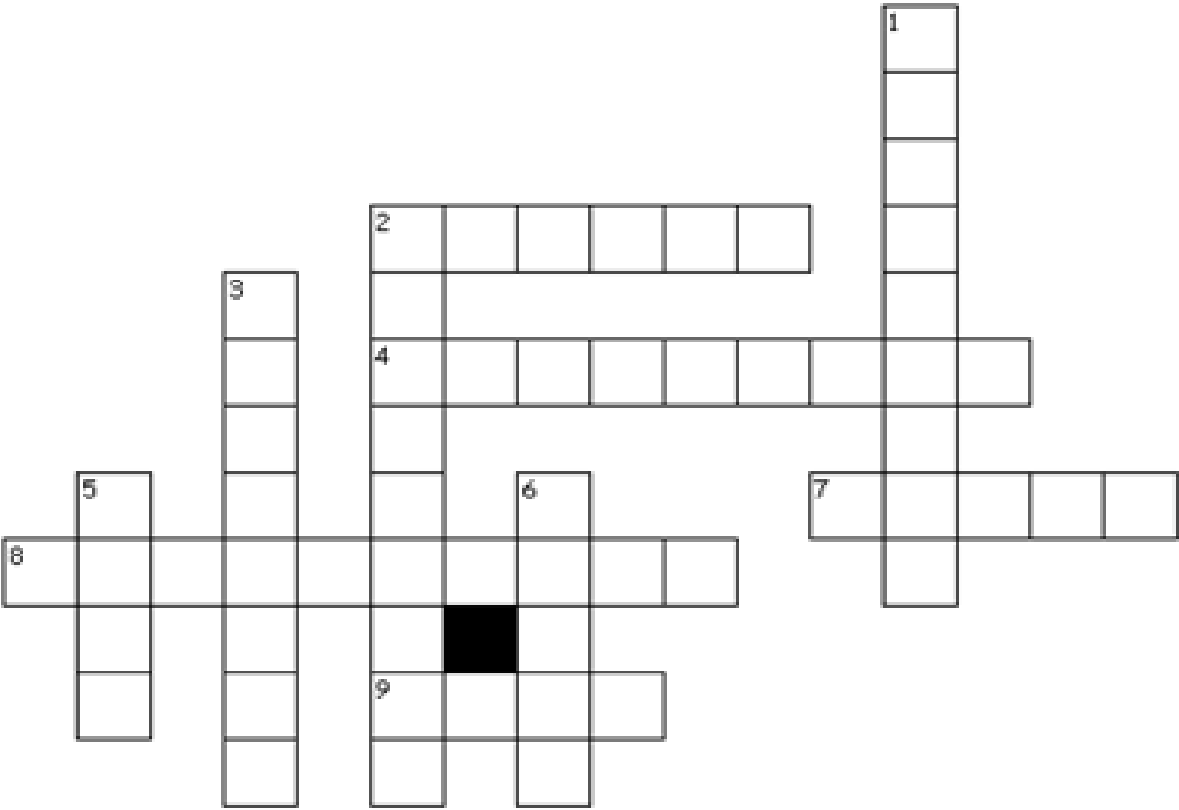
Since I was young, I've wanted to become a surgeon. Recently, I have started considering going into music and possibly pursuing it as a career. I hope to go to FSU because they have one of the best music schools in the country. Go 'Noles!!



Maia, second from the left, stands with her fellow Band mates, last year at States.

Crossword Puzzle

By Hope Oladipo



Finish the Lyric

Across

2. Oh! _____ bells
4. _____ roasting on an open fire
7. _____ Claus is coming to town
8. Walking in a winter _____
9. Let it _____

Down

1. All I want for _____ is you
2. _____ nipping at your nose
3. Grandma got run over by a _____
5. Baby it's _____ outside
6. _____ of the bells

Answers:
Across: 2. Jingle, 4. Chestnuts, 7. Santa, 8. Wonder-
land, 9. Snow
Down: 1. Christmas, 2. Jack Frost, 3. Reindeer, 5.
Cold, 6. Carol

Logic Puzzle by Hope Oladipo

	Rolls	Chicken	Gr. Beans	S. Potato	Colorado	Atlanta	New York	LA
Rain								
David								
Leah								
Arsinoe								
Colorado								
Atlanta								
New York								
LA								

With winter break approaching fast, four friends plan a potluck to spend time together. After eating, the friends discuss their travel plans. Determine what friend brought which dish and where he/she is going on winter break.

Clues:

1. Rain's southern family has a delicious recipe for Sweet Potatoes.
2. David can't wait to ski into the New Year.
3. Leah brought a Vegetarian meal.
4. The person from LA brought the rolls.
5. Arisnoe hails from the East Coast. Her family's specialty is green

Answers:
 Rain - S. Potatoes, Atlanta
 David - Chicken, Colorado
 Leah - Rolls, L.A
 Arisnoe - Gr. Bean, New York

**Enjoy your winter break
with friends and family!
May your New Year be
filled with happiness!**

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