

# CURIE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM 2010-2011

Volume 11

June 2011

### Curie's Tenth IB Diploma Class in 2011

Congratulations to the IB Diploma Class of 2011! These students have completed all of the requirements of the IB Diploma Programme. They have endured the very rigorous IB curriculum, completing six classes at the university level both junior and senior years! They have also completed at least 150 hours of Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) activities, the two year Theory of Knowledge course, and the required Extended Essay, which is a research paper that must be completed independently by the students. Congratulations to the class of 2011 Diploma Candidates: Barbara Banda, Ashley Barnes, Jeanette Barragan, Veronica Casimiro, Maria Chavez, Juan Coronel, Michelle Dominguez, Diego Frias, David Fuentes, Gustavo Guzman, Karla Hernandez, Yesica Lara, Andres Leanos, Erika Luna, Efrain Martinez, Sally Mei, Enrique Mendoza, Karen Nieto, Erika Ortega, Carolina Pacheco, Cristina Pacheco, Salvador Quiroz, Yemany Rangel, Margarita Rivera, Maribel Soto, Irene Tam, Dulce Vega, and Omar Zantout.

**The 2011 Curie IB Diploma Class earned over \$638,000 of scholarships for their first year of university studies.**

### 2011 Certificate Candidates

The following students took at least three IB Diploma courses during their junior and senior years: Ivann Altman-McCray, Taylor Brown, Nicolas Coronado, Amber Diaz, Mayra Garcia, Maria Gutierrez, Brian He, Christina Huang, Joel Jamaica, Jesus Martinez, Jasmine McArthur, Denisse Ortega, Jazmin Ruiz, Jessica Sanchez, Earl Ulit, and Ashley Wilson.

Congratulations to you all!

### Hard Work Paid Off for the IB Diploma Class of 2011:

Curie IB Diploma Candidates work hard to finish the challenging curriculum. In addition to the daunting daily homework load, they must complete a major project or paper for each IB class, oral exams in Spanish or French, an Oral Commentary for English Literature, and finally, in May, a grueling schedule of written exams that consists of two or three different essay exams for each of the six required courses. Most of them also sat for three or four Advanced Placement (AP) exams throughout their four years at Curie. Their efforts have paid off in the form of acceptances to the following universities:

Columbia College, DePaul University, Emerson College, Georgetown University, Howard University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Illinois Wesleyan University, Jackson State University, Knox College, Lewis University, Loyola University, St. John's University, University of Illinois at Urbana, University of Illinois at Chicago, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### Curie IB Diploma's First Gates Millennium Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Jeanette Barragan for being named a Gates Millennium Scholar. As such, the Gates Millennium Foundation will fully fund all of Jeanette's education from her undergraduate studies all the way through a doctoral program.

Congratulations also to Maria Chavez and Sandra Robinson for earning DePaul University's Monsignor Egan Hope Scholarship. Each year, DePaul awards four of these scholarships for outstanding service to the community. The award is for \$15,500 per student each year for four years.

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### Thank you IB Teachers

A special heartfelt thank you goes out to Curie's indefatigable Diploma Prep and IB Diploma Programme teachers. Their daily hard work and dedication to our Diploma students is the reason for the annual success of our students. The workload is very demanding for our Diploma students, but it is equally as demanding for our teachers, whose work is also assessed annually by the International Baccalaureate Organization. These teachers must not only help our students achieve at the university level, but they must organize and implement all of the required assessments for the IBO (research papers, literary analyses for English Lit., lab work for the Sciences, etc.). They go above and beyond the call of duty every day by putting in many hours long after dismissal to offer extra help in the form of writing workshops, homework help, and exam review sessions or just to be available to meet with students. The students would not have the success they do without their tireless efforts!

We extend a special thank you to Mr. Kellermann and Mr. Lewan for supervising the two year Extended Essay process for Diploma candidates and for teaching the two year Theory of Knowledge course, the centerpiece of the IB Diploma curriculum! Well done!

### Seventh Annual Diploma Programme Alumni Pep Talk

Once again this year, Ms. Barnes invited Curie IB Alumni to return to speak to the current Diploma Programme students about their success at the university level. On December 16, we welcomed 27 IB Diploma Programme alumni from DePaul University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Bradley University, and University of Chicago. The students shared how the IB Diploma Programme helped them to succeed in their course work at their own universities.

### Curie IB Diploma Student Accolades

Once again this year, Curie's IB Diploma Programme will be one of the CPS IB schools with the most students accepted for the **IB Summer College Academy at DePaul University**. The students will spend one week on the DePaul University campus where they will attend classes each day on writing college application essays. They will also attend financial aid workshops and meet with admission representatives from 25 selective and highly selective universities.

In addition, seven Curie IB Diploma juniors were selected to attend the sixth annual **IB Student Writing Workshop at DePaul University**. Ana Artiaga Alexis Gutierrez, Sally Mei, Jennifer Navarro, Flordalia Rodriguez, Emy Varela, and Wendy Vergara were selected to participate this year. The workshop, taught by DePaul University professors from the Modern Language Department, will allow students to use their own family histories to write papers and prepare oral presentations.

Four IB Diploma Programme juniors, Maria Aguilera, Andrea Ortiz, Veronica Quinones, and Stephanie Ramirez were selected to attend **DePaul University's College Connect program**, a five week academic enrichment and cultural exploration experience. The students will take literature and writing courses.

Thanks to Ms. Hike Teague's encouragement and recommendations, we have four Curie IB Diploma scholars who were accepted to participate in the **ACES research apprentice program at the University of Illinois at Urbana**. The University of Illinois' College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences sponsors this annual program. Ana Artiaga, Monica Gonzalez, Stephanie Reyna and Alejandra Valencia will spend four weeks on the Urbana campus working on a research project involving agriculture and the environment.

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### Curie IB Diploma Student Accolades continued

Diploma Prep freshman Tierra Harris was selected to participate in the **University of Chicago's Collegiate Scholars Program**. Tierra will spend each of the next three summers on the University of Chicago campus taking classes in Math and Science, and she will also take part in university programs throughout the school year. She will also attend east coast college tours and college readiness workshops. Congratulations to Tierra!

Diana Guzman has been awarded a summer internship with the Chicago Conservation Leadership Corps, thanks to Ms. Hike-Teague's recommendation.

Diploma Prep sophomores Elizabeth Martinez and Emy Varela were awarded internships in the Sports 37 summer sailing program. In the Judd Goldman Sailing Program, the girls will not only learn to sail, but they will also learn about boat maintenance and repair. They will ultimately earn their boat operators certifications.

### Curie IB Diploma Teacher Accolades

Nina Hike Teague, IB Diploma Biology teacher, was named **Teacher of the Year** by the Friends of the Chicago River Organization. Ms. Hike-Teague was also awarded the Conservation Award by the Daughter's of the American Revolution and was honored at a banquet in February 2011.

Diploma Prep Visual Arts teacher Valerie Xanos was named **Teacher of the Year** for the Creative Connections' Artlink Program. Six of Ms. Xanos' students were selected to exhibit their artwork at the 2011 International Children's Art Exhibit, which features art of students from 32 countries. Joe Royer, Diploma Prep/MYP Visual Arts teacher, also had two students selected to participate in this exhibition. As a result, **Curie Metro High School was named USA Art Partner of the Year for the Artlink Program**.

### IB Diploma Science News

Mr. Crone and Ms. Hike Teague's IB Diploma Physics and Biology seniors took part in the annual Student River Congress sponsored by Friends of the Chicago River. The conference was held on February 20 at Amundsen High School for adults and students from private and public schools. The students presented their findings from tests that they completed at Curie's "Adopt a River" site, McClaughry Springs, as part of the required IB Diploma Group 4 Project.

During their visit to the springs, the students conducted chemical water quality tests, identified invertebrates, calculated stream flow and removed invasive plant species. They also developed a game for the students called "macro invertebrate bingo," which was enjoyed by all! Thank you to Mr. Crone and Ms. Hike-Teague for their hard work with our IB Diploma students.

### Curie Diploma Prep students excel at Science Fair

Ms. Hike-Teague's Diploma Prep sophomores did very well once again this year at the City Science Fair. The following five students received cash awards for their Science Projects: Ana Artiaga, Laura Gomez, Alejandra Medina, Flordalia Rodriguez, and Wendy Vergara. Alexis Gutierrez and Aileen Rincon won awards for their Symposium Research Papers. Three Diploma Prep students were Essay Semi-Finalists. Sally Mei was awarded Second Place and won a \$75 cash prize. Diana Guzman and Allen Tse were each awarded cash prizes of \$25.

### Ecology Club

**Curie's Ecology club, which is made up of junior and senior IB Diploma students, was awarded the CPS Recycle Award.** Our school recycling score was at 100% or more of the CPS target throughout the year! Thanks to Ms. Hike-Teague for her work with our Ecology Club.

**Curie IB Diploma CAS News**

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### Diploma Prep Students Participate in Annual History Fair

Mr. Hardin and his Diploma Prep sophomores enjoyed much success in the annual History Fair this year. Mamoom Farraj, Jocelyn Garcia, and Diana Guzman advanced from Curie's History Fair to the District History Fair with their well written papers.

Evelyn Flores and Elizabeth Mosher advanced not only to the District History Fair, **but made it all the way to the State History Fair Finals.** Evelyn wrote a paper on women's suffrage and Elizabeth wrote a paper on the impact of the Workers' Progress Administration.

Congratulations to Mr. Hardin and his Diploma Prep students!

### Diploma Prep students to work with NASA Program this summer

Ms. Hike-Teague and four of her IB Diploma juniors will participate in a **program sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.** The month long program is designed to move students into deeper involvement in scientific inquiry. Ms. Hike-Teague and her students will engage in open-ended research activities at DePaul University. Their research will focus on the earth's atmosphere, using data from the High Altitude Balloon Platform. Brenda Hernandez, Sally Mei, Jennifer Navarro, and Wendy Vergara, along with guidance from Ms. Hike-Teague, will develop and execute a research study using NASA content for the CPS Student Science Fair.

Congratulations students and Ms. Hike-Teague!

IB Diploma students are required to complete 150 hours of Creativity, Action and Service activities to qualify for the IB Diploma. This summer, IB Diploma senior Megan Mikota will continue her long term CAS project on literacy through her ongoing work with the Chicago Public Library. She will work at the Gage Park Branch on the Summer Reading Program, where she will help develop art projects that students will create each day. The art projects are designed to tie into the story that the children read at the library that day. The goal of the program is to encourage more young people to read and to encourage them to develop a love of reading.

A small group of IB Diploma juniors sponsored a gently used book drive among the IB homerooms this winter. The students are working on a long term mentoring project with the Southwest Youth Collaborative and decided that the facility housing the program needed more "fun" books for the students to read. The students collected over 200 books and took them to the youth center, where they separated them by genre and age group and then organized them onto shelves.

Each year, IB Diploma students participate in our **annual IB Diploma philanthropic project for Heifer International.** Since 2004, Curie IB Diploma students have raised more than \$6000 for the organization. The students work to raise funds for and awareness about the work of the Heifer Organization. They create an informational bulletin board on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and sell candy to raise funds for Heifer. This year we were able to buy one heifer, one goat and one sheep with our \$750 donation. Many of our IB seniors then took our annual, international effort to help fight world hunger a step further by volunteering at the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The students sorted and packed food for those in need, thereby taking a global problem and working on a local solution.

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### 2011 IB Diploma Student Assessment

IB Diploma student achievement is measured by the results from two independent evaluations. Written examinations are graded externally by trained examiners from around the world, and they make up the majority of a student's grade for each course. Diploma students must also complete an Internal Assessment for each class, which is first graded by the teacher of the course and then sent off for moderation by an expert of the specific subject. This assessment system insures objectivity and reliability, since both IB students and their teachers are externally monitored by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

**Here is a list of the mandatory Internal Assessments for the IB Diploma students and the locations to which they will be sent for moderation for the May 2011 examination session.**

English Oral Commentaries -Colorado  
World Lit Papers (2 per student)-UK  
Spanish HL Orals-United Kingdom  
Spanish SL Orals-France  
French HL Orals-United Kingdom  
French SL Orals-Italy  
History of Europe HL (paper)-Canada  
ITGS SL Internal Projects-United Kingdom  
Biology SL Lab Portfolios-Portugal  
Physics SL Lab Portfolios-Canada  
Math Studies Internal Project-France  
Mathematics SL Internal Project-India  
Visual Arts SL/HL Research Books-UK  
Theory of Knowledge Essays-UK  
History Extended Essays-United Kingdom  
Biology Extended Essays-Switzerland  
Visual Arts Extended Essay-Australia  
English Lit Extended Essays-United Kingdom

**Thank you IB teachers for your hard work!**

### 2011 IB Assessment

Each IB course has two written examination papers, except for the Experimental Sciences and History, which have three exam papers. Each exam paper is sent for moderation to a different location designated by the IBO. **For the May 2011 Exam session, Curie IB Diploma exams were sent to:**

English A1 HL Exam Paper 1-Kenya  
English A1 HL Exam Paper 2-Australia  
Spanish B HL Exam Paper 1-Switzerland  
Spanish B HL Exam Paper 2-Colombia  
Spanish B SL Exam Paper 1-Canada  
Spanish B SL Exam Paper 2-Spain  
French B HL Exam Paper 1-Canada  
French B HL Exam Paper 2-France  
French B SL Exam Paper 1-UK  
French B SL Exam Paper 2-Qatar  
History HL Exam Paper 1-United Kingdom  
History HL Exam Paper 2-Washington  
History HL Exam Paper 3-Switzerland  
ITGS SL Exam Paper 1-United Kingdom  
ITGS SL Exam Paper 2-India  
Biology SL Exam Paper 1-United Kingdom  
Biology SL Exam Paper 2-United Kingdom  
Biology SL Exam Paper 3-United Kingdom  
Physics SL Exam Paper 1-United Kingdom  
Physics SL Exam Paper 2-United Kingdom  
Physics SL Exam Paper 3-Malaysia  
Math Studies SL Exam Paper 1-United Kingdom  
Math Studies SL Exam Paper 2-United Kingdom  
Mathematics SL Exam Paper 1-Peru  
Mathematics SL Exam Paper 2-India  
Visual Arts HL/SL-Australia

We would like to congratulate all of the IB Diploma Seniors for completing all of their exams and Internal Assessments. Bravo, students on all of your hard work!