

# ASB NEWSLETTER



December 2016

The end of this first term has been absolutely wonderful! Although the workload has grown for everyone, I think we are all really excited to be a part of the ASB Community on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The good vibes can be sensed all around school: everyone is working hard to make this year memorable. Spirit Week was absolutely wonderful. Although the first day took many by surprise, everyone gradually started joining the celebration, leading from the first day, with everyone wearing the school's colours, to wearing one's favourite sports team shirt, to 1960s day, with the final, most awesome day: pyjama day! Us, twelfth graders, who had been reluctant to compromise our honour by wearing costumes to school, finally gave in, and almost no one in our class, or the whole Upper school, could be

seen without a pyjama or nightdress on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. At the Journal Club, it has also been a special term: we ventured into the publication of a very special edition we published that week! The creative works that we received were absolutely astounding, and stay tuned for next term, when another special edition of a different kind will be published! Of course, the Christmas Concert at the Euskalduna was absolutely breathtaking! The involvement of so many students made it really engaging and much more incredible, and it made everyone proud to be celebrating our school at such a marvellous venue. All in all, ASB has approached its mid-life years with everything except the usual crisis. Let's see what great events the second and third term bring.

Carmen Rita Gomeza (Grade 12)

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# Spirit Week Photo Session!



## Christmas Concert



14<sup>th</sup> of December, 2016. A really important day for ASB! Today, ASB organized a Christmas concert at the Euskalduna. We also celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

The Christmas concert was great! It started out with Teresa Amann singing "Santa Baby". The Kinder Novices sang a song with the Kinder Experts called "Rainbow Song". Also, a special 8<sup>th</sup> grade guest called Kristian Hernan came to dance "Let's Stay Together" with the second graders. Towards the end of the concert, the Seventh grade girls danced to a song called "Juju On That Beat", and Maria Bellver performed a Solo Dance Piece with the song "The Greatest" by Sia. Mr. Charles Cooper also sang a song with Joshua Edelman, which was a real treat! A series of singers, including Lizan Adema, Andrés Baroja, Sofia Gasulla, and María Belver, also graced us with their great performances. Last, but definitely not least, the concert came to a close with the Sixth Graders singing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town".

In conclusion, we need to thank Mr. Charles Cooper and Ms. Stephanie Trinidad for organizing this great concert!

Also, we need to thank all teachers that were there, and the students who helped out. Without their help, this whole event would have been impossible to organise. I hope that next year we hold another great concert, even better than this one, although that would be very hard!

Narora Goicoechea (Grade 7)

# Halloween



On Sunday October 23, students, teachers and parents went to school, but it wasn't like a normal school day... it was ASB's 2016 Halloween party!

Each year, the 11<sup>th</sup> graders, together with the PTO and parent volunteers, work hard planning, organising and preparing the school for this exciting event. We juniors basically spent our weekend at school, as we came both Saturday and Sunday to prepare everything... but it was worth it!

The party was particularly memorable this year, as we are celebrating ASB's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Special events included Cataplina, a fun storyteller for our younger students; costumes and cooking contests; and an astounding performance by the well-known magician Pinilla. On top of all that, there was an enormous bouncy castle, a huge inflatable climbing wall, a human football and a mechanical bull.

The Haunted House we created this year was both spooky and fun, attracting little children and parents alike. The hallway and bathrooms were transformed into a passageway of spiderwebs, eerie lights and creepy music, with daunting masked people, a terrifying exorcist girl and a spooky clown, which made for a truly scary experience. A few daring groups of students enjoyed it so much that they went through more than once!

Alexandra Kypta (Grade 11)



# Early Childhood

## Learning About Our Planet



### So much going on!

During the first trimester, the Experts have been learning a lot on Unit 1 with Ms. Becky! They have been creating their very own restaurant which they designed and decorated with the objects available in class. To be a successful restaurant they cleaned their space and worked together to decide on the food they were serving and they even designed their own menu. They used inquiry to write down the clients' orders and applied mathematics when having to decide the prices for their food. However, their restaurant had to close a few weeks ago to give way to a new business: a winter seasonal market which they will be developing throughout the second trimester.

The Experts have also been working on a CAS project of their own! Since they are the Experts, and therefore the eldest in their playground, they have the responsibility of working together as a class to tidy-up the playground and leave everything where it originally was. Ms. Becky has planned a lot of things for the second trimester in which the Experts will learn much more and continue to work together in further units.

Gaël Sacanell (Grade 12)

Lately, in Nursery class the little ones are being trained to put on their welly boots. For both Ms. Beth and Ms. Jessica, this is a very important task, since they consider having classes indoors and outdoors to be key in order to explore the environment and nature that surrounds them. The kids look at snails, worms, plants, flowers and many other types of living organisms. The welly boots represent for the students the liberty of going out and being adventurous come rain or come shine. Despite the difficulty of the task, both teachers have decided that it is necessary to shape the values of the kids for them to have an open-minded vision of the planet and earth from a young age. The effort and responsibility associated with this task on the part of the teachers is admirable, as they need to be aware of the safety of the students no matter the conditions of their surroundings. Thanks to this initiative, the little ones are going to develop a more open-minded perspective of the world.

Carlota Redondo (Grade 11)



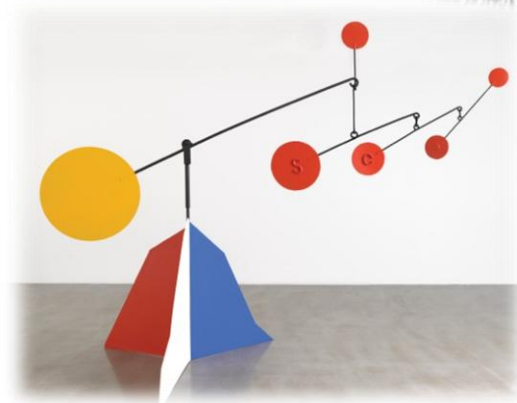
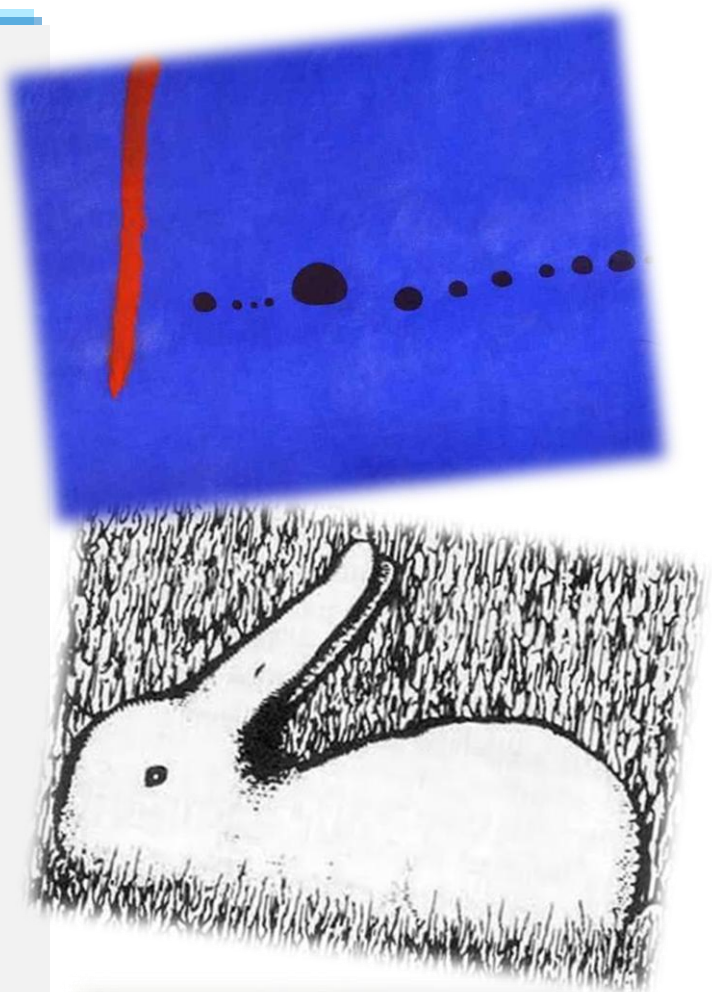
# Lower School

## Grade 1: How We Express Ourselves

Following the IB Primary Years Programme model, Grade 1 have been delving into the Unit of Inquiry of "How We Express Ourselves" this first trimester. For this, they have focused primarily on art and its relationship with our emotions. They have explored how artists choose to convey their own emotions, and how art can then create emotions in the viewer. To do this, Grade 1 has both examined existing, classic artworks and also produced their own originals. The painters they have looked at include Pablo Picasso (works from his Blue Period), Robert Delaunay, Joan Miró and Alexander Calder. They have also explored this Unit with Mr. Cooper in Music class, exploring and responding to certain musical works of great renown.

When examining all of these famous works, the students have explored their own emotions in response to them. The students have also found out about ways of expressing themselves, through paintings, sculptures, musical pieces and more. This has been an incredibly enriching Unit of Inquiry for the First Graders, and they will carry their new-found knowledge about their emotions with them in the years to come!

Nolan Young (Grade 12)



## Grade 3: Exploring Blogs and Skype

The third grade class of the American School of Bilbao has started to experience the world of skype and blogging. They had a session called the Mystery Skype session, where the kids met a class from a city from Kazakhstan called Atyrau where they learned a few things about their culture and country. During this session, they had the opportunity to listen to one of the students playing an instrument called the domba, which is popular in Kazakhstan.

Apart from this interesting session, the third graders have also started to learn how to use and write blogs. They have started uploading many writing assignments to their class blogs, where every kid has the opportunity to express themselves and write about their thoughts and ideas about many topics dealt with in class. This is a process which will be very useful for their future, as their writing skills will improve by working on these blogs.

Carlos Sánchez (Grade 12)

## Grade 5: Social Media, Technology and Advertising



Coming from the PYP theme "How We Express Ourselves", 5<sup>th</sup> graders are starting a 6-week long project about the power of social media, advertising, and technology.

The first stage is for children to explore the big ideas that spring from the topic, and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Ms. Katy Waring, has been surprised about how knowledgeable the students are. Throughout this project the students will learn how to be smart consumers, how to view media and advertising through a reflective lens and how to reflect a positive change. The students are required to be open-minded and learn to be responsible for their future. At the end of the 6 week project the students will go through an assessment task where they will be required to use all of their skills and learning to develop a media campaign which will be posted before the holiday break, so keep your eyes peeled! In an interview with Ms. Waring she stated "the kids have been very involved in the learning so far and eager to find out more, which is exactly the reaction we want and I'm excited to see where they take it."

Angelica Spadaro (Grade 10)

## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a traditional American holiday that has been celebrated in the school for many years. On the fourth Thursday of November every year, the school prepares the traditional lunch that characterizes Thanksgiving: perfect roast turkey, corn pudding, potato puree, and apple pie. The food is really nice and it reminds us about the history of this day.

It all began in 1621 in Plymouth, which today is Massachusetts. Pilgrims and Puritans who emigrated from England to New England brought with them traditions such as Thanksgiving. Since that year, Thanksgiving has become a very important day in America. Therefore, since our school is the American School of Bilbao and represents all the American traditions and customs, this day has become something very important.



Jon Max Morúa (Grade 12)

## Upholding our Traditions

This year's fourth and fifth graders followed the school's tradition of the annual trip to camp Lurraska. Lurraska is an environmental educational center located in the heart of the well known Urdaibai. The reservation showcases several facilities such as barns, technological and agricultural workshops as well as a fully equipped lab. Goats, sheep and wild boars are some of the many animals that reside in the camp's barns, and they are fed and taken care of by the students. Those who went on the trip learnt many things about our ecosystem and its inhabitants as well as several aspects of the Basque culture. It was also a personal challenge for most of the kids as it was the first time they slept away from home, an experience which

Has contributed to their independence and self esteem. Apart from interacting with the many animals listed above, they had the opportunity to go canoeing in the River Oka, a river full of life and biodiversity. They also had fun when visiting la Casa de Juntas (Gernika's historical museum) and were given a presentation on the Ancient Lords of Biscay. They also learned the Basque millenary art of talo and practiced preparing medicines from regional medicinal plants. In conclusion, this trip was an enriching experience for all fourth and fifth graders: not only did it help them become more independent, but it also increased their knowledge about their culture and biosphere.

Ander Quintana (Grade 12)



# Upper School



## International World Studies

International World Studies is one of the new electives added to the curriculum this year, and it is with no doubt of great interest. In this subject, Model United Nations coordinators Mr. Terry Howard and Ms. Nina Franco aim to educate and make students aware of the world in which they live in and how they can make it a better place. In a globalized world as the one in which we live in, it is of great importance that our future generations are able to understand and become part of the international community to avoid falling into the same errors that past generations have made; errors that have caused war and destruction all around the world. Ultimately, International World Studies teaches students to become members of the international community by learning about the world in which they live in from a political and global perspective.

Iñigo Gascón (Grade 10)

## Drama Elective

In our tenth grade class there is an elective which allowed us to choose between French or Drama. Drama is a subject that will teach you how to write, act and perform a play. We also cover the complex vocabulary and analysis of stages from older ages. The teacher also gives you the opportunity to be an open-minded thinker, meaning you are free to create and perform a group play. Decisions are also made between classmates. Students are very happy and pleased to freely discuss ideas with the teacher about the organization for the written play. Exams within this class require you to know about the theoretical part of the class, as well as the practical part. Students are also examined on improvisations and acting. This subject is very interesting, and you just have to put in some effort to have a good time.

Sofía Mediavilla (Grade 10)

## Kayaking Trips



During the end of September and the beginning of October, students ranging between Grades 6 to 10 had the opportunity to go kayaking in Plentzia thanks to our Physical Education teacher, Peio Urkidi, and Barrika Piragua Taldea. These out-of-school trips resulted in 14 to 26 students going from each of these classes. This trip idea was from our one and only John Asensi, who has been kayaking for over 30 years.

Kerman and Javi, two specialists from Barrika Piragua Taldea, first gave the students a short introduction about kayaking, safety issues, and the techniques used to kayak, such as how to stop and start moving in the water. After this, the students had to pair up with a partner, and then started their adventure!

The students who went enjoyed this trip and are excited for the next two sports trips, hopefully skiing in the winter and surfing in spring. We all thank Peio for organizing these trips and giving us a day outside of school to do an energetic team activity.

Alessandra Spadaro (Grade 10)



# Royal Russell Model United Nations

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2016 the ASB MUN team flew to the Royal Russell International MUN conference. The conference lasted four days from October 21 to 25. It took place in Southern London.

Model United Nations is a simulation of the United Nations. Each student attending the conference is a representative, or a delegate, of an assigned nation. Usually there are 5 delegates per country. The ASB team represented Panama, Greece, and the Philippines. During the first days of the conference our delegates split up into individual committees. After the Committee sessions finish, everyone gets together in the General Assembly.

The most pressing issues that the delegates had to diplomatically debate were the the question of plastic waste, the refugees from the levant, and the question of drug trafficking. All of these issues were effectively tackled by our school's delegates by making great speeches, pragmatic negotiation, and occasionally bribing the Secretary General.

By the middle of the conference a crisis occurred! Panama and Greece, along with many other nations, sent representatives to the crisis committee to tackle the issue.

The ASB achieved many awards on Royal Russell. Greece achieved a distinguished (or best) delegation award, for their great speeches at the General Assembly! ASB also got 4 distinguished delete awards: two for Iñigo Gascón, one for Teresa Amann and another for Andrés Baroja.

Elías Bellver (Grade 10)



# Paris Model United Nations



Model United Nations, also known as MUN, is an extracurricular activity in which students act as delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees. We have had an MUN club at our school for three years now, and our ASOB delegates just came back from the PAMUN 2016 conference, in Paris, this November. Our school represented the delegations of Latvia, Kenya and Thailand, and our delegates had to prepare and debate topics such as redefining the function of UN intervention forces, the question of limiting access to arms by terrorist organizations, and the refugee crisis. In this occasion, we even had two chairs in the Political and Environmental Committees. As the current chair of our MUN team, I can honestly say this was one of the most incredible conferences we have attended so far. It was hosted at "La Maison de la Mutualité", and about 600 students from all over the world attended. It was very satisfying to see how well our delegates performed, and how all their hard work finally paid off! We even received two honorable mentions, and overall the team did an amazing job!

Teresa Amann (Grade 10)



# International Baccalaureate

## First Impression of the IBDP

Please welcome the 11<sup>th</sup> Graders to the IB Diploma Programme! The students have successfully completed the first trimester of the course and are looking forward to facing new challenges in the months to come. The class is made up of 16 students, 8 girls and 8 boys. From week 1, the 11<sup>th</sup> Graders began to do intensive work such as essays, exams, and experiments; and also attended workshops, most of them focused on the CAS Programme.

CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service) is one of the three core elements, along with TOK and the Extended Essay, an IB student must complete to be awarded a Diploma. Throughout this first trimester, the students have planned their activities, designed their blogs, and had some amazing experiences. Some examples of CAS activities carried out by the 11<sup>th</sup> Graders are running, organizing a haunted house, going to a retirement home, volunteering for the food bank, and decorating bulletin boards.

Recently, the class has been introduced to the basics of the Extended Essay, a 4000-word-long essay on a topic free of choice for the student. The clock starts ticking; there is now less than a year to complete it.

We cannot wait to see what these brilliant students will achieve!

Unai Alapont (Grade 11)

## Lanaldi

Last November 15<sup>th</sup>, students from Grade 11 and 12 had the amazing opportunity to participate in the Lanaldi Eskolan program, whose objective is to provide students with an alternative career guidance service by offering them a series of workshops and practical experience with an expert of their interest.

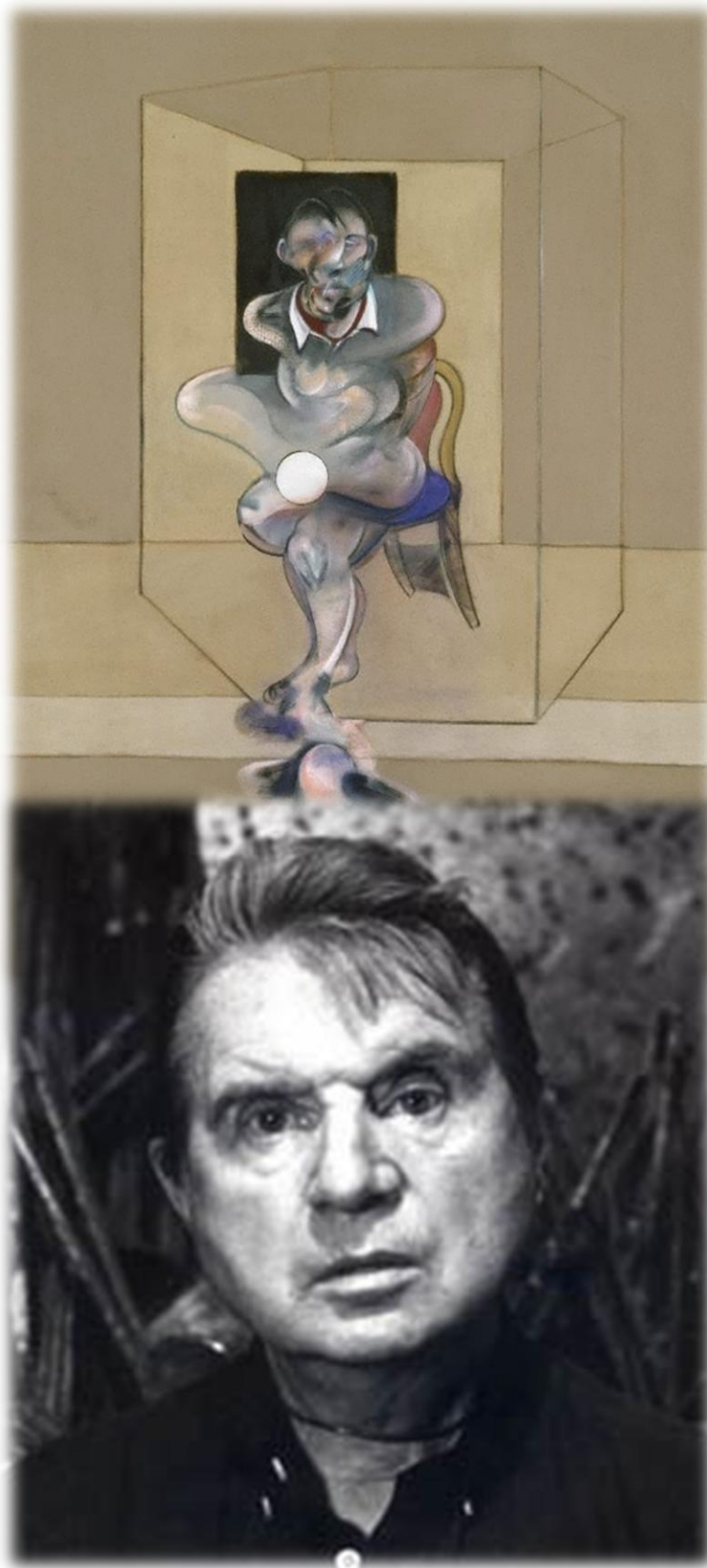
The program is divided into 3 main actions. The first one consists on the development of professional skills such as proactiveness, responsibility, creativity and communication, besides reflecting on the strengths of each individual by means of different presentations, videos and games. Moreover, students began the process of registration to the second action: the opportunity to join a professional of their interest in a working day.

Grade 12 students such as Carlos Sánchez, Manuel Ruiz and Rodrigo Martínez have already had the opportunity to participate in the second action, as they were able to go BBVA and Osakidetza. Clearly, each one learnt different things, but they all agreed that it had been an enriching experience which had helped them guide their future decisions regarding the university career that will begin in less than a year.

Elena Martínez (Grade 12)



## Francis Bacon: A Visit to the Guggenheim Museum



On Friday November 25<sup>th</sup>, the IB Visual Arts students took part in a fascinating tour of the Francis Bacon exhibition, now open at the Guggenheim museum. As they made their way through the huge galleries filled with striking and provocative paintings from the well-known British artist, they were taught about his life and works by an English-speaking guide. They were told, for example, that Bacon had never gone to an art school, and that he was glad he hadn't, as it allowed him to develop his own personal style. Another interesting aspect about this Bacon as an artist is that, in his works, he liked to play with the ideas of the body and the soul: he saw the first as a temporary vessel, which is the reason why the bodies in his paintings tend to be distorted - he believed more than anyone that it's the inside that counts!

The students left the exhibition with a huge feeling of satisfaction and a newfound interest in Francis Bacon. His oeuvre will hopefully inspire some interesting connections in the works of the Grade 11s. Meanwhile, a couple 12th Graders are thinking about using Bacon's work for their comparative studies.

Finally, all IB Visual Arts students would like to thank Ms. Pauline and the school's administration for this great opportunity. Let's hope the next one comes soon!

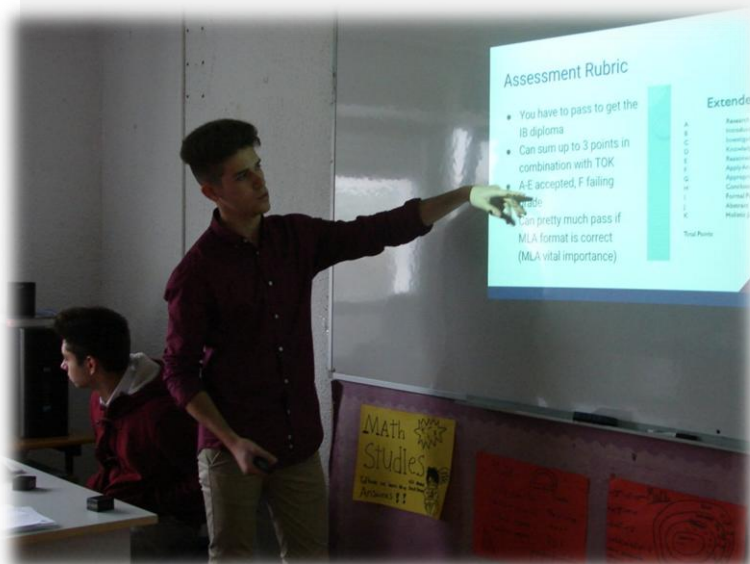
Ainhoa Santos (Grade 12)

# Extended Essay Presentations



The Extended Essay is a core component of the IB. Compulsory for everyone to complete, it may add up to 3 extra points to the student's IB total score when combined with Theory of Knowledge. The class of 2017 recently completed the year-long process of writing their 4000 word essay, and the school wanted to celebrate such an achievement. The entire Upper School was present at an assembly in which the students handed the principal, their IB coordinator and their Extended Essay coordinator the final copy of their work. After the ceremony, presentations were conducted by the students on their essay and everyone was invited to attend. The presentations were enjoyed by teachers and students alike, as the Grade 12 students informed them about the process and the findings of their research, as well as providing the lower grades with advice and recommendations for their future Extended Essays. Congratulations to the class of 2017 on completing the first milestone in the final year of IB!

Beatriz Crespo (Grade 12)



# The Journal Club:

Writers	Photographers	Journal Club Coordinators
Unai Alapont (11)	Rodrigo Martínez (12)	Nolan Young (12)
Teresa Amann (10)	Mr. Howard (Staff)	Ainhoa Santos (12)
Elías Bellver (10)	Anne Rincón (11)	Carmen Rita Gomeza (12)
Beatriz Crespo (12)	<b>Supervisor</b>	
Iñigo Gascón (10)	Mariana Curti (IB Coordinator)	
Naroa Goicoechea (7)		
Carmen Rita Gomeza (12)		
Alexandra Kypa (11)		
Elena Martínez (12)		
Sofía Mediavilla (10)		
Jon Max Morúa (12)		
Ander Quintana (12)		
Carlota Redondo (11)		
Gaël Sacanell (12)		
Carlos Sánchez (12)		
Alessandra Spadaro (10)		
Angelica Spadaro (10)		
Ainhoa Santos (12)		
Nolan Young (12)		

We would like to give special thanks to the hard work and dedication from each writer; this would not be possible without their collaboration.

Happy New Year!