

# INTERNATIONALS CONNECT

February 2009

## FOCUS ON CALIFORNIA NETWORK DEVELOPMENT: REGIONAL EXPANSION



Dr. Claire E. Sylvan

Immigration has affected all aspects of Californian life, but the demographics are most prominently seen in education. That is why Internationals Network began planning to develop a regional network of high schools in CA, with support from the James Irvine Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and California Friends of Internationals. We successfully launched our first school in Oakland, California in Au-

gust 2007, with significant involvement from the local immigrant community and organizations serving this community and district-wide educational reform. Our second school in San Francisco will open this fall. This is especially important to us because our 25 years of school-based practice and excellence shows us that the best way to support continued learning and growth for schools is to create a network of schools with strong ties among the leaders, teachers and other faculty and staff. Internationals Network provides significant support

to these schools through a principal mentor and an instructional coach, as well as the advocacy and support work by our Director of California School Development. The first regional network events will be held this summer when faculties of both schools come together for several days for a Bay Area Internationals Network Summer Institute. The seeds of collaboration that will be sown at this first event will be reaped in the successes of our students as they graduate our schools, go on to college and become active participants in democratic society.

## SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Liliana Vargas,  
Director of California School Development

San Francisco International High School (SFIHS) is in its planning year, scheduled to open its doors in August 2009. We are currently recruiting students, teachers and for the Coordinator of Special Projects. Exciting partnerships are developing in an effort to support students and their families

once the school starts. SFIHS is partnering with the San Francisco Organizing Project to develop a Parent Empowerment program that will begin with a parent retreat this summer. Refugee Transitions is partnering with SFIHS to provide after school tutoring to students and home-based English tutoring for parents. For more information, please contact Sonia Geerdes, Principal of SFIHS at 415.828.6991



San Francisco International High School has a home!  
Mission Campus, at 18th and Dolores, across from Mission

## OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



Oakland International High School

Liliana Vargas

August 2008 marked the beginning of year two for OIHS. To further develop student leaders, Oakland International High School (OIHS) is partnering with La Raza Leadership Program to offer a leadership class, organized by Liza Richheimer, Coordinator for Student Inter-

ventions. The leadership class is a group of 27 9th and 10th grade students recommended by teachers. It is a class designed to cultivate leadership skills in youth. The class focuses on personal development, communication skills and an emphasis in conflict resolution. The class is intended to be a year long and create community amongst strong leaders in our school.

### Find us in all five

#### Boroughs

##### **Brooklyn**

- Brooklyn International High School
- International High School at Prospect Heights
- International High School at Lafayette

##### **Bronx**

- Bronx International High School
- International Community High School
- Pan American International High School at Monroe

##### **Manhattan**

- Manhattan International High School

##### **Queens**

- International High School at LaGuardia Community College
- Flushing International High School
- Pan American International High School

#### Out of State

##### **California**

- Oakland International High School

### **Have a Story?**

If you are from one of our schools (Faculty and/or student) and would like to include your story in the following newsletter, please email me:

[Janet.Parrales@internationalsnetwork.org](mailto:Janet.Parrales@internationalsnetwork.org)

**Subject:** Newsletter

Please be sure to identify which school you are writing about.

**Deadline: March 20, 2009**

### ***Our Mission***

*Internationals Network for Public Schools' mission is to develop and support a network of small public schools that successfully educate and graduate high school age, late-entry English language learner (ELL) immigrant students who come from more than 90 countries around the globe. Our innovative educational approach has been developed by expert practitioners in English learner education for diverse language populations, and is based upon a quarter of a century of school based experience.*

## **Internationals Board of Directors**

Tammy Battaglino • Ken Bradt • Oliver Frankel  
David Gilberg • Alvin Loshak • Joseph Luft  
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Claire E. Sylvan, Ed.D. • Norma Vega

### ***Internationals in the News***

On February 23, 2009 two Internationals schools, Bronx International High School and Flushing International High School, were highlighted in a Daily News Article:

[English-only rise in New York City high school graduation rates.](#)

“Flushing International High School in Queens, where students speak 18 languages, boasts a 2% dropout rate and a 92% college attendance rate. Bronx International High School, which has 40 languages spoken in its hallways, has a similar record.”

Please click the link above to read the full story.

Our Executive Director, Claire E. Sylvan was quoted in a UFT article:

[City to ELL teachers: Sink or swim](#)

Click on the link to read the full story.



***Opening Doors to the American Dream***

For more information please visit our website at:

[www.Internationalsnps.org](http://www.Internationalsnps.org)

Or Email us at:

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