

**COLUMBIA RIVER IB PARENT GROUP  
2013 PARENT SURVEY RESULTS**

Columbia River IB Parent Group officers administered the following questionnaire to parents of pre-IB and IB students attending Columbia River in November 2013. We sent an e-mail to parents who had provided us with their email addresses (n = approx. 190) asking them to respond to this web questionnaire over a 2 week period. The response rate was about 27%.

The purpose of the questionnaire was to solicit parent feedback in developing a list of priorities for the CRIB Parent Group to work on over the next two to three years (2014 to 2017). This includes activities we should continue to do as well as new efforts we should consider in support of the IB program at Columbia River. We intend to combine the results from the parent survey with the results of the 2013 Columbia River IB teacher survey to give us guidance for future direction and activities for this group.

The PB/IB parent questionnaire results are presented below.

***Question 1: How can the CRIB parent group better support the CRHS IB program, our IB students, and our IB teachers?***

***Please select all response choices you agree with.***

Answered: 51; Skipped: 1

<b><i>Response choices</i></b>	<b><i>Percent</i></b>	<b><i>Number of responses</i></b>
Continue to communicate general information about the IB program to parents of PB and IB students at monthly meetings.	92.2%	47
Communicate important PB/IB-related deadlines to parents on an ongoing basis.	90.20%	46
Gather questions and concerns from parents and communicate to IB teachers/staff.	82.4%	42
Advocate for the IB program with CRHS administrators, VSD administrators, and state legislators as needed.	78.4%	40
Continue to organize IB socials e.g. Senior Celebration, Junior-Senior social, etc.	66.7%	34
Help monitor/supervise CAS activities for IB Diploma students	56.9%	29

### **Comments to question 1 (9 total)**

(1) Monthly meetings for parents of PB students seem excessive. I would recommend 2-3 meetings a year for parents of PB students and monthly or bi-monthly meetings for parents of IB students. A meeting that could benefit the PB students would be one where IB seniors give advice, encouragement and share their experience of navigating the IB program.

(2) It does seem that the IB program is not an important part of the VSD offerings. It is critical to the health of this program to lobby the district for support. The district is spread too thin, it needs to support and enhance what it already has, not go chasing after a new pet program every 2-3 years. The focus at River is sports, we should be celebrating the other extemporary talents of our student body.

(3) The program could be significantly improved if it supported ALL IB students rather than just full-IB students.

(4) The overall IB experience as a parent has been very disappointing. There is little direction &/or explanation of the IB program unless you network with parents. There should be several meetings & handouts to explain the pros & cons. The meetings have been fair at best over the last several years. The speakers expect you to already know the basics but where are those found?? The website is not very explanatory for the IB program. The common answer is "you need to contact the college you're interested in" As a freshman, sophomore & even a Junior how would they know what college let alone their major?? Please share what IB really entails. What's the point of S.L. tests if no colleges honor them? Not one college at the recent college fair would accept S.L. tests. As a parent this would have helped me better understand the value of S.L. tests. Couldn't this be better explained?? Many parents are as discouraged as I am but often don't express their thoughts. Thank you for the survey.

(5) I appreciate the fact that you have general knowledge information for us new parents. I love that the agenda is posted so that I make sure I'm at the meeting where specific courses/subjects are highlighted.

(6) Inform Parents of Freshmen of more, the meetings tend to be geared toward Juniors and Seniors only.

(7) Explain expressions/ acronyms to "new" IB parents, e.g. what are "CAS activities"?

(8) e-mail summary of meetings of important information given

(9) Support efforts to engage at-risk student in PB/IB. Support low income families and families facing challenges so students can achieve academically evwn if their environment poses some obstacles.

**Question 2: For the response choices you selected above please rank the most important activities for CRIB parent group to work on this year (1 = most important; 7 = least important).**

**If you DID NOT select one or more of the response choices in the previous question please check 'N/A' instead of ranking the choice below.**

Answered : 51 Skipped: 1

The following table summarizes the results by displaying the rank and percent of respondents who ranked the response choice as 1, 2, or 3 (i.e. identifying it as higher importance).

<b><i>Response choices</i></b>	<b><i>% ranking choice as 1, 2, or 3 (higher importance)</i></b>
Continue to communicate general information about the IB program to parents of PB and IB students at monthly meetings.	88.2% (45 responses)
Communicate important PB/IB-related deadlines to parents on an ongoing basis.	88.2% (45 responses)
Gather questions and concerns from parents and communicate to IB teachers/staff.	60.8% (31 responses)
Advocate for the IB program with CRHS administrators, VSD administrators, and state legislators as needed.	37.3% (19 responses)
Continue to organize IB socials e.g. Senior Celebration, Junior-Senior social, etc.	7.8% (4 responses)
Help organize and monitor CAS opportunities for IB Diploma students	3.9% (2 responses)

**Question 3: In previous years the CRIB Parent Group has undertaken small-scale fund raising activities such as staffing the concession stand at River sports events. The proceeds from these efforts have been used to pay for socials and IB medallions. We are considering expanding our fundraising efforts in the coming years. However, before we do so, we would like to understand whether you believe there is a need for additional fundraising activities.**

**Do you think that the CRIB Parent Group should engage in expanded fundraising activities in support of the CRHS IB program?**

Answered: 51 Skipped: 1

<b>Response choices</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
Yes	74.5%	38
No	25.5%	13

**Question 4: If you selected "yes" to question 3, please tell us how you believe the proceeds of any expanded fundraising efforts should be used:**

Answered: 39 Skipped: 13

<b>Response choices</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
To pay for classroom resources and field trips for PB/IB students.	74.4%	29
To subsidize the cost of IB exam registration and exam fees.	61.5%	24
To pay for a small group of students to attend the IB World Student Conference* annually.	41.0%	16
To pay for additional PB/IB student socials annually.	38.5%	15
To hold a CAS orientation retreat for Juniors annually	38.5%	15
I do not think there is a need to raise funds in support of the CRHS IB program.	7.7%	3

**Comments to question 4 (5 total):**

(1) Fundraising for the WSC should be separate. Funds raised by the CRIB parent group should benefit a majority of IB students. I think the students have a better understanding of where additional funds raised would have the most impact. Therefore, the students should be surveyed in order to determine how to prioritize funding.

(2) To fund IB Senior Celebration

(3) To pay for the IB Dessert

(4) I do not believe to increase fundraising - just switch priorities to more "essential" cost/information

(5) Similar to the first question- funds should be used to eliminate financial barriers facing families so kids can succeed regardless of income.

**Question 5: Of the choices you selected in response to question 4 please rank the options in order of greatest importance to you (1= most important; 6= least important). This will help the CRIB Parent Group prioritize its efforts in the future.**

**If you DID NOT select one or more of the response choices in the previous question please check 'N/A' instead of ranking the choice below. Please skip to question 6 if you do not believe there is a need for expanded fundraising activities in support of the CRHS IB program.**

Answered: 42 Skipped: 10

The following table summarizes the results by displaying the rank and percent of respondents who ranked the response choice as 1, 2, or 3 (i.e. identifying it as higher importance).

<b>Response choices</b>	<b>% ranking choice as 1, 2, or 3 (higher importance)</b>
To pay for classroom resources and field trips for PB/IB students.	66.7% (28 responses)
To subsidize the cost of IB exam registration and exam fees.	64.3% (27 responses)
To pay for a small group of students to attend the IB World Student Conference* annually.	35.7% (15 responses)
To pay for additional PB/IB student socials annually.	35.7% (15 responses)
To hold a CAS orientation retreat for Juniors annually	35.7% (15 responses)

**Question 6: If you believe the CRIB Parent Group should expand its fundraising efforts, please tell us what types of fundraising events you would support>**

**Please select all that apply:**

Answered: 39 Skipped: 13

<b>Response choices</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
Sale of PB/IB t-shirts designed by students	71.8%	28
A fundraising event organized by PB/IB students e.g. a 5K run	71.8%	28
Apply for grants	56.4%	22
SCRIPP	33.3%	13
Sale of seasonal items e.g. Christmas wreaths	30.8%	12
I would prefer to make a donation rather than participate in fundraising activities.	23.1%	9
Sale of Chinook/Entertainment books	12.8%	5

**Comments to question 6 (4 total):**

(1) I'm not sure which fundraising activities provide the best return on investment of time and money.

(2) Senior Party Committee traditionally offers the SCRIP program, their efforts shouldn't be diluted. A fun-run would be brilliant.

(3) We could get our own id for office supply chains and possibly sell script for BN and Powells since there is presently already a requirement for purchase of books.

(4) My background and occupation is in fundraising and grants. The sale of books and products is taxing on families and yields a low ROI. I'd like to discuss options with the committee leading fundraising efforts.

**Question 7: Please let us know how else the CRIB Parent Group can support parents of PB/IB students and, more broadly, the CRHS IB program.**

Answered: 14; Skipped: 38

(1) There was a lack communication for PB parents at the beginning of this school year. I would suggest having an informal and short CRIB parent meeting on back to school night (or in conjunction with another event), so parents feel connected and welcomed from the onset.

(2) Provide a tutoring resource/contacts data base, subject specific, if not available already.

(3) Create and publish an IB Guidebook for the CB IB program

(4) Our son is a Freshman, so I am not very knowledgeable about all things IB. Your information and support is greatly appreciated. I am having a tough time finding out what universities recognize the IB diploma. The link that I tried following doesn't seem to work.

(5) From what I understand, IB teachers are not supposed to schedule exams on the same day as others. However, that has not been the case in a couple of classes for my child. I'm not sure why this is not being followed. But, it seems to me that the teachers could collaborate and coordinate a bit more. Especially if these exams are covering an entire quarter's worth of work. My child has at least 3 hours of studies every weeknight to go with studying for exams. I completely understand that this kind of rigorous work and heavy work load is good practice and preparation for when my child attends college/ university; but, it would go a long way to help ease stress levels if teachers would work a more reasonable schedule regarding exams.

(6) I have previously filled out your questionnaire. However, I would like to add that the IB program teachers and students need to have further discussions regarding honesty and integrity vs cheating. My student tells me about students cheating/ copying during exams and homework several times each week. Also, some students are using older siblings' homework/exams/essays to complete their assignments. Universities will not tolerate cheating; college students caught cheating will be expelled.

(7) CAS activities should be fun! CAS time and effort should be celebrated rather than punished with reflections that are returned to students because they are considered inadequate or not complete. Students are minimizing recorded CAS hours because they are told that their reflections do not substantiate the length of time recorded. Some students take credit for one or two hours when their activities may be much longer. Others do not even bother to record most of their CAS activities, as long as they record their required activity and reflection per month. Let's celebrate student achievement - academic and community service!

(8) A "FAQ" manual would be helpful. This could start at the basic top 20 FAQs & grow as the student advances.

(9) Aside from including the Freshmen class you are doing great. Maybe the Juniors and Seniors can mentor a Fresh men by being paired up with them and doing events together.

(10) Can there be dues that are paid? I just feel that our kids and parents are fund raising for every little thing, we all get inundated with buying this or supporting that, I feel IB should not have to go that route. Dues like we payed for PTA.

(11) this year's meeting have been informative and proactive. I have learned far more about the program , expectations and requirements . huge improvement from last years meeting format.

(12) In the meetings, have parents share ideas of how to help the students organize study sessions, get CAS hours completed (with good ideas of what to do for those hours) Provide a list of tutors that are willing to help students on maybe a temporary basis when there is something particularly difficult they are dealing with in a certain subject.

(13) I think there is an urgent need for students and for parents to demystify the "myths". My daughter wants to give up IB her junior year because she hears it won't help her get into college and will cost her too much sleep and social life - what's real, what's not?

(14) Perhaps a parent committee to help encourage/celebrate/monitor CAS. Involve juniors and sophomores in IB Senior Celebration so they know expectations and traditions regarding the event - could also promote excitement toward completing IB Diploma.