



The International School

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Teaching beyond the content

“My favorite part of teaching is creating that bond between you and your class and being able to not only teach them the content but to become good citizens and good people,” explains Ariana Levi, second

and Israel I was able to gain an understanding of cultural nuances,” Ariana explains. “It has made me open-minded and understanding of differences.” TIS parent Debi Applebaum sees this cultural awareness reflected in Ariana’s classroom.

“She creates a general feeling of open-minded acceptance and an allowance for differences and for specific strengths and weaknesses,” Debi explains.

Debi is impressed by Ariana’s teaching style. “Ariana doesn’t teach to the class; she teaches to each individual kid. She is very aware of where each child is in

terms of learning style and learning process. That is pretty amazing.”

“My daughter will come home from school excited about how they learned something not just what they learned,” Debi continues. “For example, Ariana creates experiences for learning new numbers and new words rather than just having students learn it in their head. It really sinks in at a different level.”

Since 2001 Ariana has been a dedicated multi-lingual teacher. Teaching in Spanish, English and Hebrew in a variety of settings has provided her with the skills to adjust her teaching approach for the cultures and needs of her students. At TIS Ariana has been amazed by the cultural awareness and acceptance her students demonstrate. “These students have learned from teachers representing so many distinct cultures, and they are prepared for anything,” Ariana says. “When these kids travel they’ll know exactly what to do and they’ll know how to behave. I think the different units of inquiry provide them with that exposure to different cultures and ideas as well.”

Ariana does not hesitate to say

that the units of inquiry are her favorite part of teaching at TIS. “I truly love it.” She is also enthusiastic about the IB Learner Profile, explaining that it “gives students the language to articulate how they are doing, where they are, and how they can contribute in meaningful ways.”

In Ariana’s second grade class, iPads and educational applications are frequently used to enhance learning. The iPads function as whiteboards, flash cards, and manipulatives with programs such as A+, Notebook, and BrainPOP. “All of these resources really help the students prepare for the real world,” Ariana says. Debi agrees. “My daughter is now savvy about technology and has become more interested in different technologies, which is great at an early age.”

Ariana is also a TIS parent. “I love listening to my daughter talk about her school day,” she says. “Although my daughter already spoke Spanish, she fits in with her class and is challenged by the curriculum. She is now using a higher level of language and is able to read chapter books in two languages.”

“Outside of the classroom, Ariana is caring, open-minded, and has a great sense of humor,” says Ron. “I am so pleased that she has joined the TIS community and that I am able to learn with and from her!” Outside of the classroom Ariana loves spending time with her husband and two children, traveling, and going to zumba.



grade teacher in the Spanish track. Maestra Ariana joined TIS in fall 2013 and has been a great addition to the community.

“Like so many of her colleagues, Ariana is an inspirational teacher. Each time I walk into Ariana’s class, I see students who are engaged and lessons that are well planned and well executed,” says TIS Principal Ron Young.

Ariana grew up in two distinct cultures. She was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, where she attended an English language immersion school. At 16, she moved with her parents to Israel. “Everything was shocking,” she recalls of the transition. “I went to greet another student with a kiss on the cheek and quickly learned that was not a normal thing.” Ariana did not speak Hebrew when she moved but she quickly learned the value of her English second language skills. “Although I didn’t know the local language I had a tool to communicate.” It turns out that Ariana is a natural with language. She says she felt comfortable communicating fluently in Hebrew after only a year and half.

“Through living in Uruguay

