



GWHS IB Broadcaster

IB Parents Association News

Upcoming Events

December 2—Financial Aid

January 6—IB Alum Panel

February 24—FAFSA night

April 14—Junior
mandatory meeting

April 14—Sophomore
mandatory meeting

April 14—CAS Fair
(mandatory for seniors)

May 3—Senior Brunch

May (TBA)—IB exams

May 28 & 29—Book Buy
Back and Sale

Inside this issue:

CAS Corner	2
Communication	2
CSC update	3
Campus update	3
College Center	4
Recruiting	4
Tennis	5
Contact Information	6

The 2014-15 school year is well underway. This time of year, the IB office is focused, as usual, on more than one facet of supporting our IB Program. Our shadow program is run by the Parent Association and is manned by dedicated volunteers who arrive at a very early 7:15 a.m. to meet and greet both parents and (8th grade) students. Again, this year, this program has been very popular. There are very few shadowing appointments remaining.

Not all the details have been determined for how the “Pre-IB” 9th and 10th Grade Program (as we have known it) will function next year. Things seem to be falling into place with the assistance of volunteer IB parents. Our IB Program looks strong. We have hired some new teachers to the Program and those teachers needing IB training have either begun to receive some or are scheduled to undertake that training. There are so many families who have stepped up in so many different ways to ensure that this Program remains what it has been for the past 30 years. Our Pro-

gram remains a viable option to choose for those students/families who want to make the IB commitment. The strength of this Program is embodied in its parent support, dedication and commitment. The volunteer hours that the IB Parent Association devotes are invaluable to the continued excellence of this program. The Ambassador Committee alone (which includes our shadow program and recruiting nights at middle schools) has expended well over 100 volunteer person hours since August.

We are working on our January meeting and its annual and ever popular, IB Alum Panel. This meeting will be held in the Community Room on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 (6:30 p.m.). The panel will be composed of GW IB graduates. As has been our custom, there will be represented on the panel a cross-section of colleges: small, private, Ivy League, east coast, west coast, etc. Each panel member will address how IB prepared him or her for college. There will be a question and answer period at the end of the evening which is most

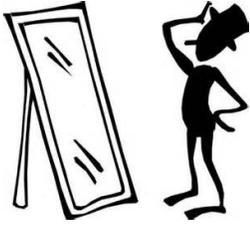
informative and permits all parents to ask questions to guide your student’s college selection process with the insights of GW alumni who share their respective experiences. This is a night not to miss, so mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you.

With that being said, I urge you to get involved in the IB Parent Association and please join by visiting the web site. If each family donates time, energy and/or money, we can guarantee that the future of the IB Program will be as strong as its illustrious 30 year history. Please feel free to contact me at snil-low@comcast.net or any of the names of committee chairs listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Leslie B. Lilly Wollins

IBPA President

Want to learn more about the International Baccalaureate and IB Diploma Programme?
Visit www.ibo.org



“Write something reflective if you want to improve the chances that someone will notice your essay.”



CAS Corner

You may have noticed a new class listed on your child’s schedule.” **Leadership Study Advanced**” is the name for CAS (Creativity, Action, and Service). Students earn a Pass or Fail and does not effect GPA. It does, however, send a message to colleges. The IB CAS requirement is an essential component of the IB Diploma Program; students will not earn the Diploma without it. Giving it a place on the transcript validates its importance.

Junior CAS requirements:

I visit with the Junior classes once a month to discuss CAS activities and teach reflective writing . At this time, students should be developing an interesting list of CAS activities in the three areas of Creativity, Service, and Action. They are to be reflecting AT LEAST once a month. They may not “make up” reflections by writing extra reflections during a

month. I send out periodic emails with suggestions for activities.

Senior CAS requirements:

All seniors should have completed and turned in their CAS project proposal notebook, including: Goals, measurable objectives, and a timeline. Evidence of work must be added to the notebooks on a regular basis. Students have a calendar of dates for notebook reviews.

Why is reflective writing so important? The following information was on a website that guides students in the college essay writing process:

“We’re excited we got to share some of our best tips and tools over the last 10 days. We hope they helped!

Today, we’ll leave you with the final and most important tip: you must REFLECT on your life in your college essays!

by Marjie Lane

That’s right. Write something reflective if you want to improve the chances that someone will notice your essay. We know that it’s hard to be reflective; our students tell us all the time that they haven’t had a lot of practice writing something that matters so much.

Maybe you’ve been so busy thinking about your future that you haven’t thought about how you got to this point in your life. We understand. But we still want to encourage you to take a minute, an hour, a day, or however long you need to look back on your life and reflect.

Coaching Tip #10: Write about something that matters. Reflect. Answer these questions: What happened to you? Why does it matter? “

You have a story to tell. Colleges can’t wait to hear it. Own that college essay, and let us know where YOU get in!

*Susan Knoppow & Kim Lifton
CEO and President
Wow Writing Workshop*

Communication Notes

The *IB Broadcaster*, the George IB website, and telephone and e-mail notifications are the program’s best means of informing families about important IB news and events. GWIB also maintains a separate opt-in email list that you can register for via the georgeib.com home page using the green box on the right side of the page. While you are on the site, check out the great information and updates.

For attendance office issues, please contact attendance_georgewashington@dpsk12.org or call 720-423-8642. This office also oversees school-wide notifications including automated telephone calls, so if you are not receiving these please contact them to add your name to the list. School-wide announcements are posted daily at gwhs.dpsk12.org.

A Message From Your IB Parent CSC Representative

Nostradamus said, "The more it changes, the more it stays the same."

A new year is upon us. A new Principal is at the helm. Our principles have not changed.

What can we as IB Parents do both to embrace "One George" and to ensure the continuing vitality of the IB Program?

As an IB Parent Representative on the Collaborative School Committee (CSC), I am working to schedule one of two required IB Parent Constituent meetings in the auditorium as soon as feasible so as to provide the IB Parents with information and a Q & A session (which we all had expected May 10) on the Denver Public School Vision for GW IB.

I have spoken with our Interim Principal Jose Martinez and with DPS Instruc-

tional Superintendent, Dr. Fred McDowell, both of whom support such Constituent meeting and will make every effort to schedule and attend.

A preliminary Agenda for the meeting:

1. What is the DPS Vision for the IB Program;
2. How do we strengthen the reputation of the IB Program in our community;
3. How do we attract neighborhood students for the IB Program;
4. How are IB students identified to permit the Master Schedule to be completed timely (and what does the "choice form" look like);
5. How do we as parents participate and support our students, the IB Program and George Washington; and
6. How do we raise funds, *i.e.*, silent auction, corporate sponsorships, penants, *etc.*?

I am encouraged by the open dialogues I have had with both Principal Martinez and Instructional Superintendent McDowell.

I encourage each and every IB Parent to reach out to me with questions, concerns, comments, *etc.*

Together, we can forge a bright future for the IB Program around the core values of DPS: Students First, Integrity, Equity, Collaboration, Accountability and Fun.

My contact information is as follows:

dhwollins@dhwpc-law.com

Office: 303.758.8900

Home: 303.733.5601

Cell: 303.913.0913

Please let me know your thoughts.

David H. Wollins

Campus Update

As the growing season comes to a close, the Grounds Committee sponsored two more community service Saturday sessions. Student volunteers helped check shade trees and weed the planter boxes in the south courtyard. On the fourth and final work day October 18th, we tidied up the planting bed at the east entrance.

The IB Latino Association students have officially adopted the north planting bed. They are making plans

to add more color and pizzazz near the north entrance doors.

The harvest this year from the GW orchard yielded enough apples for grounds committee member Martha Tucker to bake a pie, which was presented to the Orchard Club.

Next time you are at the school, be sure to check out the new display case east of the community room. Ann Cuthbertson has installed a series of "before and after"

images that show the dramatic changes in the appearance of the north entrance, the south courtyard, and the orchard in recent years.

The GW Grounds Committee welcomes your participation - contact Barb DeSarro at bwdesarro@hotmail.com or Susan Nordstrom at norsk@comast.net to learn more about how you can help keep GW green and, as a bonus, get a batch of homemade applesauce from the orchard.

*"Together, we
can forge a
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Visit the GWHS

Counseling
website at

[www.](http://www.gwhscounseling.com)

[gwhscounseling.com](http://www.gwhscounseling.com).



SWAG!

College Center

What is demonstrated interest?

College admissions representatives often track your interactions with a college in order to gauge how much interest you have in the potential college. It seems to be an imprecise concept that is still weighed when making a determination for some colleges. When all things are taken into consideration, it could make or break an acceptance decision.

But why?

The office of admissions for colleges are tasked with bringing in the appropriate number of freshmen that match the spots available on campus. This means that they must accept the right number of high school seniors that will matriculate into the

freshmen class next year. As a result, colleges have started to look at 'contact points' in order to see if a student will, in fact, attend if admitted. According to a study by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors, roughly half of colleges and universities will consider demonstrated interest at some point in their decisions.

How do you show interest?

Thankfully colleges do not expect you to fly across the country to indicate that you would like to attend their university. Instead, admissions officers would like to see that you take advantage of the opportunities in your area. For instance, if a college rep visits George Washington, do you take the time to at least introduce yourself if you can't stay for his/her

presentation? Do you fill out contact cards? College fairs, emails to the counselor, great supplemental essays, interviews, email lists and campus visits are other opportunities to make sure that you indicate that you are very interested in attending.

For more events happening this year, make sure to see the GWHS Counseling website at www.gwhscounseling.com.

Lastly, we wanted to highlight all of our students who were semifinalist qualifiers for the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Competition based upon superb scores from the PSAT taken last year. They are: Antoine Ganivet, Jack Glaser, Leah Johnson, Mei-Lian Leieritz, David Lind, Sarah Nick, Sarah Papich and Linda Schiller. Congrats!

Recruiting the Class of 2019

Working under the leadership of Maura Mackintosh and Pam Paulien a group of IB Ambassadors are visiting schools and EXPOs to connect with students who are interested in become part of GW's Class of 2019.

So far they have spread the word about IB at the following schools and events:

Highline Academy, Graland Country Day School, International School of Denver, Logan, and Stanley British, Stapleton United Neighbors



EXPO, and Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences. Future plans include St. Anne's Episcopal School, Hamilton, the DPS Choice EXPO, Morey Middle School and the information nights at GW.

Recruiting seems to take a village of helpful people: GW

Administration has been represented by Assistant Principal Roger Chow, with Ms. Geimer attending as many events as possible. Parents involved include: Leslie Lilly, Susan Lurie, Doug Gertner,

(see *Recruiting*, page 5)

GW Boy's Tennis

The George Washington Boy's Tennis Team concludes a successful season with its first appearance in the CHSAA State Tournament since 2011.

Junior David Wollins, Jr. and Jacob Kark (a student playing on the team who attends the Denver Jewish Day School) qualified for State at the Region 5 qualifying tournament by defeating a tough Mountain Vista 3 doubles pair 7-5, 7-6 in a hard fought match. It was the 4th match of the day for the GW doubles team. Unfortunately, they lost in the first round at State to GW's nemesis, East. The varsity squad finish 5 in the regional tournament.

Despite the disappointing results at State, the Boy's Tennis Team completed a respectable season. The team finished the season with a 10 and 6 record over all and 6 and 2 record in the Denver Prep League. The Varsity squad played most of its matches against teams outside of the DPL, playing only South and East from DPS. Members of the JV squad

played most of the DPL matches, and most of the 32 members of the team played in a varsity match. Fifteen members of team this year were freshman, the largest number of freshman to play for the team in 15 year tenure of Coach Mason. In fact, the #1 player on the team this year was Daniel Guiot who is a freshman. The future looks good for the GWBTT!



RECRUITING

(Continued from page 4)

Terri Learned, Pat Mason, Sarah Pezoa, Pam Paulien, Kristen Tourangeau, Tim Bakken, Jennifer Wiener, Jamie Sarche, Katie McCrimmon, and Marijke Sheraden.

IB students keep receiving a lot of praise for their poise and influence by attendees at these events. They are the most valuable assets in this vital endeavor: Bryn Learned, Mykell Fisher, Kalkidan Bulbula, David Wollins, Jr., Rachel Sheraden, Jordy Gertner, Margot Lurie, Emma Holers, Harrison Thorn, and Cristian Pezoa.

If you would like to become an IB Ambassador there are additional opportunities available. Please spread the word that it is still possible to shadow and let people know about upcoming events. We are also putting together little bags of green M & M's labeled with GW IB contact information to offer as "swag" at our events. If you would like to help with the recruitment effort, please contact Maura Mackintosh at maura@solucian.com.

Our shadowing program has been popular this fall, and we only have a few slots open in December. Marjie Lane and our freshman students have

done a tremendous job preparing for and welcoming our prospective new students. Jamie Sarche, Jennifer Wiener and Maura Mackintosh are our parent representatives who meet both the eighth graders and their parents upon arrival for the shadow experience. Thus far, feedback has been quite positive, especially in relation to how amazing our volunteer IB students are as they highlight the strengths of our program. Shadowing takes place on most Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Interested students should contact Marjie Lane at marjorie_lane@dpsk12.org.

"Please spread the word that it is still possible to shadow and let people know about upcoming events."

2014-2015 IB Program Administrators

IB Coordinator	Suzanne Geimer	720-423-8884	Suzanne_Geimer@dpsk12.org
IB Administrative Assistant	Marjie Lane	720-423-8829	Marjorie_Lane@dpsk12.org
IB Guidance Counselor (11th & 12th grades)	Leigh Cassidy	720-423-8641	leigh_cassidy-harkleroad@dpsk12.org
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IB Parents Association Board of Directors

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There Is Life After IB!

Don't Believe It?

Come to the

Annual GWIB Alumni Panel

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Don't miss the most popular meeting of the year.

Recent GWIB Graduates Tell All...

Finding the best-fit college * Transitioning to college academics * Adjusting to campus life
Making the most of new opportunities * Dealing with disappointments * Looking back at high school and GWIB

All parents and students welcome