



World School

A publication of the IB Parents' Association of GWHS, Denver, Colorado  
August 2006 • Vol. 19, Issue 1

George Washington High School's I.B. Broadcaster

## Welcome Back!

Welcome new students and welcome back to our continuing classes! Some of you may be wondering what happened to that summer that loomed so long when it began in May. You may not be completely ready to begin again, but here we go!

Representatives of the faculty and staff had a busy couple of weeks in June with our first IB Summer Enrichment experience. We consider it a success and hope that all the techniques for surviving IB are still with the participants and will help them adjust smoothly to the GW IB experience. We are sure that the students who attended will remember the 'scavenger hunt' and can find their way to the most obscure parts of the building. Be sure to find a Summer Participant and ask them about getting an athletic waiver or the best way to find Bohannon field or the student activities office! The Summer Enrichment students can be your guide to the expectations and communication patterns at GW—use them as a resource! Summer students, you already have the connections and the T-shirt; be sure to make them work for you.

This year we are going to work with a new bell schedule, weekly blocked classes, two lunch periods, and changes to the office locations of some of GW's administrative and support staff. We welcome some new teachers to our IB Department this year, and hope to introduce them in future issues of the *Broadcaster*. We may not always know what day it is, but you can count on us to help you and to be there when you need us!

As always new parents, a gentle reminder that your student must be his or her best advocate—that means we expect to hear from your child first and directly regarding any difficulties, questions or concerns. Students who need schedule changes must see their counselor or Mrs. Schmidt in person. Because the schedule is so tight and complex, a phone request just won't work.

Our Diploma Program has a well-deserved reputation for being the best way to maximize a student's high school years. We will offer support and challenge in an environment that will be memorable for its energy and depth of relationships. We can't wait to get started!

**Suzanne Geimer, IB Program Director**

### Annual IB Family and Faculty Get Acquainted Picnic!

**When:** Tuesday, August 29, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

**Where:** Creekside Park, Glendale

Bring a picnic dinner (you can use the park's grills) or come after dinner.

We'll provide cake and drinks. A great way to meet and mingle with both returning and new IB families and with our IB faculty!

**Directions:** Go one block south of Leetsdale on Cherry Street, then one block west on East Virginia Avenue, and one block south on Clermont Street. Questions? Call Diane Page, 303.670.0583, or [dipage1010@aol.com](mailto:dipage1010@aol.com).





## **A Message from the IB Parents' Association Co-Presidents**

### ***IB Parents' Association***

Welcome to all George Washington IB students and their families—especially to the 9<sup>th</sup> graders and first-year IB students! It has been a *HOT* and *STEAMY* summer, and we are looking forward to a *FRESH, NEW* school year!

The IB Parents' Association strives to provide IB students and families with informative, educational, social and supportive meetings and gatherings so that everyone may gain more knowledge about the IB program and the unique IB experience. The IB Parents' Association works hard to support our excellent IB faculty and staff by organizing **teacher appreciation events** and coordinating **volunteer time**. There are so many ways to be involved as an IB parent—the more you know, the more you learn how to help, the greater the IB program functions! The IB Parents' Association helps to foster communication and the exchange of ideas: we are allies for the success of our IB students and our IB program!

### ***Annual Picnic***

The first event this school year is the **IB Family & Faculty Picnic on Tuesday, August 29 from 6 – 8 p.m.** at Creekside Park in Glendale. Details and directions are on the front page. Please join us for what has traditionally been a relaxed, fun and informal opportunity to meet the IB faculty and other IB students and parents.

### ***Voluntary Dues Statement***

An informational letter and a Voluntary Dues Statement are included in this newsletter. Our dues campaign is the main way we raise money for the IB Parents' Association. The dues enable the Association to fund programs and publications sponsored by the Association. The Board is asking for a minimum contribution of \$25 per IB student. We also welcome and encourage additional donations, which increase our and other programs at GW in which many IB students participate.

GW's IB program is Colorado's flagship IB program, and *Newsweek* recently rated GW as one of the top high schools in country. Substantial support from our families will help keep the IB program at GW as strong as ever.

### ***Friends of IB Scholars Foundation***

We also want to remind you about the fundraising campaign for the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation later this fall. Please read the article on page 3 by President Jamie Kaplan. It explains the difference between the Foundation and the Parents' Association. We hope you will support both the IB Parents' Association and the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation with generous contributions this fall.

### ***Monthly Meetings***

Our monthly meetings are usually the second Tuesday of each month, from 7 – 8:30 p.m., however, because September is going to be a month filled with college-related meetings throughout the city, our meeting is scheduled for **September 19, 7 – 8:30 p.m.** Parents of incoming freshmen will participate in an informational and Q&A session with a panel of IB sophomores in the Community Room. In the Library, parents of sophomores, juniors and seniors will attend an informational meeting with Dan Franklin, the college counselor retained by the IB Parents' Association and the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation.

### ***IB Life***

IB life is exciting, all-encompassing, challenging and rewarding. The IB Parents' Association is a direct way to stay connected, to be “in the know” and to help our kids succeed not only as IB students, but also as “citizens of the world.” We look forward to seeing you at the picnic on August 29, and to sharing time, ideas and thoughts with you during the year. Again, welcome!

**Debbie Roads and Andrea Shea  
Board Co-Presidents**



## A Message from the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation

New IB families often want to know, "What is the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation?"

A group of parents, faculty and friends of the GW International Baccalaureate program founded the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation in 1995 as a charitable and non-profit 501(c)(3) entity to help pay for equipment, books, programs and curriculum needs of students and teachers in the IB program at GW. These needs developed because Denver Public Schools was unable to fund all of the needs of the IB program.

In the early years of the Foundation, funding focused on computers, books and science lab equipment. Over time, the activities supported by the Foundation expanded to include funding for professional development for the IB faculty, and books and IB exam fees for IB students who might otherwise not be able to participate in the IB program. We have also been able to provide honoraria for IB teachers who act as faculty advisors for Junior and Senior IB students on their extended essays, as well as other educational activities of IB students. In recent years, as the needs of the IB program have increased, in part due to the continued shortfalls in funding from DPS, the types of programs funded by the Foundation have increased as well. For the last two years, the Foundation has been able to retain a private college counselor for IB Seniors, and this summer, the Foundation funded a new pilot program for a summer enrichment class for this year's entering IB freshman.

This variety of grants paid for by the Foundation is only made possible from the generous contributions from current IB families, families of IB alumni, and grants to the IB Foundation from other charitable foundations, which have enabled the Foundation to support the GW IB program in ways that would not have been possible ten years ago. This financial support for the IB program has

helped to maintain George Washington as one of the best high schools in the United States, as GW is currently rated number 125 in the *Newsweek* magazine rankings of the best high schools in America.



We have been fortunate enough in the past two years to have received a challenge grant of \$15,000 from an alumni's family foundation, which has been matched by contributions from IB families, and we have also received significant contributions from other foundations. As of now, while we are hopeful, we do not yet know whether these foundations will be able to assist the IB Foundation in our fundraising efforts this year. This means that contributions from IB families will be as important as ever to the continued excellence of the IB program at GW.

Later this fall, the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation will be sending a letter to all IB families asking for your support. Every donation, whether \$25, \$50, \$100, or more, makes a difference. Donations are also tax deductible. We would also be grateful to receive contributions from employers, businesses or other charitable foundations, or to discuss a challenge grant to be matched by IB family contributions. You might let other IB alumni families know about our efforts, as we are always thankful for the donations we receive from alumni families and students.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any thoughts by phone at home, 303.759.1176, at my office, 303.539.3159, or by email at [James.Kaplan@publicans.com](mailto:James.Kaplan@publicans.com). Thank you for your support for the GW IB program.

**Jamie Kaplan, President**  
**Friends of IB Scholars Foundation**



## National History Day Congratulations!

The National History Day program ([www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org)) is intended to make learning fun, while helping foster academic achievement and intellectual growth. Participants select their own topics and learn useful historical knowledge and perspective, while developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. They can also receive cash prizes and scholarships. Participation is open to all GW students. Next year's theme is "Triumph and Tragedy in History." Contact **Carrie Lamitie** or **Bonnie Guggenheim** for more information.

### State Awards

Congratulations are in order for several GW IBers who were among the State Champions in the National History Day 2006 competition held at CU Boulder in April:

- Senior Papers, 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Pierre Biscaye**. "Czar Alexander I: Taking a Stand Against a Napoleonic Europe"
- Senior Individual Exhibit, 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Rebecca Clark**. "Picasso's Guernica: One Man's Stand Against the Horror of War" *Special Award: Colorado Historical Society; Special Award: Interdisciplinary Studies*
- Senior Group Exhibit, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Schuyler Gibson, Erica Martinez, Vidya Pugazhenti**. "The Poor People's Campaign: Ralph D. Abernathy's Crusade for Equality"
- Senior Individual Performance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Joanna Foote**. "The Taiping Rebellion: Taking a Stand for Justice and Against the Corruption of the Manchu Dynasty"; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Danielle Peck**. "Susan B. Anthony: Taking a Stand for Women's Right to Vote"
- Senior Individual Documentary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Emily Sigman**. "I Did Not Forget You: Simon Wiesenthal's Stand for Justice"

### National Awards

**Rebecca Clark** and **Joanna Foote** went on to place in the National History Day competition held at the University of Maryland June 10-15. Rebecca won 10<sup>th</sup> Place in the Senior Individual Exhibit, and Joanna tied for 15<sup>th</sup> Place in the Senior Individual Performance.

## Great Achievements!

Congratulations go out to several IB students who received honors and scholarships recently for their hard work, good grades, and service to the community: **Ashley Cole** received a scholarship for her scholastic honors and volunteer commitments at the Owl Club Debutante Ball. Also, **Enoch Arthur-Asmah** and **Carmen Dahlberg** received Daniels Fund Scholarships. Carmen will be attending Beloit College in the Fall. A special thanks to **Debi and Mike Roads and the entire Parents' Association** for outfitting Amanda Schmidt's IB office with new furniture and organizational tools this summer. And a very special thank-you to **Sam Kohn, Nick Nakazono** and **Skyler Elisberg** for giving up a Friday morning to

help Amanda put the entire thing together. We could not have done it without you! Also, thank you to the student volunteers who helped with our summer enrichment program for incoming 9th graders: **Meghan Kleinsteiber, Sydney Tobler, Connor Williams, Jesse Morse, Tiffany Chan, Julie Sharoff, Mary Monks** and **Aaron Garcia**.

On June 23, Juniors **Aaron Garcia, Victoria Turnipseed-Henderson** and **Katie Whitnah** along with Class of 2006's **Doug DeMuro** were recognized on the field at the Rockies game for their commitment to service and volunteering. These IB students have been working with Volunteers of America as "Action Team Captains." Junior **Christine Gwin** was also recognized, but was unable to attend.

## Help with the College Application Process

### College Countdown

It seems like only yesterday that we were packing their Little Mermaid and Power Ranger lunchboxes for them, but in the blink of an eye, our children will be going off to college. The application process can be complex, but don't panic! The GW IB college counselors and the IB Parents' Association are here to help you get through it. Here are some important dates:

■ **The PSAT:** George Washington High School and the Princeton Review are joining forces to help students—juniors as well as any sophomores who want to take the test—prepare for the PSAT, which will be given in October at GW. The PSAT is a practice for the SAT, and a qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarships. For \$10, a student can take a proctored, full-length **practice PSAT test on Sept. 9**, with a detailed score report. To take the practice test, sign up in the counseling office. For those looking for **more extensive preparation** help with the PSAT, seven hours of instruction and a full-length practice test will be offered for \$99. The classes are **Monday, Oct. 9, Wednesday, Oct. 11, and Monday, Oct. 16**, all at 6 p.m. at GW. Call 1.800.2.Review to enroll, or go to [www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com). The PSAT will be given at GW on **Saturday, Oct. 21**. The alternate date is **Wednesday, Oct. 8**. For more information, contact Amanda at the counseling office at [Amanda\\_Schmidt@dpsk12.org](mailto:Amanda_Schmidt@dpsk12.org).

■ **Colleges That Change Lives** helps families change the way they think about colleges and the college search. There will be a Colleges That Change Lives College Fair and Information Session on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center-Denver, 7800 E. Tufts Ave., 7-9 p.m. Go to [www.ctcl.com](http://www.ctcl.com) to find out more, and to see which colleges are part of this popular tour.

■ During the morning of **Aug. 29**, all Juniors and Seniors will be pulled out of class to receive information about the college application process, including a packet full of important forms, checklists and college application aids.

■ **College Information Night:** On **Sept. 19**, IB College Counselor/Consultant Dan Franklin will meet with IB Seniors and their parents during the first IB Parents' Association meeting of the year to walk them through the college application process, step by step. Franklin says this will be a general session listing the upcoming ACT/SAT test and registration dates, ideas on test prep, dates and times of fall college fairs, information on criteria to select a final list of colleges to apply to, tips on writing a good college essay or personal statement, sources of scholarship overview, general information on the FAFSA process, and more. Much of what will be covered was covered last winter at the College Information Night for Juniors. This year's College Information Night for Juniors will be February 1, 2007.



### Veteran College Admission

### Guru to Speak at GW on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.

To help students get into the college of their choice, the IB Parents' Association is bringing in college admissions guru Peter Van Buskirk, a 25-year veteran of the selective college admission process. He will speak at GW on **Sept. 27**. Van Buskirk, a former college admissions director, has spoken at hundreds of high schools and authored two books on the admissions process, and is bound to motivate and illuminate students and parents alike. Admission is \$5 at the door, per family. *Please contact the counseling office via e-mail at [Amanda\\_Schmidt@dpsk12.org](mailto:Amanda_Schmidt@dpsk12.org) if you're planning to attend!*



## Speech & Debate Team Welcomes Veteran Coach

GW Speech and Debate welcomes Coach Maryrose Kohan. Ms. Kohan comes to us from Widefield, Colorado where she has been coaching speech and debate for seven years. Last year, she was the director of the state tournament. The GW speech parents' organization will host a kickoff party in September to welcome Ms. Kohan and get the season's activities underway.

GW's cross-examination debate team of **Gabe Stein** and **Jordan Bernhardt** competed at the NFL national tournament in Dallas, Texas in June, along with some 300 teams from across the nation. We are proud of their efforts! Many of last year's students are returning to the team after spending part of their summer working on speech and debate at institutes in California, Georgia, Washington and North Carolina. As for newcomers, Ms. Kohan says, "Please let students know that I welcome anyone who has an interest in joining speech and debate. They should stop by and see me in Room 108." We look forward to a fun, successful season.



### GW IB'er Takes Vegas By Storm!

Congratulations go out to 2000 IB graduate Sierra Boggess, who has critics singing her praises for her performance as Christine in

Hal Prince's giant Las Vegas production of "Phantom of the Opera." "The opera is a huge hit, in large part due to marvelous soprano Sierra Boggess," writes one reviewer. Says *Variety's* Phil Gallo: "For much of the show Boggess, as Christine, displays fabulous technical dexterity with her voice, but on 'All I Ask of You,' the finest love song Andrew Lloyd Webber ... has ever penned, her voice envelops the lyric with striking purity." Wow! Sierra, who was active in theatre at GW, has also performed at the Lincoln Center. After graduating from the GW IB program, Sierra received a BFA in Musical Theatre from Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois.

### Chemistry Class Looking for Parents to Share Knowledge



Chemistry teacher Dr. Jyoti More would like some volunteer parents who are expert in the field of Drugs and Medicines to visit her IB chemistry classes and share their practical knowledge in this field. She can be reached by contacting [Jyoti\\_More@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jyoti_More@dpsk12.org).

### IB Parents' Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 19 @ 7 p.m.

This meeting is mandatory for parents of freshmen! Freshmen parents will go to the Community Room, where a panel of sophomores will answer questions and share insights on what it takes to succeed in the GW IB environment.

Parents of upperclassmen will report to the Library to hear Dan Franklin talk about the college admission process, from finding the right school to navigating the financial aid system and writing a successful application essay.



# Calendar



## **August**

- 21 First day of school for 9th graders**
- 22 First day of school for 10th, 11th and 12th graders**
- 29 IB Picnic, Creekside Park, 6 – 8 p.m. (See front page for details.)**

## **September**

- 1 NO SCHOOL**
- 4 NO SCHOOL**
- 5 C.S.C. meeting – Community Room, 6 – 8 p.m.**
- 7 Back to School Night, 5 – 7:30 p.m.**
- 8 Picture Retakes, and New Student Pictures taken, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
- 9 Practice PSAT (\$10) (See p. 5 for details.)**
- 18 C.S.C. meeting – Community Room, 6 – 8 p.m.**
- 19 IB Parents' Association meeting, mandatory for parents of freshmen, 7 p.m.**
- 20 GW PTSA meeting, Community Room, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**
- 25-29 First Grading Period**
- 27 “Winning the College Admission Game” with Peter VanBuskirk, 7 p.m. (\$5 at the door) (See p. 5 for details.)**

---

### 2006-2007 IB Parents' Association Board of Directors George Washington High School

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Co-Presidents</i>         | <b>Debi Roads</b> • 303.399.8801 • dardenvr@aol.com AND <b>Andrea Shea</b> • 303.722.9033 • aspurecolor@aol.com   |
| <i>Vice Presidents</i>       | <b>Alan Gottlieb</b> • 303.733.4134 • AGOTTLIE@piton.org AND <b>Sue Whitnah</b> • 720.747.2129 • dwhitnah@msn.com   |
| <i>Treasurer</i>             | <b>Janice Thomas</b> • 303.757.1624 • janicekempthomas@yahoo.com  |
| <i>Secretary</i>             | <b>Jeanne Dise-Lewis</b> • 303.322.3094 • dise-lewis.jeanne@tchden.org  |
| <i>Broadcaster Editors</i>   | <b>Sarah Fisher</b> • 303.761.5956 • sarahfi2003@msn.com AND <b>Susie Sigman</b> • 303.771.6186 • susie728@comcast.net AND <b>Crystal Santistevan</b> • 303.934.3052 • crystalanddennis@comcast.net   |
| <i>Senior Brunch</i>         | <b>Julia Barry</b> • 303.333.9603 • dady121@comcast.net AND <b>Carole Ibarra</b> • 303.322.2998 • cibarra@hitachiconsulting.com   |
| <i>Student Directory</i>     | <b>Eva Chan</b> • 303.220.1776 • eva_fy_chan@yahoo.com AND <b>Helen Kemp</b> • 720.422.4808 • jhr239@msn.com  |
| <i>Freshman Orientation</i>  | <b>Jan Sharoff</b> • 303.331.0258 • jan.sharoff@adams12.org   |
| <i>CAS</i>                   | <b>Toni Latcham</b> • 303.331.0253 • ahlatch@msn.com AND <b>Gail Sigman</b> • 303.388.1118 • gsigman@ltgc.com   |
| <i>Teacher Appreciation</i>  | <b>Lisa Haddox</b> • 303.377.7099 • Lisa_Haddox@nps.gov AND <b>Rita Gibson</b> • 720.935.4437 • rgibson57@earthlink.net AND <b>Julie Lays</b> • 303.753.1641 • jjlays@earthlink.net AND <b>Helen Atkeson</b> • 303.333.1133 • HCAtkeson@HHLAW.com |
| <i>IB Ambassadors</i>        | <b>Andrea Shea</b> • 303.722.9033 • aspurecolor@aol.com AND <b>Terry Brandl</b> • 303.333.7018 • stainedglassbear@yahoo.com   |
| <i>Fall Picnic</i>           | <b>Diane Page</b> • 303.670.0583 • dipage1010@aol.com   |
| <i>8th Gr. Welcome Fest</i>  | <b>Jennifer Ostrom</b> • 720.748.1492 • OstromJ@sec.gov   |
| <i>College Counseling</i>    | <b>Diane Page</b> • 303.670.0583 • dipage1010@aol.com AND <b>Linda During</b> • 303.694.9266 • lmd329@juno.com  |
| <i>Minority Initiative</i>   | <b>Tim Biscaye</b> • 303.459.5352 • tbiscaye@cproject.com   |
| <i>IB CSC Representative</i> |   |

**<http://www.gwhs.denver.k12.co.us/ib/>**