



Meet the IB Staff Amanda Schmidt Keeps IB Program Humming Along



Multi-talented Amanda Schmidt is in her third year of working at GW and her eighth year of teaching. She is not a new face at GW, however. Amanda Bollacker, now our Mrs. Schmidt, is a 1995 graduate of our very own IB program. She went on to graduate from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA with a degree in Business Management and German and obtained her teaching certification from Gwynedd-Mercy College in Business and Computer Science. Mrs. Schmidt is currently enrolled at the University of Denver to receive her certification to become a principal as well as her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership.

While grad school is certainly keeping her busy, Mrs. Schmidt continues to advise the school newspaper, *The Surveyor*, at GW. She took 31 students to Nashville, Tenn., with Mr. Achbach for the Journalism Education Association's Fall National Scholastic Journalism Convention. The newspaper is lucky to have the support of the *Rocky Mountain News* and the CU Boulder School of Journalism and Mass Communication through a grant from the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Be sure to ask your children to bring home the paper each month!

After teaching newspaper class during 2nd period, Mrs. Schmidt returns to her beautifully furnished office (thanks to the IB parents!) to keep track of shadowing visitors, college applications, 8th grade IB applications, college visitors and questions from IB students. While she is a busy woman, Mrs. Schmidt is never too busy to help a student. Please stop by any time. As an IB graduate, she can certainly relate to many of the things students are experiencing.

On a separate note, Mrs. Schmidt wants everyone to know she has been having some trouble with her email. Some parents and students have sent messages that have never arrived in her inbox. Please know that if you send an email and do not receive a response within a few days, chances are the email has been lost in cyberspace. The technical crew is looking into this issue, but in the mean time, please follow up with a phone call to 720.423.8673.

Mrs. Schmidt and husband Justin have two miniature dachshunds, Cougar and Bear. They love to travel, ski, and visit the east coast where many of their friends and family live. We are lucky to have this hard-working woman at GW. Thanks, Amanda!



Speakers, Meetings, Committees and More

The monthly parents' meeting on Tuesday, November 14 featured financial aid consultant **Elinor Miller** from Regis University, who gave a

comprehensive course on financing our children's college education. Ms. Miller clearly identified the numerous types of financial aid available and the steps to take to figure out what kind of financial aid we qualify for. The steps may be different depending on the type of college our child applies to and attends. For example, a public university is likely to use only the Federal form (which does not count the value of the family home as an asset), whereas many private colleges use a more comprehensive form, which, because it includes more categories of assets, calculates a lower aid package. On the other hand, unlike public schools, a number of private schools have sufficient funds so that they can meet the calculated financial needs of all students they admit. She recommends that parents not wait until their child's senior year to find out the amount and kind of aid that might be available.

Don't forget our January parents' meeting on **Tuesday, January 9, at 7 p.m.** in the GW Community Room with a panel of GW IB graduates, **Diane Schaffer** and **Suzanne Geimer**. The group will focus on finding the right fit for colleges and alternatives such as taking a Gap Year. They will tell us about their experiences in college. You are sure to enjoy this always-popular presentation.

In the IB Office, **Suzanne Geimer, Amanda Schmidt, Dan Franklin** and administrative staff and parent volunteers have been a model of organization in helping our seniors apply to colleges. Not only have they been writing counselor recommendations and preparing application packets, but also scheduling numerous college information sessions and even sending notes to students to encourage them to attend particular presentations.

In addition to assisting our upcoming graduates, the IB Office has hosted almost daily

shadowing visits, copied notices for all DPS 8th graders that scored "advanced" on last spring's CSAP tests and sent representatives—usually Ms. Geimer accompanied by current IB students—to a number of middle schools.

Closely related to recruitment are the activities of **Tim Biscaye** and the Minority Initiative. Tim has taken this committee school-wide and is working closely with **Mario Williams**, our principal, and a small group of dedicated parents. If you are interested in participating in the committee or just want to share your ideas, please send Tim an email at timbiscaye@takeitglobal.org.

Another terrifically active committee to join is CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) headed by **Gail Sigman** and **Toni Latcham**. CAS representatives have been holding writing workshops with our sophomores and juniors, and are working with seniors in preparation for the Senior CAS interviews. The Teacher Appreciation Committee, headed by **Lisa Haddox** and **Rita Gibson**, will be having a school-wide breakfast on **Wednesday, January 10 from 7 - 9:30 a.m.** in the Community Room. Please contact Lisa if you are interested in participating. The IB Welcome Fest is scheduled for February 28 and will need many parents to help. This is an energy-charged evening that welcomes potential IB students and provides a venue to recruit new club and team members for the 2007-2008 school year. Please email **Jennifer Nostrum** at OstromJ@sec.gov if interested.

Remember you still have the opportunity to provide voluntary dues to the IB Parents' Association (payable to the "IB Parent Group") and tax-deductible contributions to the IB Foundation (checks payable to "Friends of IB Scholars Foundation"). The Parents' Association dues are critical to maintaining the energy of our students and faculty, while the Foundation funds help to maintain the academic strength of the IB Program. Please send your contributions, with a note stating whether they are Association dues or a Foundation contribution, to **Janice Thomas**, Treasurer, 1634 Leyden Street, Denver, Colorado 80224.

Debra Roads and Andrea Shea, Board Co-Presidents



Camp Rising Sun

Rhinebeck, NY

June 23 – August 18, 2007

IB FRESHMEN: If you would like the experience of a lifetime then consider applying for a life-changing summer at Camp Rising Sun in Rhinebeck, NY.

Check it out: <http://www.lajf.org>

Are you a high academic achiever, talented, courageous, curious, interested in international issues, and adventurous? Then consider applying to attend Camp Rising Sun, a *full scholarship* leadership summer camp in upstate New York.

Application deadline is February 10, 2007. Interviews will be held at The Daniels Fund Building, 101 Monroe St. at a later date.

Each summer **one boy** and **one girl** are chosen to represent Colorado.

Age: **Campers may not turn age 16 prior to August 23, 2007.**

Contact: Lynne Montrose, lmontros@regis.edu for more information.

The George Washington IB program has a wonderful alumni group of 8 students & their parents who would be happy to tell you about CRS. They include: Shana Montrose, Emily Broyles, Hannah Kapnik, Meera Rao, Anna Bessesen, Karen Clothier, and Tyler Bray, and Angela Bae.

This eight week camp has been in operation for 77 years. 60 girls and 60 boys are selected from all over the world. They live together, work together, camp, hike, swim, talk, act in plays, sing, do projects and live the mission of camp: to see a video of camp go to www.lajf.org.

Mission of Camp Rising Sun

- To foster an appreciation of both diversity and common humanity of the participants and encourage lasting friendships across boundaries of color, religion, gender, and nationality.
- To expand the participant's intellectual horizons through serious discussion of personal and world issues and by encouraging introspection; to heighten artistic sensibilities through guided exploration.
- To develop leadership abilities and self-reliance by encouraging each participant to take on significant projects and responsibilities for the program and to gain experience in motivating others.
- To offer and demonstrate by action a strong working philosophy of living characterized by the belief that personal fulfillment flows from making lifelong commitments to serving society through the pursuit of humanitarian goals.



Help Make Welcome Fest the Best Fest Yet!

The IB Parents' Board is pleased to announce the annual Welcome Fest, set for **Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m.** at George. We are looking for IB students who are involved with extracurricular activities and are willing to share their experiences. Free pizza will be served before the event for participating students!

I would like to hear from anyone who wants to showcase their talents, clubs, competitions, honor societies, sports, and so on. This would be a great way to recruit members for your activities and get a start on next year's membership! If anyone has art they would like to display or a performance they would like to try out, there is also room for you. We would also welcome any 9th graders who would be willing to act as general hosts and interact with the prospective students. I also welcome parent volunteers to help staff the event and/or provide baked goods. Please call me at 720.748.1492, or e-mail me at jnnfrcara@earthlink.net to volunteer.

Jennifer Ostrom

Model UN Team Meets with Success

Congratulations to the Model UN team for their outstanding performance at the Cherry Creek-Smoky Hill meet Saturday, November 18. The following received honorable mention: **Peter Hefti** and **Andrew Shum** for Afghanistan, **Amie Kashon** and **Maddie Wolberg** for Qatar, and **Peter Smith** and **Michael Skeen** for Tanzania in the Security Council. **Emily Sigman** and **Sam Handler** won best delegations for North Korea UN Environmental Program. **Ben Morrow** and **Nick Maston** won outstanding delegation (1st place) for the United Kingdom in the Security Council. A huge thanks to **Emily Sigman** for making this meet such a success. Great job Model UN!

Leslie Whitty

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast Set for Wednesday, January 10

We need volunteers to provide food! The Teacher Appreciation Committee will be providing all GW teachers and staff breakfast on Wednesday, January 10 as a thank you for all their extra effort. If you can help provide food, please e-mail Helen Atkeson at HCAtkeson@HHLAW.com. Thanks so much!



Holiday Teacher Gifts

As a holiday gift, IB teachers each received \$100 from the IB Parents' Association to help make their holidays a little bit brighter. It is a small token for all they do for our kids. We're lucky to have them. **THANK YOU TEACHERS**—you are the best! And thank you parents for supporting the Parents' Association.

Let's hear it for Mr. Achbach, Teacher Award Nominee

Your support is needed to make it happen!

The IB Parents' Association is proud to announce that Bill Achbach is the GWHS nominee for the 2007 Denver Teachers' Award. This award is to honor teachers of the Denver Public Schools and the vital role they play in our community.

The Denver Teachers' Award is a competitive nomination. **We need your help!** Please write a letter extolling the teaching excellence of Mr. Achbach using examples from your student's experience in the classroom and your interactions with Mr.

Achbach. Examples are key. If your student is a current or former student of Mr. Achbach, we want them to write a letter as well!



Email your letter to Amanda Schmidt (Amanda_Schmidt@dpsk12.org) or drop your letter off in the IB office no later than January 15.

For more information on the Denver Teachers' Award visit the website: www.DenverTeachersAwards.org.

Questions? Contact Tom Waymire: trwaymire@aol.com or Cathy Stamp: cathy.stamp@kimball.com.

AP Testing Schedule

The following is the schedule for AP testing. Students interested in taking one of the following tests, must sign up by February 1 in Room 125. The fee for each test is \$83 and must be paid to the bookkeeper prior to signing up for any test. IB students are invited to take the tests, but remember to double check that there is no conflict with IB testing. IB Students should not take any AP exam for which they have not specifically prepared. Please call **Courtney Black** at 720.423.8637 with any questions.

Week 1

	Morning Session: 8 a.m.*	Afternoon Session: 12 p.m.*
Monday, May 7	Government and Politics: United States	Government and Politics: Comparative** French Language**
Tuesday, May 8	Computer Science A** Computer Science AB** Spanish Language**	Statistics
Wed., May 9	Calculus AB** Calculus BC**	Chinese Language and Culture
Thurs., May 10	English Literature** German Language**	Japanese Language and Culture** French Literature**
Friday, May 11	United States History	European History Studio Art (portfolios due)

Week 2

	Morning Session: 8 a.m.*	Afternoon Session: 12 p.m.*	Afternoon Session: 2 p.m.
Monday, May 14	Biology** Music Theory**	Physics B** Physics C: Mechanics**	Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism**
Tuesday, May 15	Environmental Science** Chemistry**	Psychology	
Wed., May 16	Italian Language and Culture** English Language**	Art History	
Thurs., May 17	Macroeconomics** World History**	Microeconomics	
Friday, May 18	Human Geography** Spanish Literature**	Latin Literature** Latin: Vergil**	

A Great Tennis Season for GWHS Boys

On the evening of November 9, approximately 45 students and parents met to celebrate the conclusion of another successful tennis season at the George Washington Boys' Tennis Team banquet. Of the 35 players on the tennis team, 29 are in the IB program at George Washington.

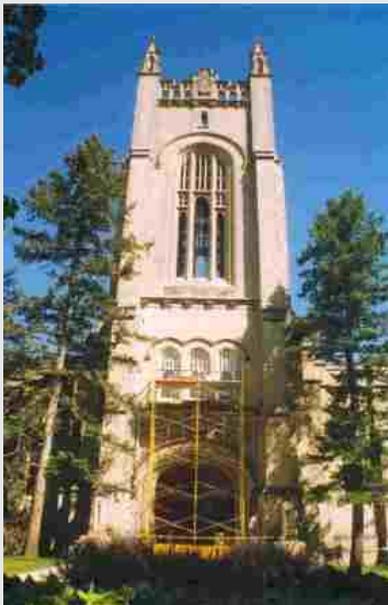
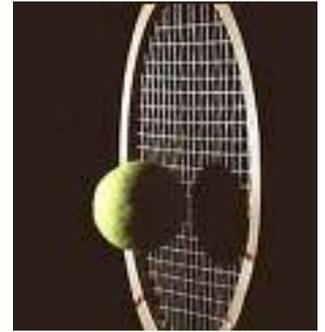
This was one of the most successful seasons in the eight years that Coach Ken Mason has been the head coach of the team. For the first time GWBT fielded a second varsity squad. A record 26 players received a varsity letter this year. In a more typical year, the tennis team might letter 11 or 12. Both squads had successful seasons. The first varsity squad had 6 wins and 3 losses including wins over Colorado Academy and Cherry Creek III. They came in second in the Denver Prep League, but finished fourth in the regional state qualifying tournament. The second varsity had 6 wins and 2 losses. With wins over Lincoln and South High School they could have finished in the top 4 in the DPL. They also won the JV/V2 doubles tournament

in dominant fashion. The following IB students lettered:

Varsity 1: Adrian Leanza • Eric Finch • Brian Lays • Avery Colomb • Elias Thomas • Aaron Bernhardt • Melvin Ramsey • Zander Loudon • Peter Wright • Calvin Ward

Varsity 2: Brett Eagle • Alex Wilson • Jared Downing • Brent Gaisford • Peter Smith • Brian Trubowitz • Parker Martin • Michael Skeen • Henry Biermann • Nicholas Henry

Coach Mason commented, "This has been a rewarding season, but they usually are working with the best and the brightest students in the Denver Public Schools. Some of these players have been working since last June. They participated in the George Washington Summer Tennis Clinic Series. With a strong incoming freshman class I look forward to continuing to have a solid tennis team."



Congratulations! Seniors Get Early Admission

Several IB Seniors have been accepted Early Admission to some great schools. Congratulations to Reina Doyle—Coe College; Raphaela Lipinsky-DeGette—Brown; Rebecca Clark—Columbia University; Sam Handler—Carleton College; Katya Thronweber—Carleton College. Several students have also gained admission to CU Boulder under their rolling admission procedure, but have yet to commit to attending and will wait until the spring admission time, according to the IB office.

DPS Student Services News

Disability Classification: What You Need to Know

This is the time of the year when the school receives questions from parents in relation to Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973) eligibility. Under Section 504 a person is disabled if he or she: “has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. “Major life activities” include functions such as caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.” When a condition does not substantially limit a major life activity, the individual does not qualify under Section 504.

Many times parents will provide the school with copies of evaluations conducted by private professionals or medical records from a primary care physician and ask that the school develop a Section 504 Plan for their child. While a private provider may diagnose a condition or impairment and submit recommendations, the school Section 504 Team is responsible for determining eligibility. It is important to remember that simply having a disability does not mean the student is eligible for protections under Section 504.

When determining eligibility under Section 504, the Section 504 Team (of which the parent is a member) will consider the extent to which the child with the impairment is unable to perform a major life activity that the average student can perform or if the child is significantly restricted

as to the condition, manner, or duration of performing the activity as compared to the average student.

When determining eligibility, the Section 504 Team will take into account measures that correct or mitigate the impairment in deciding if the impairment is substantially limiting. A student whose physical or mental impairment is corrected by medication or other measures does not have an impairment that presently “substantially limits” a major life activity. A “disability” exists only where there is an impairment that currently “substantially limits” a major life activity, not where it “might,” “could,” or “would” be substantially limiting if mitigating measures were not taken. A student is eligible for protections if the Section 504 Team determines: the physical or mental impairment “substantially limits” a major life activity; and because of the disability the student is unable to receive the school district’s services as adequately as non-disabled peers; and the student requires a service or accommodation that is not available to all students.

Parents may contact the school psychologist for information in relation to school referral procedures. Additional information in relation to Section 504 is available on the DPS Student Services web at: <http://sts.dpsk12.org/Section504> .

Pamela Bisceglia, Denver Public Schools Department of Student Services, Office of Special Education. Phone: 720.423.3571.

Scholarships Are Available for Summer Leadership Camp

Are you a high academic achiever, talented, courageous, curious, interested in international issues, and adventurous? Then consider applying to attend Camp Rising Sun, a full scholarship leadership summer camp in upstate New York.

See the flyer on page 3 in this month’s IB Broadcaster for more information!



Speech and Debate Team on Fire!

Six Novice competitors brought back trophies from the Cheyenne East Tournament in Wyoming including (left to right) Gabe Rusk, Lawson Williams, Daniel Tuchler, Aerick Francis, and Ryan Boyd.

Thanks to great leadership from our new Speech and Debate coach, Ms. Maryrose Kohan, the team is earning bigger

and better awards every week. Recently, 28 competitors traveled to Wyoming for the Cheyenne East Tournament and made their mark in this multi-state competition. **Gabe Stein** and **Jordan Bernhardt** placed second in Varsity Cross Examination. **Cody Troyer** and **Granger Atkeson** took second in Varsity Public Forum debate. **Joanna Foote** placed 6th in Varsity Extemporaneous speaking. Novice **Lawson Williams** placed second in Extemporaneous speaking, and **Luke Liechty** placed 5th in Novice Original Oratory. Novice Public Forum competitors **Jesus Munoz/ Ryan Boyd** and **Gabe Rusk/Daniel Tuchler** closed out novice Public Forum debate, which means that all four took first place! A special thanks to the chaperones who made this trip possible: **Helen Atkeson, Lisa Hartman, Jon Bernhardt, and John Pettit**. Ms. Kohan is especially proud of all the new competitors; they are improving at a rapid rate. The varsity team is preparing for prestigious out-of-state tournaments at Arizona State University in January

and UC Berkeley in February.

Other highlights include: Seniors **Gabe Stein, Zafar Moosajee**, and **Aaron** and **Jordan Bernhardt** traveled to a Tournament of Champions bid tournament at Alta High School in Sandy, Utah. Gabe and Jordan placed 14th out of 84 teams, and Aaron and Zafar finished in the top half. Gabe and Jordan have been Cross Examination finalists at two Denver tournaments, and Aaron and Zafar closed out finals with them at DPS. Sophomore **Joanna Foote** has been in finals twice in Extemp; freshmen **Daniel Tuchler** and **Gabe Rusk** were third in Public Forum at Lakewood-Golden and have signed up for all the tournaments so far this year; and juniors **Granger Atkeson** and **Cody Troyer** made finals three times in Public Forum taking first place at Lakewood-Golden.

The team would not be so robust without steadfast and reliable help from volunteers who judge events, provide food for day-long meets, attend team meetings, and help with fundraising. So far we have had the energetic participation of **Helen Atkeson** and **Stan Raine, Young** and **Alex Bae, Cindy Lampner, Jon** and **Susan Bernhardt, Jennie Kempe, Sheri Boyd, Claudia Arambula, Steve Epstein, Lyda** and **John Gardiner, Lisa Hartman** and **Ed Stein, Jennifer Hulac, Peggy Jurgs, Adrienne Mullinaux, Robert Liechty, Yanyun** and **Mark Manton, Shiraz Moosajee, Don Quade, Cindy Rusk, Angela Savage, Jan Sharoff, Joanne Stroud, Pam Troyer, Susan Tuchler, Jami Ware, Amy Wood, Bill Crossen, John Pettit, and Joe LaRocca**. The speech team is enormously grateful for support from Mr. Williams. If we've forgotten anyone, please let us know so we can make sure we include all Speech and Debate supporters in the next article.

Do You Understand IB-ese?

The International Baccalaureate program has a language all its own. To help you navigate some of this lingo, below are definitions to some of the most commonly-used IB terms. And, if you're still scratching your head about a term thrown around by the IB faculty or staff, don't hesitate to ask **Suzanne Geimer**, or any IB teacher.

The Hexagon: The subjects and activities which comprise the courseload for an IB student; all students must complete a course in each of the six subjects of the Hexagon, as well as complete internal assessment requirements and take oral and written examinations in each of these six subjects.

Group 1 (Language A): The language of instruction in the school; usually the student's first language

Group 2 (Language B): The second (or foreign) language taken; it must not be the language the student already uses or understands.

Group 3: Individual and Societies

Group 4: Experimental Sciences

Group 5: Mathematics

Group 6: Arts and Electives. IB Visual Arts or IB Music or a second choice of Group 2, 3, or 4.

TOK: Theory of Knowledge class taken by the IB student in grades 11 and/or 12.

Extended Essay: Essay of approximately 4,000 words; research and writing done during the IB student's junior year with draft due in May; final submission due early in Senior year.

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS): This is the volunteer component of IB; students are required to amass 150 hours of creative, physically active, and service hours during the junior and senior years. Self reflection is an important component.

Diploma Candidate: A student taking IB courses (one from each part of the Hexagon: three of the IB courses must be HL, and three must be SL), and the TOK course, writing an Extended Essay, and participating in CAS.

SL (standard level): A one- or two-year course; a maximum of two SL exams may be taken at the end of the junior year.

HL (higher level): A two-year course; all HL exams are taken at the end of the senior year.

Paper: Examination (for example, a candidate in HL English sits for two papers, four hours total.)

Sit a paper: Take a written test (every IB student needs to take a total of six IB exams with each scored from 0 to 7 points. Students need a total of 24 points to earn the IB Diploma).

Script: The student's answers to a paper.

Invigilate: To proctor.

Internal Assessment: Student's work that is marked by the student's teacher and then moderated by an outside expert.

External Assessment: The student's script or coursework marked by an outside examiner.

Ab initio: A beginning level of a Language B; available only to juniors who have never studied the target language before (available at GW in French only.)

Anticipated: The junior year designation of the student intending to be a Diploma candidate.

Malpractice: Cheating. The IB organization retains the right to disallow any student work it considers not the student's own and not properly cited; a growing issue internationally.

Certificate: Document issued to a student who fails to satisfy the conditions for the award of the Diploma, including grades obtained in individual subjects, together with results of TOK, the Extended Essay and completion of CAS.

Component scores: Marks that a student earns on the individual pieces of internal assessment and externally-assessed test papers; these scores add up to the score that is referred to as the test score for that subject. Generally component scores are not shared with the student.

Thanks for Lunch!

Thank you to Kathleen Shea
and LeeAnn Huntington who
provided lunch for the IB teachers and staff on November 20.
The teachers also received Chipotle burrito coupons. We
appreciate Chipotle for their donation.



IB Parent Association Calendar 2007



- ◆ The Parent Association Board meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month (exceptions listed below)
- ◆ Parent meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (exceptions listed below)

January

- 9: Parent Meeting in the Community Room 7-9 pm Topic: College Experience after IB. Panel of GW Graduates, Diane Schaffer & Suzanne Geimer

February

- 1: All School College Information Night in Auditorium with Dan Franklin 7-9 p.m.
6: Board Meeting, 7 p.m. in Room 128
13: Parent Meeting focusing on 9th, 10th & 11th Graders, in the Community Room, 6-9 p.m. Topic: CAS information/ Summer opportunities/travel
28: IB Welcome Fest for incoming Freshmen

March

- 6: Board Meeting in Room 128
13: Parent Meeting: Parent and Student Survival in College-Community Room 6-9 p.m.

April

- 3: Board Meeting in Room 128
10: Parent meeting (Topic TBD)-Community Room 7-9 p.m.

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

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