



January Parent Meeting

IB Grads in College Come Home to Share Insights

The first IB Parent Meeting of the New Year will be held on **Tuesday, January 8, 2008, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Community Room.** This meeting will feature a panel of GW IB graduates who will share with us their impressions and experiences as college students, and address how the IB program helped to prepare them for college.

This evening's program promises to be enjoyable, insightful, and a crowd-pleaser – it's traditionally one of our most popular Parent Meetings – so plan on arriving early. There will be ample time for questions from (anxious) parents and (eager) IB students about to begin the college experience.

Of course, **IB students are always welcome to attend our monthly Parent Meetings, and we especially encourage our students to attend this evening's panel presentation.** We hope to see everyone there!

As in past years, in deference to the holiday season, there will be no IB Parent Meeting In December.

Thank you!

We would like to acknowledge the Denver Public Schools IKON team, led by William Roche. The IKON team copies, folds, and handles the bulk mailing of our *IB Broadcaster* each month. They have done an outstanding and professional job of distributing this newsletter in an expedient manner to ensure delivery to your mail box. Obviously, we couldn't do it without them. If you're ever in the sub-basement of the DPS Administration building, stop in and say hi. Thanks, IKON. **We appreciate you!**

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IKON Team, left to right (front row) **Asia Glinisty, Phillip Robertson, Quita Napier, William Roche, Jared Richey,** (back row) **Jacob Garcia, Chris Tovrea, and Joel Ibarra.** Not pictured: **Leonard Abeyta, James Johnson, Shelly Wetekam, Joseph Lawrence**



From the Board

Our November IB Parent Meeting focusing on financial aid and financial planning was very well-attended, with over 100 parents and students absorbing information from **CollegeInvest's Meghan Cave and Solutions For Tuition's Eric Hofman and Jay Murray.**

We learned much about the intricacies of financing a college education, and were given an opportunity to ask our burning questions relating to the 'bottom line' of sending our students to college. The IB Parents Association extended a special invitation to the entire school to attend this meeting, and we were glad to see many families join us. We hope to hold additional events in the future that will be of interest to IB and non-IB students and families alike.

We will finalize our budget in the next few weeks and hope to have a positive impact in supporting the IB Program and other activities at GW. We plan to issue a budget report in the next issue of the Broadcaster to let IB families know where your contributions are going.

All IB parents are also reminded to make a tax-deductible contribution to the **Friends of IB Scholars Foundation**, to support the efforts of the Foundation in providing funding to IB students for fees and materials, as well as for IB equipment, fees, training, materials, and faculty and student development. Contributions can be made to Friends of IB Scholars Foundation, and can be sent to Janice Thomas, Treasurer, 1634 South Leyden Street, Denver, CO 80224.

We hope you enjoy a rewarding and relaxing holiday season, and we look forward to seeing everyone at the IB Parents Association meeting on January 8th. Cheers to everyone!

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

**Seasons Greetings**

Your Donation Matters!

The IB Parents Association **Voluntary Dues Campaign** welcomes all donations, *no matter how small.*

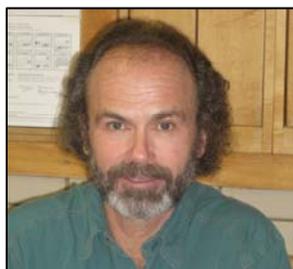
So far, only 79 of our IB families have participated in this campaign. We appreciate these contributions so much. And we hope those families who have not yet contributed may be able to do so soon—any amount helps!

Please send your tax-deductible donation (checks payable to “IB Parent Group”) to **Janice Thomas, Treasurer, 1634 South Leyden St., Denver, CO 80224.**

THANK YOU!

People You Should Know

Have a question about biology or anything at all? Mr. Irwin is the person to ask.



Richard Irwin

Mr. Irwin earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees at CU-Boulder and CSU, respectively, in the area of ecology, and completed PhD work at CSU in botany. Although Mr. Irwin originally intended to be a researcher, he decided to become a teacher after working as a teaching assistant during graduate school. Mr. Irwin began his teaching career at West Middle School in Grand Junction. After one year of teaching math and physics at West, he transferred to the IB program here at George Washington. For the past 22 years, Mr. Irwin has taught higher-level biology and environmental systems.

Mr. Irwin has high hopes for his students. "I hope they will learn as much information as I can teach." He simply expects his students to want to learn and to get pleasure from learning. Mr. Irwin's best memory of GW so far has been the enjoyment of teaching his students. "I like teaching IB students because they want to learn. There's no wall between you and the students; they're like grownups." Mr. Irwin advises his students, "Enjoy what you do and whatever you do, do it as hard as you can."

He certainly takes his own advice to heart. He stays very busy in his spare time hiking, camping, traveling, and pursuing his interest in photography. His favorite travel destinations are Beijing, China and Belize. He also enjoys spending time with his wife and three terriers. If given the opportunity to do anything, Mr. Irwin would like to follow the Silk Road.

Whether sharing stories of his adventures or teaching physiology, Mr. Irwin always fascinates his classes with his wealth of knowledge in the classroom and in the field. Being in his class is an experience not to be missed. Thus, Mr. Irwin tops the list of people you should know.

Caitlin Opperman
Student IB Reporter

"No mystery to success.
Just passion, determination and perseverance
when everybody else quits."

Ginny Rometti
Senior VP, IBM Global Businesses

Model UN Team Wins Big



Congratulations to GW's **Model UN team** for its fantastic performance at the Cherry Creek/Smoky Hill meet on November 10. **The team won in every council that we represented.**

The following won honorable mention: in the Security Council, **Sam Clark** and **Chris Lowe** for Canada, **Lydia Loopesko** and **Sarah Wolberg** for Peru, and **Ella Peterson** and **Becca Chazin** for Panama; in the UN Environment Programme, **Brent Gaisford** and **Brian Trubowitz** for Sierra Leone; and in the Ad Hoc Committee on Biodiversity, **Amie Kashon** and **Maddie Wohberg** for Costa Rica.



Nate Austin and **Emily Peterson** won outstanding delegation for Japan in the UN Environment Programme. **D.J. Mares** and **Brinton Mitchell** won best delegation for the USA in the Security Council. **Kalyn Tung** and **Peter Smith for China** also participated in this competition. Great job, Model UN!

Leslie Whitty
IB Teacher



George Drama

Remember to check out George's Drama website to get up-to-date info on upcoming performances:
<http://www.georgedrama.com>

2007-2008 Main Stage Performances:

| Show | Audition Dates | Performance Dates |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Musical: Once on This Island , a Jamaican Legend | Dec. 3-6, 2007 | Feb. 27-March 1, 2008 |
| War of the Worlds , a radio play | March 5-7, 2008 | April 24-26, 2008 and May 2-3, 2008 |

IB COLLEGE COUNSELING CORNER



Our column's regulars will recognize much of this month's content as repetitive (not to say nagging). We offer this service to administrators and parents, who may be growing tired of hearing their own voices heralding these deadlines. Students who are on time or early should give themselves a well-deserved pat on the back. For those who are lagging, now is the time to get back on track. You'll feel so much better – REALLY.

SENIORS should be finalizing their regular-deadline applications, since the regular deadline for most colleges falls between January 1 and January 15 and conventional wisdom says that earlier submissions receive more thorough consideration. Seniors should turn in any last-minute requests for transcripts, school reports, counselor recommendations, and/or school supplemental forms (with completed half-sheet tracking forms) to Ms. Geimer ASAP. If you have any late requests for teacher recommendations, please be sure to get those forms and stamped/addressed envelopes to teachers ASAP as well. Any supporting documents from the school that are not sent out before Winter Break begins on December 21 will have to wait until after January 7, and will therefore miss early January deadlines. Reduce stress by completing applications and paperwork sooner rather than later! Early Decision and Early Action results will be arriving soon. Please remember to share outcomes with Ms. Geimer and with teachers who provided recommendations.

PARENTS OF SENIORS should be gearing up to prepare 2007 tax returns and the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA; www.fafsa.ed.gov) as early in the New Year as possible. Many colleges also require the CSS Profile and/or their own additional applications. Financial aid deadlines vary, so please be diligent about tracking and meeting them at your chosen schools.

JUNIORS should arrange at least one individual meeting with IB college counselor, **Dan Franklin**. Students initiate these appointments by signing themselves up for a time in the appointment binder located in the Future Center. Juniors should also be working their way through the tasks on the Junior College Checklist that they received from Mr. Franklin in September. Students may direct questions to Mr. Franklin at collegehelpguy@yahoo.com, with "GWIB" in the subject line. If your Junior wants to visit out-of-state colleges while they are in session, this is a good time to begin planning a Spring Break trip. Now is also a good time to plan for the ACT with or without the Writing Test and/or the SAT with or without Subject Tests. The ACT without Writing will be administered during the school day on **April 23**. The testing program web sites (www.act.org and www.collegeboard.com) have more detailed

information and are a good source for test preparation books, as are local book stores. There will be a Spring College Fair at DU on Sunday, April 6, 1 – 4 PM, aimed at Juniors and interested Sophomores.

During December **PSAT/NMSQT** results from October will be distributed to those students who opted to test. National Merit semi-finalists and Commended Students for the Class of 2009 will be announced in Fall 2008.

SOPHOMORES and FRESHMEN considering applications to highly selective colleges requiring Subject Tests should investigate whether they should take one or more at the end of this school year. This would only be indicated for students who might need a specific Subject Test (e.g., Chemistry or Biology) and who do not plan to continue with that subject after May. Sophomores who took the PLAN (or pre-ACT) Test on October 15 will be getting feedback on their performance and on their responses to the interest portion of the test soon. **PARENTS**, don't miss this chance to start exploring post-high-school possibilities with your student.

Linda During, College Counseling Chair

| <i>Test</i> | <i>2007-2008 Test Date</i> | <i>Regular Deadline</i> | <i>Late (additional fee) Registration</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| ACT | Dec. 8 | Passed | Passed |
| SAT & Subject Tests | Jan. 26 | Dec. 26 | Jan. 4 |
| ACT | Feb. 9 | Jan. 4 | Jan. 18 |
| SAT only | Mar. 1 | Jan. 29 | Feb. 7 |
| ACT | Apr. 12 | Mar. 7 | Mar. 21 |
| ACT without Writing (Jrs) | Apr. 23 | N/A | N/A |
| SAT & Subject Tests | May 3 | Apr. 1 | Apr. 10 |
| SAT & Subject Tests | June 7 | May 6 | May 15 |
| ACT | June 14 | May 9 | May 23 |

Director's Corner



Suzanne Geimer

This change in semester heralds more than a simple change in year for some pre-IB and IB students. A few of your classmates have come to realize that IB is not for them and have left the Program for the traditional George curriculum.

Our "2 D" Policy seems threatening and a little rigid to some, but please be assured that

our twenty-year experience with finding appropriate ways to smoothly exit the Program has proven that this policy is in the best interest of the students. A semester seems to be the best length of time to "step up to the challenge." Students often mislead themselves that "just one more term will allow me to develop those missing study habits and catch up." Poor habits are tough to break and students at the D level are usually profoundly behind in course content and authentic motivation.

A clean start in new courses allows these students the relief of a new attitude and a chance to once again be the scholars they have the potential to be. Wish them success and the opportunity to remain friends and Patriots!

Suzanne Geimer, IB Program Director
720-423-8626, Suzanne_Geimer@dpsk12.org



Brenton Weyi was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the **Providence Foundation of Law and Leadership** at last month's mock trial competition at the Providence Cup, held October 25-27 in Denver. The Cup is sponsored by the Providence Foundation of Law and Leadership.



Brenton Weyi

The foundation was organized to provide a solid foundation for lifetime success to students desiring to learn leadership, trial advocacy and mock trial skills regardless of their financial circumstances, and to provide scholarship funds to students who excel in mock trial competitions. Sponsored programs include not only high school students and mock trial competitions, but law students and new lawyers.

Congratulations, **Brenton!**

<http://www.georgeib.com>

GW Newspaper Receives National Journalism Award

George Washington High School's newspaper, *The Surveyor*, recently received the prestigious **Pacemaker Award**. Established in 1971, this national award recognizes the best high school newspapers across the US. Papers are judged based on "coverage and content, quality of writing and reporting, leadership on the opinion page, evidence of in-depth reporting, design, photography, art and graphics."

This year, 384 newspapers were critiqued by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Only 29 newspapers were announced as Pacemaker Finalists. From those select 29 only 14 received the Pacemaker Award at this year's JEA/NSPA Journalism Convention in Philadelphia. Of those named, *The Surveyor*, advised by **Amanda Schmidt**, was the only high school newspaper in Colorado to receive this honor.

Last year's staff worked in a partnership with the *Rocky Mountain News* and the University of Colorado's School of Journalism. The team received a \$3500 grant from the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Honorees reflect the best of GW, both IB and traditional program students. **Rachel Ibarra**, a freshman at Bowdoin College, and **Anna Michaels**, also a freshman at Lewis and Clark College, were the Editors in Chief of the paper. **Gabe Stein**, a freshman at Boston University, was the Managing Editor. The Editorial Staff included **Aala Abdelgadir**, **Anthony Camera**, **Eugene Doherty**, **Meghan Kleinsteiber**, **Tally Latcham**, **Connor Phillips**, **Brian Sulley**, **Katie Whitnah**, **Kameisha Wiley**, **Connor Williams**, **Joe Wood**, and **Sarah Zapiler**.

This is the first Pacemaker Award that the paper has received in its 48-year history. To see a complete list of winners, visit www.studentpress.org.

National Merit, National Achievement Merit Commended Students



Congratulations to the following **Commended Students!**

National Merit

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Hannah Adler | Michael Skeen |
| Kevin Black | Christine Stewart |
| Max Brennan | Brian Sulley |
| Kevin Fulton | Kalyn Tung |
| Caitlin Opperman | Peter Wright |
| Kathleen Shea | Sarah Zapiler |

National Achievement

Aala Abdelgadir

Committee News You Can Use

The IB Parent Board is pleased to announce the annual **IB Welcome Fest**, scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m. at George. We are **looking for IB students involved with extra-curricular activities** and willing to share their experiences. **Free pizza will be served before the event for participating students!**

We want to hear from anyone interested in showcasing their talents, clubs, competitions, honor societies, sports, etc. This is a great way to recruit members for your activities and get a start on next year's membership! If anyone has art they'd like to display, or a performance they'd like to try out, there's also room for you. **We also welcome any 9th graders who would be willing to act as general hosts** and interact with the prospective students. **Parent volunteers** are invited to help staff the event and/or provide baked goods. To volunteer, please call Jennifer **Ostrom** at 720-748-1492, or e-mail jnnfrcara@earthlink.net.

On December 13, the **Patriot Parent Volunteer Office** and the **GW Teacher Appreciation Committee** will provide **breakfast for the staff and teachers** in the building. The breakfast will be served in the library just before the weekly teacher training. Staff and teachers will begin arriving around 7:15 for breakfast. We need the food by 7:00 so that we can be ready to serve by 7:15. **Rita Gibson** will arrive

by 6:00 a.m. for those who need to bring food earlier, to get the coffee ready, and to finish preparing for the event. The Parent Volunteer Office can accept donations the day before that are non-perishable, or require only refrigeration.

If you are interested in providing a breakfast casserole, or would like to provide miscellaneous items such as a case of water, a pound of decaf coffee, a Costco-size package of Chinest paper plates, etc., please contact the **Patriot Parent Volunteer Office** and leave a voice mail, (720) 423-8662, or email at gwparents@gmail.com. **Rita Gibson** will contact you to coordinate your donation.

IB Ambassadors Update -- Whew! We've had a busy, productive, and FUN few weeks of recruiting for our amazing IB Program! GW's IB has so many positive facets and we so enjoy sharing them with interested middle school students and their parents! We've gone all over the city and made stops at Graland, St. Anne's, Ricks Center, Stanley British Primary, Logan School, and Montclair Academy. Tremendous thanks to current students **Randy Waymire, Amelia Kucic, Abby Godec, Henry Bierman, Jackson Zeiler, Ali Bjorkland** and **Eleanor Powell**, and to parents **Ginger Waymire** and **Linda During** for all of your enthusiasm and help! You all bring such positive energy to the high school information nights at various middle schools – thank you!! **-Andrea Shea and Terry Brandl, Committee Co-Chairs**



Mark Your Calendar for these Important Dates

IB Broadcaster editors receive and report Calendar information from GWHS administration (for school-wide events) and the IB Office/IB Board of Directors Committee Chairs (for IB-specific events). The editors are unable to answer Calendar inquiries. For questions about specific events, please contact the appropriate party directly (GWHS, IB Office, or IB Committee Chair). Contact information is located on the last page. Thank you!

| Date | Event | Time | Location |
|--------------|--|---------------|----------------------|
| Nov 29 | Mandatory Sophomore Meeting – all pre-IB Grade 10 students | 8:00 am | |
| | Sophomore Parent Presentations/Teacher Break-out Meetings | | |
| Dec 7 | NO SCHOOL | During School | TBD |
| Dec 10 | Sophomore Choice of Study Forms Distributed | | |
| Dec 11 | Students Collect Controlled Enrollment Forms | | |
| Dec 12 | Sophomore Lottery Results Posted | | |
| Dec 14 | IB Junior Choice Forms Due | | |
| Dec 24-Jan 4 | NO SCHOOL (Winter Holidays) | | |
| Jan 7 | NO SCHOOL (Professional Day) | | |
| Jan 8 | IB Parent Association Meeting | 7:00 pm | GW Community Room |
| Jan 21 | NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King Day) | | |
| Feb 18-19 | NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day; Professional Day) | | |
| Feb 26 | Welcome Fest | 6:30-8:00 pm | GW - TBD |
| Apr 6 | Spring College Fair (Jrs and interested Sophs) | 1:00-4:00 pm | University of Denver |
| May 25 | GW Graduation Day | 3:00 pm | Convention Center |

IB Sports Report



Back-to-Back City Champs: GW Football

The Patriots had a great season this year going undefeated in DPS, and advancing into the state playoffs. The Patriots are once again city champs, taking the championship in both 2006 and 2007. The season ended with a loss against Monarch High School.

The team owes its success to the outstanding coaching staff led by Head Coach Steve Finesilver who is a physical fitness teacher at George and a former Patriot football player himself. The team's other exceptional coaches include: Fred Harris (defensive coordinator, GW math teacher and basketball coach), Richard Nye (offensive coordinator and GW English teacher), James Rogers (former GW player), Phil Malone (former GW player and parent of IB freshman Desiray Malone), Joe Ladow (GW social studies teacher), and last but not least, Charles Hall who in addition to be an athletic coach is also the team's very successful academic coach.

Under Coach Hall's supervision, over 60% of the team is on the honor roll, and all seniors are expected to go to college next year. At least nine of the seniors are being recruited to play football in college. There are many IB students on the team, including: **Anil Arora, Keenan Black, Alex Capaldo, Ian Connor, Ethan Flos, Darren Gardner, Nasif Islam, Jesus Munoz, Kaylan Penn, Patrick Tapp, Tanner Sandoval, Scott Sigman, Ryan Ware.**

GW football players are required to excel in academics as well as athletics. They make a huge commitment to the team in addition to their academic responsibilities: GW Football requires time, physical and mental endurance, teamwork and dedication.

Congratulations to the City Champs GW Patriots!

Kendra Black, GW IB Parent

CORRECTIONS

The following athletes' names were omitted in the previous *IB Broadcaster* Sports Report:

Football--Keenan Black, Tanner Sandoval, Jesus Munoz, Ian Conner, Darren Gardner, Ryan Ware, Nasif Islam and Ethan Flos.

Soccer - Joseph Arora, Simon Monley



Friends of IB Scholars Foundation Fall Fundraising Campaign



The Friends of IB Scholars Foundation wants to remind all IB families that the **Ebrahimi Family Foundation** has pledged to match \$10,000 of contributions to the IB Foundation from IB families, alumni and friends. This means that the first \$10,000 of contributions from IB families, alumni and friends will be doubled to \$20,000. The IB Foundation is still pursuing the goal of \$10,000 of contributions from IB families, so we can meet the full matching amount of the Ebrahimi Challenge Grant. We need your help to meet this goal.

Remember that since the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your gift can be tax-deductible. Last year, the IB Foundation was able to fund almost \$40,000 of grants, and we were still not able to meet all of the faculty requests. With student enrollment in the GW IB program at an all-time high, your donations to the IB Foundation are more important than ever. So, please do not delay in sending in your contributions, whether \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 or more. December is a great time to make your donation, since your contribution can be tax-deductible for 2007. Please send your contributions to **Friends of IB Scholars Foundation, c/o Janice Thomas, Treasurer, 1634 S. Leyden Street, Denver, CO 80224.**

Please contact me at home, 303-759-1176, at my office, 303-539-3159, or by email at James.Kaplan@publicans.com if you have any questions about the IB Foundation. Also remember that Ebrahimi Family Foundation has also pledged to match \$5,000 of contributions from other foundations who are new donors to the IB Foundation this year. Please let me know of any charitable foundations that might help us to meet the \$5,000 foundation portion of the Ebrahimi Challenge Grant. Thank you for your support of the GW IB program.

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

ShopWithScrip to Benefit the GW Friends of IB Scholars Foundation

Your day-to-day purchases with retailers and restaurants can benefit the GW IB program when you register through the **ShopWithScrip** program.

[Learn more](http://www.georgeib.com) at www.georgeib.com. Click on **Fund Raising** on the left-hand menu.

Contact Information

2007-2008 IB Parents Association Board of Directors

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