

George Washington High School's I.B. Broadcaster



World

A publication of the IB Parents Association of GWHS

August 2009 – Vol. 29, Issue 10

WELCOME TO GWIB: THE 2009-10 VERSION!

The school year is about to begin and everybody should be looking forward to an exciting year of learning. The faculty is studying the '09 test scores just released in July. I am pleased to report that 91% of our '09 Seniors earned the IB Diploma. At this moment, many of our grads are negotiating for credit and advanced standing at their universities based on their IB assessment results. Look for future stories in *The Broadcaster* from our graduates about the value of their IB education.

The 2009-10 school year brings some changes in IB staff. Mr. Hoffman resigned in June and **Mr. Pedro Camacho** will be stepping into those Pre-IB and IB Spanish classes. Some of you know Mr. Camacho from the GW traditional curriculum.

Mr. Rusty Haynes is our new IB College Counselor, paid for by the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation. Mr. Haynes is a seasoned professional College Advisor and will be working with our IB juniors and seniors as they prepare for the college admission process. Look for his articles in upcoming *Broadcasters* and plan to meet with him by appointment if you are a senior parent.

Mr. David Chambers, from GW's Career and Technical Education Department, will be teaching the IB Business and Management course. Mr. Chambers recently attended IB training at the United World College in New Mexico.

IB economics teacher **Mr. Marcus Lee** will add junior IB psychology to his teaching duties. **Mrs. Shelby O'Clair** will be expanding the IB Theatre course with a Higher Level offering. **Mr. Josh Vinlove** will be taking on the IB Environmental Systems class. Mr. Vinlove also attended training this summer. Additionally, **Mr. Bancroft** participated in an advanced IB teacher workshop, and reports that he looks forward to applying some new ideas to his IB English A1 classes.

Marjie Lane will be returning part-time as the IB Program Assistant, thanks to the IB Foundation.

Mr. Goldstein attended his first IB Annual Regional Meeting in Quebec this July and should have some observations to share with our IB community.

As always, all of our IB faculty have had interesting experiences during the summer break. Be sure to ask about them when you see them, and to share yours with us. See you soon!

~ Suzanne Geimer, Program Coordinator

ALL IB FAMILIES ANNUAL FALL IB PICNIC



Wednesday, August 26
5:00 – 9:00 PM, Creekside Park
575 South Clermont St., Glendale

This annual affair is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with both returning and new IB families and faculty, and try your hand at volleyball and ultimate Frisbee.

The IB Parent Association will provide Subway Sandwiches!

**Please help make this a delicious night!!
Families with:**

- ✓ **Last Name A-G** bring drinks (water, soda, tea etc...) to share.
- ✓ **Last Name H-N** bring a salad to share.
- ✓ **Last Name O-Z** bring dessert to share.

For more information about the picnic, call Terry Brandl (Chair) at 303-333-7018

Directions: From Colorado Blvd, go EAST on Virginia Ave. then Right (south) on South Clermont St., go one block.



**Welcome to all George Washington
IB students and their families --
Especially to incoming 9th graders and
first-year IB students!**

The IB Parents Association works to provide IB students and their families with social and educational meetings to support the GWIB community, and to help inform and educate students and their parents about the IB program and the IB experience. The IB Parents Association also works to support our wonderful IB staff and faculty. Our Board is comprised of many dedicated IB parents who look forward to sharing their experiences with new IB parents. Our first event this year is **the IB Family and Faculty Picnic on Wednesday, August 26th from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at Creekside Park**. Please join us for what has traditionally been a fun, informal opportunity to meet the IB faculty and other IB students and parents.

The **IB Board** meets the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Community Room. If you would like to find out the various ways you can get involved in the IB Program you are welcome to come to our first meeting on September 1st.

Our **IB Parent Association monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 P.M.** These meetings provide information on various interesting and relevant topics, including presentations from IB teachers on the IB curriculum and panel discussions with IB alums who are now in college.

The **Friends of IB Scholars Foundation and the IB Parents Association** have joined funding causes. The **initial \$40** of every donation, per family, will be used to fund the programs and publications sponsored by the Association. We also welcome and encourage additional donations, which allow the Foundation to support the IB program as well as other programs at George Washington in which many IB students participate. A generous response from our IB families will help us to keep the IB program and GW as strong as ever. All donations are tax deductible.

-- Kristi Butkovich, IB Parent Association President

Whole Foods Helps DPS

At Whole Foods Market, our community commitment begins with our support of local schools.

Beginning July 6th, 2009, Whole Foods Market Tamarac will be supporting George Washington High School as the recipient of our bag refund donation program. As part of our program, if you bring your own bag when you shop, you may receive 10 cents off your total bill. **OR, tell the cashier you want to donate those 10 cents to George Washington High School!**



Our donation to George Washington High School will support their efforts to recycle and preserve the environment, as well as go to the school renovations project.

In the last year alone, Whole Foods Market Tamarac has given \$10,000 to local Denver Schools! **SMALL CHANGE DOES ADD UP!** Support your school by supporting Whole Foods Market!

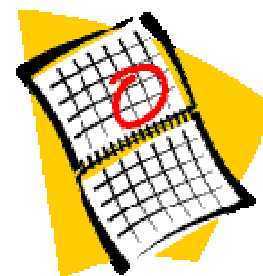
Collaborative School Committee (CSC)

GWHS is recruiting two parents and four students to serve on the CSC for the 2009-2010 school year. You can read about the CSC's role in the school at <http://communityrelations.dpsk12.org/csc> on the DPS web site.

Please contact Mary Jo Minogue to learn more (minogue4@yahoo.com).

**Register online with the
GWIB Parent Association
<http://www.georgeib.com/index.html>**

2009-2010 Events Calendar



August 19	First day of school for Freshman only, 7:30 AM – 3 PM
August 20	School resumes for all students, 7:30 AM – 3 PM
August 26	Annual Fall IB Picnic, 5:00-9:00PM, Creekside Park, Glendale
August 27	Senior meeting with Mrs. Geimer, 2:15 PM – see College Counseling article
August 27	Back to School Night
October 9	Senior Photos must be submitted to the yearbook by this date
October 10	Homecoming
October 12	Payment due for IB Exams – Juniors and Seniors
October 15-27	REGISTER for IB exams in the IB Office as directed. This second step is essential!
October 28-30	Fall Break – no classes
May 21	Graduation

GROUNDS & GATEWAY COMMITTEE NEWS (formerly Landscape Committee)

A sloppy, wet, snowy time was had by all, but thanks to 30 or so intrepid Patriots, we held a triumphant April 17th Tree Planting! In the swiftly falling snow and rain, with plenty of strong, willing students and teachers, all eleven of the trees were planted before noon on Friday! Thanks SO much to everyone who braved that storm!



Saturday, May 2nd, a much warmer & drier day, 30 students, parents, and teachers spent the day digging up sod, mixing in compost, planting, mulching and watering. See the resulting garden spaces near GW's north entrance.

Check it out - it's just the beginning of the transformation of that area!

To reflect the importance of the entire north side of GW to the school and neighborhood, the GW North Entry Project has been re-named. Acting as the entry not only to the north doors of the school, but to basketball games, the baseball diamond and the other athletic fields *and* as the space where school and community meet, the project is now the **GW Community Gateway Project**.

How can you be a part of this exciting venture? Order or donate online! Get your grad's or loved one's name engraved on a brick or paver (or put in a favorite quote) or dedicate a tree or bench to him or her. Link to our web page from GW's home page, gwhs.dpsk12.org, and then click on "GW Community Gateway Project" on the right side of the page under "Quick Links". Find information on the Community Gateway Project and a quick, meaningful way to contribute. We encourage you to join us - new energy and members welcome – see meeting schedule below and/or email us at GWCommunityGatewayProject@gmail.com.

Date	Time	Location
Wed. Aug. 12	12:00 noon	Starbuck's on Leetsdale
Sat., Aug. 15	9 – 11 a.m.	GW, North Side
Wed., Sept. 9	12:00 noon	GW, Community Room
Wed., Oct. 14	7:00 p.m.	GW, Community Room
Tues., Nov. 10	12:00 noon	GW, Community Room
Thurs., Dec. 10	12:00 noon	GW, Community Room
Wed., Jan. 13	7:00 p.m.	GW, Community Room
Wed., Feb. 10	12:00 noon	GW, Community Room
Wed., Mar. 10	12:00 noon	GW, Community Room
Wed., Apr. 14	7:00 p.m.	GW, Room 127
Wed., May 12	12:00 noon	GW, Community Room

Grounds & Community Gateway Committee meetings:

Come to the Grounds & Gateway **Volunteer Kick-Off** on **Saturday morning, August 15** on GW's north side. From 9 to 11 a.m., drop by and get a tour of the campus' extensive landscape, exchange ideas and get acquainted.

~Jennifer Janes, Grounds & Gateway Committee Chair

A Message from the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation

Welcome new and returning IB families! We are set for a great year of academics and extra-curricular activities at George Washington. The Friends of IB Scholars Foundation promises to support IB with funding but for those of you who are new to the school, you might be asking: what is the 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 arose from Denver Public School's inability to fund all of the requirements of the IB program. A list of Foundation-supported items includes exam fees for students in need, professional development, advisors and counselors, the summer enrichment program for your entering freshmen, a class for juniors and seniors emphasizing IB English skills, and specialized campaigns – such as last year's fund-raiser for "clickers" in chemistry classes. The continued shortfall in DPS funding will ensure that the Foundation will have to increase its efforts.

How do we find the funds? Simply, *you* are the major source. As parents, you enter every part of the IB picture, but the Foundation counts on your generous contributions in particular to pay for the grants we make to the program as a whole. We certainly look to charitable foundations for funding, too, and, in fact, have looked to professional grant-writers to help us in this direction. But your financial support for the IB program is crucial to maintain George Washington as one of the best high schools in the United States. Just check out the magazine covers hanging on Suzi Geimer's walls for proof!

And by the way, IB has not escaped the current economic downturn by any means. Budget cuts in DPS have threatened the program; in fact, we are at risk of losing Suzi's assistant, Marjie Lane, because the position has been cut. The Foundation has decided to step into the breach but *we need donations* to meet our obligation. Please help out.

We have been fortunate enough in the past three 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 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 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 other 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.

For now, please consider the following: First, please pay your Parents Association dues of \$40. The Parents Association is distinct from the Foundation, for it provides for dozens of everyday activities for IB. Second, please contact me if you wish to get involved in fund-raising. I hope we can chart a course to build an endowment for IB to place funding on a permanent and secure footing. Those of you with experience in this department, or simply with ideas and energy - or if you have questions or comments on any aspect of IB – feel free to call me at home, at 303-364-9181, or reach me by email, at tomzeiler@msn.com. This is an exciting year that holds great prospects for IB; get in on the ground floor of our amazing program!

Tom Zeiler, President, Friends of IB Scholars Foundation

**I want to support the work of GWIB! Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation
in the amount of \$ _____, payable to the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation.**

Name of Donor

Name of Student(s)

Street Address, City, State and Zip

Mail your check and completed form TODAY to the following address:

Friends of IB Scholars Foundation, c/o Janice Thomas, Treasurer, 1634 S. Leyden Street, Denver, Colorado 80224.

People You Should Know: Suzanne Geimer



“IB calls me a coordinator. DPS calls me a manager. My official title is Teacher on Special Assignment, or TOSA,” said Suzanne Geimer during her phone interview, her voice both kind and businesslike. “I’m a liaison between IB offices all over the world and the kids and

teachers here at GW. But I have no more power than any classroom teacher.”

This last statement will come as a surprise to many IB students, to whom Mrs. Geimer is nothing less than the “Big Cheese” of the program at GW. With its collection of awards and class photos, her office is the center of the IB universe. Whether students are just beginning their IB experience, or launching their college careers, Mrs. Geimer always seems to be the one with the answers. She comes by that knowledge honestly, having been at GW for 38 straight years – more than twice as long as the current principal – and having spent almost two decades of that period coordinating IB.

“I’ve never worked anywhere else,” she said, noting that she was hired by DPS as soon as she finished her own education. “I subbed for a year, then got a job as the speech teacher at George Washington.” Although she “absolutely loved” her role as advisor of the speech team, the birth of her first child, whom she described as “a mini version of me,” altered her plans. “Being pregnant really changed my perspective,” she said. “Instead of taking a leave of absence, I took on IB. I couldn’t do speech with a baby because of the weekend meets, anyway.”

She traveled around the United States, looking at other IB programs in cities across the country, including Milwaukee, Chicago, and even Las Vegas. Thus, by the time she became IB coordinator, her knowledge of the program was already expansive; perhaps that is why she made the transition so easily. “My life has been nothing more than ‘rolling into tubs of butter,’ as they say,” she mused. “I haven’t had to ‘plot’ my way through life. I just go along with what happens.”

It seems more than a little lucky, therefore, that GW got Mrs. Geimer as head of IB. After all, few people could rival her determination for the success of the program, which has carried it through even the most turbulent of times. “The hardest part of my job is finding a place for the IB exams,” she said. “I want them to be perfect . . . but the district doesn’t quite understand how important they are. It’s a nightmare getting every detail in place and meeting all the IBO requirements. I’m always worrying, ‘What if the building burns down? What if the custodian forgets the key?’ Something as simple as a missing key would ruin [the exams]. The month of May is absolute hell.”

Despite the brain damage Mrs. Geimer suffers on behalf of the IB students, she says that they are what make her job worthwhile. “You might think I don’t really talk to the students that much, but I do get to know many of them,” she explained. “I remember individuals. They’re remarkable. It makes the job interesting, and fun, and wonderful.”

Though one might expect Mrs. Geimer to be tuckered out after dealing with all of these things every day, she still manages to whip up gourmet meals upon her return home. “I’m a foodie,” she said. Many of the teachers – especially those who go to her for cooking advice – would agree.

Nevertheless, even someone as energetic and driven as Mrs. Geimer needs a vacation. “I love spending time in Florida, especially in the summer because not many other people are there,” she said happily. “I started going there for the holidays as a child. While a lot of people might think of a German-style Christmas with snow and so on, I always associate the season with the tropics.”

Thus, as with most remarkable people, there is more to Mrs. Geimer than meets the eye. Her passion, experience, and incredibly open attitude have allowed her to lead GWIB to great heights. In fact, she puts so much faith in the program that she said, “IB graduates are so well prepared, they don’t need any parting words from me. They’re off to the races already.” However, none of this would be true without the wisdom and guidance that she has given the program, and for which we are all truly grateful.

-Amelia Kucic, IB Student Correspondent

**Be sure to shop at the Tamarac Whole Foods (7400 E. Hampden) NOW!
Bring your own shopping bag and donate the bag credit to
George Washington High School!**



THE IB COUNSELING AND COLLEGE CORNER

This feature of the Broadcaster helps keep you informed about important dates, activities, and meetings that are related to the college application process. It is extremely important for students to plan ahead so as not to miss deadlines and not to overwhelm faculty and administrators with last-minute requests which they may not be able to accommodate.

Juniors should begin and **Seniors** should complete any required standardized testing. Please familiarize yourselves with what various colleges require and plan accordingly. Details and online registration are available at www.act.org (ACT) and www.collegeboard.com (SAT). ACT has added a September test date this year.

STANDARDIZED TEST	TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION (additional fee)
ACT	12-Sept	7-Aug	21-Aug
SAT or Subject Tests	10-Oct	9-Sept	23-Sept
PSAT/NMSQT	17-Oct	Registration through GW Counseling Office	
ACT	24-Oct	18-Sept	2-Oct
SAT or Subject Tests	7-Nov	1-Oct	15-Oct
SAT or Subject Tests	5-Dec	30-Oct	12-Nov
ACT	12-Dec	6-Nov	20-Nov
SAT or Subject Tests	23-Jan	15-Dec	30-Dec
ACT	6-Feb	5-Jan	15-Jan
SAT only – no Subject Tests	13-Mar	4-Feb	18-Feb
ACT	10-Apr	5-Mar	19-Mar
ACT without writing	late April	Juniors only - registration through GWHS	
SAT or Subject Tests	1-May	25-Mar	8-Apr
SAT or Subject Tests	5-Jun	29-Apr	13-May
ACT	12-Jun	7-May	21-May

August 5, Wednesday, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Convention Center: “Colleges That Change Lives” College Fair (www.ctcl.com)

August 27, Thursday, 2 PM: **Mrs. Geimer** will meet with **all Seniors** to collect the following materials: your college application essay draft, the School Report Form from the Common Application, a list of three teachers who have agreed to write letters of recommendation for you, your updated resume/list of activities, and a list of up to seven colleges to which you will apply. Be sure to complete the “To the Applicant” section of the School Report Form and to sign the Privacy Notice.

College admissions representative visits to GW will take place throughout the year, but **September and October** are the busiest months. **Juniors and Seniors**, use the “Visit Schedule” page on Naviance to sign up for the visits you will attend AND get teacher passes from any classes that you will miss in order to meet with the reps. Attendance will be taken! Be judicious in the number of sessions you attend, as you will not be excused from completing your class work. Some college reps hold meetings at other Denver Metro locations; check the websites of the schools you’re interested in for details.

(TBA): Mr. Haynes will meet with **Juniors** to hand out and review the Junior Checklist of recommended college-related activities for this year and will meet with **Seniors** to discuss the final phases of the college application process.

October 1: CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, required for aid/scholarship consideration at many private colleges, becomes available for online filing. Seniors, submit at least 2 weeks before the first deadline.

October 8, Thursday, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, J. F. Kennedy High School, Denver: **Out of State College Night** offered by College Fairs of Greater Denver (www.collegefairsdenver.org)

October 10, Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Cherry Creek High School: **Cherry Creek College Fair** (In- and Out-of-State), offered by College Fairs of Greater Denver (www.collegefairsdenver.org). This is the largest of the college fairs, with many schools represented and a wide variety of workshops and information sessions for students and parents.

October 12, Monday, 9:00 – 10:30 AM: GWHS will host a **College Fair** run by Colorado Day/Night College Fair Programs. Evening sessions of this fair are offered at several metro area schools; see www.coloradocouncil.org.

October 17, Saturday AM: **Juniors (and Sophomores** who want a trial run) have the opportunity to take the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) at GW. Registration is through the GW counseling office, not online. Alternatively the test is offered on Wednesday, October 15, but not at GW. Students will receive more information in school.

October 19: Deadline for Seniors to submit Early Decision and Early Action college application details to IB Office: completed half-sheet, addressed envelope, and postage for each EA/ED school; School Supplement form(s) if required, application fee/waiver (if a college wants it submitted with the school report).

Week of October 26: If you are planning college visits this fall, please schedule them during this week. Since school is not in session October 28-30, faculty will assume that **Seniors** will be using that week **to complete any final revisions to their extended essays and to visit colleges**. Planful **Juniors** may also want to visit some colleges while they are in session.

November 1: Deadline for Seniors to submit their portions of **Early Decision and Early Action applications** to many colleges. Check your selected schools' timelines and requirements carefully.

November 30: Deadline for Seniors to submit Regular and Rolling Decision application details to IB Office - see October 19. Complete your "Colleges to which I'm applying" list in Naviance now as well.

January 1: Deadline for submitting **Regular Decision applications** to many colleges. Again, check your selected schools' requirements carefully. Some schools have earlier deadlines if you want to be considered for scholarships. The **FAFSA application** becomes available online and should be completed by aid applicants and their parents ASAP.

Late April: State-mandated **ACT** testing for all **Juniors**. GW arranges registration and fees, and the test is administered during the school day. Please note that this version of the ACT does **not** include the optional Writing Test.

~Linda During, College Counseling Chair

MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE

Want to learn more about the top 10 IB students from the Class of 2009? Read their profiles in the May issue of the school newspaper, *The Surveyor*, at <http://gwhs.dpsk12.org/surveyor/surveyor0509.pdf>, page 11. And don't stop there. This monthly publication is now an online window into the world of George Washington High School, via a link from the GWHS website.

THANK YOU, IB PROGRAM!

From an IB Parent: "Hello, We wanted to let you know just how valuable the IB program was to (our daughter's) college plans. She received her IB diploma and was awarded 43 college credits. Though at the end of the day they may not all translate toward her major, initially she begins college designated as a sophomore. It was a lot of work but worth the effort. Thank you again for all you do."



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Go to www.georgeib.com and register with your email address:

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and choose to receive
the IB Broadcaster
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Enter your email address
and click "Join"

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