

# George Washington High School's I.B. Broadcaster



**World School** A publication of the IB Parents Association of GWHS

November 2009 – Vol. 32, Issue 13

## From the Board

This fall, the Association has been busy recruiting students to the IB program. Director **Suzanne Geimer** and IB parents **Cora Neslin, Leslie Lilly, Linda During, Don Mares,** and **Kristi Butkovich** have served as IB Ambassadors to Graland, Our Lady of Lourdes, Ricks, St. Anne's, and Stanley BPS. The IB Parents Association will be hosting two recruiting open houses at the school on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the traditional and IB programs and GW will be represented at the City Wide High School Expo on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Museum of Nature and Science.

Over 65 parents packed the Community Room for our October school-wide parent meeting "What Every 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parent Needs to Know." We had the honor of having **Rex McGehee, MD, a psychiatrist and IB parent,** and **Jason Johnson, MA, a licensed professional counselor,** share with us their knowledge and experiences on how important is it for parents to become tuned-in to the ways we approach parenting.

Their down-to earth nature and common sense approach to parenting captured the attention of all who were present. Not surprisingly the discussions of the evening included the importance of instituting and adhering to structure, boundaries, consequences and praise in our approach. The central issues of adolescence remain separation from family, sexual development, identity formation, adolescent narcissism, and brain changes. As parents our job is to provide a balance of nurture/sensitivity with structure/firmness. We have received lots of positive feedback from many of the parents that attended. The IB Parent Board is pleased to offer these kinds of meetings to parents. Many thanks to: **Dr. McGehee** and **Mr. Johnson** for presenting us with many positive ways we can communicate with our kids.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. This is a **mandatory meeting for sophomores and their parents** about IB students' choice of studies for junior and senior year. The IB faculty will be reviewing the IB curriculum, courses, and requirements for graduation. This meeting is

extremely important preparation for all IB sophomores' course selections in December, so please make arrangements to attend.

We will not be having a parent meeting in December.

A BIG thank you to all of the families who have contributed to the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation. Your donation supports BOTH the Parent Association and the Foundation. We appreciate your continued support of GW and the IB Program.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

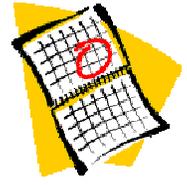
**Kristi Butkovich, IBPA Board President**  
*(looking for a Co-President)*



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# 2009-2010 Events Calendar



November 9 & 10	CAS Writing Workshop for juniors - held during English classes
November 10	IB Parent Association monthly meeting - <i>Sophomore Choice of Study for IB Diploma Program</i> – 7-8:30 PM, GW Auditorium. <b>Mandatory for sophomore and their parents.</b>
November 11	School Holiday
Nov 13-14 & 19-21	<i>The Tempest</i> , Priest Theater, GW, 7 PM all dates, plus 2 PM on Nov 14
November 19	All-School Teacher Appreciation Afternoon Tea, 2:00 PM
November 25-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 9	Early Release Day
Dec 21 – Jan 4	Winter Break
April 30	Last day of classes for IB seniors
May 3	Last day of classes for IB juniors
May 4 – 24	IB Exams (aka External Assessments) for IB seniors and some juniors
May 21	GW Graduation, Ritchie Center, U of Denver: rehearsal in morning, ceremony in evening



## IB TEACHER APPRECIATION

*September's IB teacher appreciation treat was created by sophomores, MacKenzie Schledorn and Alexandra Wollins. They baked and decorated "GW" sugar cookies. The treats were hand delivered to each teacher.*

**Volunteers are needed to assist with IB Teacher Appreciation Events for the months of January, February, April and May.**

If you would like to host a bagel breakfast, a lunch of some kind or any other kind of treat for our IB teachers, please contact Leslie B. Lilly at snillow@comcast.net.

## GW SCHOOL-WIDE FACULTY & STAFF APPRECIATION EVENTS

This year's first school-wide appreciation event was held on October 16. With more than 60 parents providing food and supplies, the event was a huge success. The staff and faculty were thrilled to be "appreciated" and truly enjoyed the delicious food and the camaraderie.

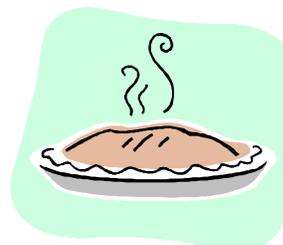
Our next event will be held on **Thursday, November 19 at 2:00**. It will be an afternoon tea, and will also include pie and coffee. If you would like to participate, please contact **Kendra Black in the Volunteer Office:** [kendrablack.gwhs@gmail.com](mailto:kendrablack.gwhs@gmail.com) or 720-423-8662. **We need help with set-up, clean-up, and pies.**

This semester's final event will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> and is co-sponsored by Meryl Cohn's student leadership class. This luncheon will be catered, but we could still use some help with other supplies. Please let Kendra know if you would like to assist.

We will hold three additional events next semester—details to follow.

Thank you everyone who helped to make October Fall Faculty Feast a success!

**PIES NEEDED FOR THE NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL-WIDE TEACHER APPRECIATION AFTERNOON TEA**



Please contact Kendra Black, 720-423-8662 or [kendrablack.gwhs@gmail.com](mailto:kendrablack.gwhs@gmail.com)

## GROUNDS & GATEWAY NEWS



Sunny, cool weather – perfect for gardening - greeted new and old parent and student volunteers on Saturday, October 3 for a GW work morning. Assisted by community service students, everyone pulled weeds, cut back perennials, mulched, and planted 2 trees on the Monaco side of the school. Delicious bagels and excellent hot coffee roasted and donated by Kaladi Coffee, 1730 E. Evans, kept the volunteers going. On October 14, we assisted Sue Wiles' special education students in planting hundreds of bulbs among the ornamental grasses near the north entrance. Look for lots of crocuses next spring! Thank you, volunteers.

As the seasons change, our activities move indoors for a few months as the focus shifts to fund-raising for the **GW Community Gateway Project**. Our big effort this month is a proposal for a grant from the Colorado Garden Show. We made the first cut and are working on our final submittal package. It is very exciting! If we win this grant it is virtually guaranteed that this project could happen next summer.

And, a big **Thank You** to all who shopped and brought their own bags to the Whole Foods Tamarac store! A check for \$3,300 will be presented to the student landscape group at their regular monthly lunchtime meeting, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. All monies raised go toward building the **GW Community Gateway Project** fund. You can help build the fund, too! Order an inscribed brick or dedicate a tree now. Go online to [gwhs.dpsk12.org](http://gwhs.dpsk12.org) and under "Quick Links" on the right side of the page, click on "**GW Community Gateway Project**". Each purchased brick or dedicated tree brings the project that much closer to reality! A huge **Thanks** to all who have already contributed.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Tuesday, Nov 10	12:00 noon	GW Community Room
Thurs., Dec. 10	12:00 noon	GW Community Room

## CONGRATULATIONS, MODEL UN

The Model UN Team made an excellent showing at the Regis meet on October 2. The following students won in the Beginning Security Council:

- Best Delegation: **Rachel Yahn & Gabe Rusk** representing Uganda
- Outstanding Delegation: **Sean Chillelli & Cal McIntyre** representing China; **Jamie Tran & Aerik Francis** representing Libya
- Honorable Mention: **Tia Chen & Oliver Bawmann** representing Japan; **Lark Maag & Camille Shortridge** representing Burkina Faso; **Marjie Ruby & Devon Stork** representing Vietnam

The following students won in OPEC:

- Outstanding Delegation: **Thomas Tarler** representing Iran

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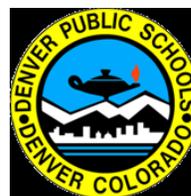
## SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

George Washington High School has been recognized as one of the nation's top 100 schools in speech and debate activities by the National Forensic League (NFL), ranking 86 out of over 3,000 schools nationwide based on student participation and excellence in speech and debate activities.

Maryrose Kohan, the speech and debate teacher at GWHS and the team's coach for the last four years, credits her students' hard work and enthusiasm for this honor. "When I first came here, I had ten students on the team. Now I have well over one hundred! The students get their friends involved in an activity they love!" Kohan was pleased to take six students to the national competition in Alabama this summer, and hopes to travel with her entire team to Wyoming in December.

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## Two GWIB Students Serving on DPS Student Board of Education



GW's representatives on the Student Board of Education for 2008-2009 are IB senior **Clara Troyer** and IB junior **Tanner Sandoval**. They will represent GW to the Board of Education on key student issues and work to create a better culture at GW. Please thank these outstanding student leaders for their hard work on behalf of GW and all DPS students.

## **IB FOUNDATION NEWS: Tax Benefits for your IB Contributions**

Did you detect the firm but frantic tone in my last Friends of the IB Scholars Foundation message?! Please take that to heart, but in this one, I wish to remind you that as we close out the 2009 tax year, you will receive a benefit – via a charitable contribution deduction – for your donation to the IB program.

You will also want to consider contributing to the Foundation in any amount feasible so we can meet the Ebrahimi Challenge. This donation is separate from your **\$40 Parent's Association dues**. But any donation above that amount gets double miles by allowing us to draw on the Ebrahimi funds – a \$15,000 challenge grant that we must match or we don't receive it. And because the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your gift is tax-deductible. This is no minor consideration when looking ahead to April and your obligation to the Internal Revenue Service!

Remember, we welcome *any* amount of a donation. Teacher requests are starting to come in for next year, so we need to get our funding plans in order. Students have financial needs. That means we need an idea of how much we can spend on our valuable teachers, students, and staff. PLEASE help us maintain this spectacular IB program at the level of excellence our children deserve.

Thanks,  
**Tom Zeiler, President, IB Foundation**

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### **Note from the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation Treasurer**

Did you know that the total donations to the Foundation in 1995 were \$3,240? In addition, the Foundation sponsored an annual garage sale which yielded approximately \$3,000. Since that time we have experienced continued growth and financial support by the parents and supporting foundations. Donations have increased steadily from the \$3000 in 1995 to \$73,847 during the 2008/2009 school year! Over \$35,000 of the donations made last school year were given by parents and friends!

The Foundation reviews each request and approves them based several criteria, including the fundraising success of the previous year. Last spring the Foundation approved grants of just over \$65,000. The following is a list of grants that were approved in April 2009:

#### **April 2009 IB Foundation Grants**

- \$8,000 for the contract of a new part-time IB college counselor, to provide group and individual counseling sessions for junior and senior IB students.
- \$4,050 for District, State and National History Day registration fees for IB students, and van rental and travel expenses for Ms. Guggenheim and IB students at the national finals of the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland.
- \$100 Wall Street Journal subscription for Mr. Lee.
- \$40 microphone for Orals.
- \$250 printer and cartridges.
- \$1,050 Spanish Dictionaries/Videos/Rosetta Stone
- \$10,000 IB Parent Association expenses.
- \$380 camcorder.
- \$1,400 two document cameras for Ms. Gale-Martinez and Ms. Morrow
- \$9,750 Sound and Sense for Ms. Morrow and Ms. Wadsworth
- \$7,000 Smart Classroom for Mr. McNeill
- \$600 Living History project.
- \$1,100 Gilgamesh readings for Ms. Wadsworth's classes.
- \$1,000 Spanish enhancement travel for Ms. Shikes
- \$7,500 for the classroom equipment for Dr. More's IB chemistry classes.
- \$725 for a laptop computer for Ms. Gale-Martinez's Pre-IB American Government classes.
- \$900 for Ms. Bryant's summer writing program for IB Seniors.
- \$3,000 for exhibit and display equipment for Ms. Wadsworth's IB Art classes.
- \$2,100 art equipment for Ms. Wadsworth.
- \$4,000 for loans for IB exam fees and books for IB students in need of financial assistance.
- \$4,750 for a loan for Model UN students for fundraising

We are well on our way to another successful year! Thanks to all for your continued support of George Washington High School and the International Baccalaureate program.

**Janice Thomas, Treasurer**

IB Office 720.423.8626



## THE IB COUNSELING AND COLLEGE CORNER

Many thanks to Future Center Director **Michael Jennings** for his excellent coordination of college admissions representatives' visits to GW, and to parent volunteers **Sara Brunner, Rhonda Smith Crossen, Sayeeda Ghani, Shelly Moorman, Anne Murdaugh, and Cora Neslin** for serving as greeters

during the hectic week of October 5. Students should follow up with reps via e-mail. Take this opportunity to ponder how admissions officers would view your **e-mail address**. If it's something like ih8skool@hotmail.xyz, consider creating a new account with an address along the lines of firstlastname@highachiever.com. Changes in e-mail addresses should also be sent to Ms. Lane ([Marjorie.Lane@dpsk12.org](mailto:Marjorie.Lane@dpsk12.org)), so that students don't miss important messages from the IB office.

Juniors and seniors should continue using **Naviance**. (E-mail Ms. Lane if you don't have your access code and haven't set up your account!) When a student adds a college to his/her list, any upcoming rep visit from that school will trigger an e-mail notification to the student. Students who did not follow this advice previously may have missed the opportunity to meet with admissions reps from the many colleges that have already visited GW this year.

**This is crunch time for SENIORS. All regular application materials are due to Ms. Geimer by November 30.** November and December are "Be Kind to Seniors" months, as they work hard to complete coursework and extracurricular commitments, keep up their grades, AND pull together their college applications.

- Each senior should turn in an 8x10" white envelope with a white sheet attached to the outside, listing the colleges being applied to. The envelope should contain a **correctly addressed envelope and a completed half-sheet checklist**, with the admissions address also written on the reverse, for every college on the list. Include 4 stamps per college, but don't attach them to envelopes; just put them in the big envelope.
- If any of the schools require a **supplemental school report** (instead of, or in addition to, the Common Application school report form), please include those forms in the packet and make a note on the half sheet under "Special Instructions." Please read the supplement form carefully to determine what information is required, and note it on the checklist. If the form has a narrative section, that means Mrs. Geimer should include a **counselor's** letter of recommendation.
- If you do NOT want standardized test scores other than those on the front of your transcript included, please note that on each half sheet.
- If your schools require **teacher recommendations**, be sure to get those recommendation forms and stamped/addressed envelopes to **teachers** by the 30<sup>th</sup> as well.
- Complete your "**Colleges to which I'm applying**" list in **Naviance** now as well. Ms. Lane will be relying on Naviance as a tracking tool, so it is essential that you enter your school list promptly and accurately.
- Any supporting documents from the school that are not sent out before Winter Break begins on December 18 will have to wait until after school resumes on January 5, and will therefore miss early January deadlines.
- Of course the **application is not complete until the student submits her/his own portion** of each application (including any student-generated supplements) directly to the colleges.
- Early Decision/Action deadlines have either passed or will soon, and Regular Decision and scholarship deadlines are rapidly approaching. Reduce stress by completing applications and paperwork sooner rather than later! Students who wait until the last day to submit online applications may find that the system overloaded and unable to accept their submissions before the deadline.

**PARENTS OF SENIORS** who are applying for financial aid should be gearing up to prepare 2008 tax returns and the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA; [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) as early in the New Year as possible. Some colleges also require the CSS Profile and/or their own additional applications (some with December deadlines).

**JUNIORS'** to-do lists are getting longer too.

- Juniors and their parents can schedule individual meetings with the IB college counselor, **Rusty Haynes**, beginning in January. Students initiate these appointments by contacting Mr. Haynes via phone (office: 719-576-9487 or cell: 719-232-5305) or via e-mail ([collegemasters@comcast.net](mailto:collegemasters@comcast.net)). Please feel free to contact him with your questions in the meantime.
- If your junior wants to visit out-of-state colleges while they are in session, it's not too early to start thinking about a Spring Break trip.
- This 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 sometime in late April (the 28<sup>th</sup>, perhaps). The testing program web sites ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org) and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)) have more detailed information and are a good source for test preparation books, as are local book stores. See also Mr. Haynes' test preparation recommendations on the College Prep page of the George IB website at [http://www.georgeib.com/pdf/gwib\\_test\\_prep\\_Haynes.pdf](http://www.georgeib.com/pdf/gwib_test_prep_Haynes.pdf).

**SOPHOMORES and FRESHMEN** who think they might apply to highly selective colleges that require Subject Tests should investigate whether they should take one or more at the end of this 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. This year DPS has decided not to administer the ACT PLAN to sophomores, and the new testing regimen has not yet been announced.

**ALL STUDENTS** are encouraged to explore options for **summer**. Possibilities abound, although some involve a competitive application process and many involve fees. There are good no-cost and low-cost programs and internships as well, but they tend to fill early. The most meaningful summer jobs tend to go to the early birds too. This is a good time to research what's out there, so that you are timely in your applications.

## IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

**November 15:** **Deadline to submit CU-Boulder application details to IB Office for Early Notification.** Go to <http://www.colorado.edu/prospective/freshman/admission/deadlines.html> for more information.

**November 30:** Deadline for seniors to submit all remaining Regular and Rolling Decision application details to IB Office – see bullet points above.

**December 1: Early Notification deadline at CU-Boulder.** Freshman applicants who complete their file by December 1 are guaranteed early notification and will receive an admission decision on or before January 15. To be complete, the file must include documentation from GW – see November 15 above – as well as all materials required directly from the student.

**January 1:** Deadline for submitting **Regular Decision applications** to many colleges. Again, check your selected schools' requirements carefully. Some schools have earlier deadlines, especially if you want to be considered for scholarships.

**January 1:** The **FAFSA application** becomes available online now and should be completed by financial aid applicants and their parents ASAP.

**December – February:** Financial Aid and FAFSA workshops will be offered by Mr. Jennings through the Future Center. Details TBA.

**April 13, Tuesday, 7-8:30 PM:** Mandatory meeting for juniors and their parents re college application guidelines and expectations. Open to all years.

**April 18, Sunday, 1-4 PM, University of Denver:** Spring College Fair aimed at juniors and interested sophomores.

**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.

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

**Juniors** should be planning when they will complete standardized testing required by the colleges they might apply to. The December test dates are the last ones that can meet most **seniors'** application deadlines. Please familiarize yourselves with what various colleges require and plan accordingly. Details and online registration are available at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (ACT) and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (SAT).

STANDARDIZED TEST	TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION (additional fee)
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(28 <sup>th</sup> )*	<b>ALL JUNIORS</b> - 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

On the dates marked by an asterisk (\*), GWHS is one of the test sites. Students who test on other dates will choose from the available test sites, per the ACT and College Board registration instructions.

~Linda During, College Counseling Chair

## PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW: SARA MORROW



Two months ago, as the PIB freshmen shuffled into their very first high school English class, they were greeted by a young, vivacious, and engaging teacher – **Sara Morrow**. Whether she’s conducting “chalk talks,” a silent activity in which students have written debates about a particular topic or filling the classroom with chatter from a “Socratic seminar,” Mrs. Morrow is always keeping her class on their toes with new and exciting activities. “[I] have developed strong beliefs about curriculum and instruction,” said Mrs. Morrow. “I love that I get to instruct in the way that I believe – and can support with research! – is powerful, engaging, and hopefully fun.”

In addition to teaching freshman English classes, Mrs. Morrow helps fellow English teacher Mr. Bancroft coach the GW golf team, facilitates the School Leadership Team (a committee of teachers who work closely with Principal Goldstein to resolve issues in the school), works on recruitment, is part of the AVID Site Team, and advises the school newspaper, *The Surveyor*.

“I hadn’t really considered being the advisor [of *The Surveyor*] until then-Editor-in-Chief Connor Williams came to me last year and asked me to consider it,” she said. “I was on my high school paper and my high school yearbook...I enjoyed working as a writer and designer on those two staffs, and I knew the caliber of the staff here at GW, so after giving it some thought, it seemed like a clear decision to accept.”

It is not surprising that a woman with roles as diverse as Mrs. Morrow’s has schooling in many different areas. “I graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois with certificates to teach English, Speech, and Theatre,” she said, noting that she managed to graduate on time despite a brief stint at Truman State University, from which she dropped out several months before starting the winter semester at Augustana. “Then, I went to Regis University here in Denver, where I completed an MA in Education in 2007.” In addition to all this, Mrs. Morrow will be receiving her National Board Certification results next month, and hopes to start another degree next fall.

Although she has an extremely busy schedule, Mrs. Morrow still finds time for a little R&R – which, in her case, she says could stand for Random Recreations. “My hobbies include all sorts of randomness,” she said, noting that in her spare time she “golfs, plays Mastermind and other games, reads, watches TV, does a little acting, relaxes, etc.” She also spends time with her “three ridiculous, fat cats,” one of whom – Choufleur – has been with Mrs. Morrow and her husband, Olin, since their college days. “Olin and I met and became friends on the stage at Augie and at Genesis Guild – an outdoor Shakespeare company,” she said, reflecting her clear passion for acting. She even hopes to have a part in the spring production of the GW theatre. Her husband now teaches at Hamilton Middle School, where Mrs. Morrow taught for five years before coming to GW three years ago.

Over those three years, Mrs. Morrow has brought smiles to both students and teachers. “My favorite times here at GW are all the times spent laughing,” she said. “I have a lot of fun in my classes and get to laugh with the students and I have a great group of colleagues who keep me laughing and enjoying my time as well.”

Part of the reason that she says she enjoys working at GW so much is the atmosphere. “I am always impressed by the number of good people who work hard to help others and make others’ days better,” she said. “I think there’s a great community of students and teachers here to who look out for one another and who use the competition to drive each other forward rather than cut each other down. I think that’s inspirational.”

**-Amelia Kucic, Student IB Reporter**

# Contact Information

## 2009-2010 IB Parents Association Board of Directors

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