

George Washington High School's I.B. Broadcaster



World School A publication of the IB Parents Association of GWHS

October 2009 – Vol. 31, Issue 12

From the Board

For students, parents, staff, and our entire IB community, the new school year has taken off with high energy – from social events to academics to plans for college and the future. The first Parents Association meeting the year was on Tuesday, September 8th. Parents and incoming freshman participated in an information and question-and-answer session with a 3-person panel of IB students. A BIG thank you to the panelists, sophomores **Miles Moore** and **Ann Biermann** and senior **Erik Morrison** for sharing tips on surviving and enjoying IB, and to PIB/IB Math teacher **Steve Lacks** for sharing his thoughts, experiences and sound advice for new IB students and their parents. Veteran students and their parents attended an informational meeting with **Mrs. Geimer** to discuss issues affecting our juniors and seniors. For more detailed information, please see the articles inside in this issue of *The Broadcaster*.

For all up-coming meetings and events, you will receive a voice mail and an email as a friendly reminder. This month's Parent Association meeting for students and parents, *What Every 21st Century Parent Needs to Know*, is set for **Tuesday, October 13th**, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Auditorium. A panel of professionals will address teen issues such as stress, self-esteem, achievement, anxiety, Internet safety, teenage sleep habits, cell phones/texting/sexting, Facebook, depression, nutrition, drinking/drugs, and sexuality. Our panel of experts will surely provide us with valuable insight into our teens' world, along with practical and reassuring tips for parents on the day-to-day challenges of raising teenagers. This is sure to be another great, informative evening that you won't want to miss.

On another note, we are seeking parents to fill the **Freshman Orientation Chair**, **Senior Brunch Co-Chair**, and **Back to School Picnic Chair** board positions. Please contact Kristi Butkovich if you would like to hear more about what the positions entail.

Many of you have already sent in the volunteer opportunity and voluntary dues forms that were enclosed with the previous issue of *The Broadcaster*. **We always welcome more assistance and financing** so, if you've not yet turned in these forms, please know that we are

always happy to accept them. If you've misplaced your forms, please feel free to join a committee by calling or e-mailing one of the committee chairs listed on the Board of Directors page. You may also mail your voluntary dues (make checks payable to "**IB Foundation**") directly to IB Parents Association Treasurer, **Janice Kemp Thomas** at **1634 South Leyden Street, Denver, CO 80224**. IB Parents Association dues enable the Association to fund IB publications such as this one, as well as fund programs for our students, teachers, and the entire George Washington High School community.

IB life is exciting, all-encompassing, challenging and rewarding. The IB Parents' Association is a direct way to stay connected, to be "in the know" and to help our kids succeed not only as IB students, but also as "citizens of the world."

We look forward to seeing you at the October 13th meeting and to hearing from you always.

Kristi Butkovich, IBPA Board President

In This Issue

IB Exam Information	2
Update from Mrs Geimer	2
IB Survival Skills	3
The "Real IB Years"	3
IB Calendar of Events	4
National History Day	4
Get to Know Your CSC Representatives	5
Grounds & Gateway News	5
Yearbook Deadlines	6
GWIB's National Merit Finalists	6
IB College Counseling Corner	7,8
Additions to GW Staff	8
DCPA Actors at GW	8
People You Should Know: Pedro Camacho	9
New GW Counseling Assignments	10
Internship Program	10
Interpeting IB's Weighted Grades	10
Science Field Trip	10
IB Foundation News	11

ATTENTION PARENTS OF JUNIORS AND SENIORS

*All students who plan to take even one IB exam in May **MUST** pay the required fees*

AND

see Ms. Geimer to register for them, using the computer in her office

October 5, 2009 IB Exam test fees due.

Specific information was mailed directly to families. Fees range from \$227 to \$697, depending on the number of exams (1-6) to be taken in May.

Students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch (who have submitted the required forms and been approved) are eligible for assistance with the fees – first come, first served. Please bring your approval form to Mrs. Geimer ASAP.

October 13-23, 2009 Register for IB exams in the Mrs. Geimer's office as directed.

More details will be given at school, but parents might want to check with their students to be sure they have followed through.

IBO imposes stiff penalties for failure to meet the deadlines.

Avoid extra costs by being timely.

GENERAL UPDATES FROM MRS. GEIMER

By now we have all adjusted to the changes in the daily start and top times and the 8-period schedule. Here are some additional developments:

- **Parent-teacher conferences** October 26-27: If a student is struggling in general, parents will be contacted about setting up a group conference. For problems in a specific subject, parents should contact the teacher to schedule an individual meeting time.
- **Choice of Studies:** Sophomores commit to their IB courses for junior and senior years in December. The November IB Parent Association meeting will provide more information to help parents and students understand the options and make informed choices.
- A **mentoring program** for IB freshmen and sophomores: Students in Grades 9 or 10 who are in need of a mentor or upperclassmen wishing to volunteer in the program should contact Ms. Lane or junior **Jackie Enriquez**.
- Personnel changes in the **GW Counseling Office:** Mr. Winn has left GW. Ms. Smith is picking up Mr. Winn's seniors and sophomores M-Z, and newly hired Dr. Johnson will work with freshmen and juniors M-Z. Ms. Vigil will continue with freshmen and juniors A-L. Ms. Vesceri will work with seniors and sophomores A-L until her maternity leave in February. The IB Office will continue to provide much of the practical support to IB students.
- **Mandatory guided study halls** during free periods are required for students with an F in any subject.
- **Mr. Jennings**, the new director of the Future Center, is managing Naviance and the scheduling of college rep visits.

Worth quoting:

"Life is like a trumpet. If you don't put anything into it, you don't get anything out of it."

W. C. Handy



ARE YOU BEING LEFT OUT OF THE INFORMATIONAL LOOP?

Be sure not to miss important IB information and updates that are distributed via email. Register your email with the IB Parent Association TODAY!

Use the green box on
WWW.GEORGEIB.COM

Or simply send you email and name to
LEWHALEN@GMAIL.COM

FRESHMEN LEARN IB SURVIVAL SKILLS FROM UPPERCLASSMEN

September's IBPA meeting provided IB's newest students with pearls of wisdom from some "old hands." Here is a summary of their advice:

- Take advantage of Seminar to do homework and get help from teachers. The GWIB teachers all want students to succeed, and respond particularly well to students who show good effort in their classes.
- Use tutoring help, at school or elsewhere, if you're still struggling in a class. Do it early, before you've fallen so far behind you're tempted to give up.
- Get involved! The happiest IB students are the ones who get involved in extracurricular activities they care about – music, drama, athletics, newspaper, yearbook, speech and debate, mock trial, student leadership, Model UN, clubs for community service and special interests. It helps maintain a balance with academics and helps you connect with other students.
- If you find yourself overcommitted, step back and find ways to simplify your life.
- You *can* be in IB and have a life! But you have to . . .
- Get organized! Time management is a learned skill, one that will serve you well for years to come.
- Use whatever organizational tools work for you - three-ring binders, accordion folders, a book bag – to keep your papers and assignments organized for the full semester.
- Use a planner to track all your assignments, projects, activities, and events. It will help you anticipate scheduling conflicts and avoid being blindsided by a cluster of due dates.
- Time management skills are essential. They include prioritizing tasks, allowing adequate time to complete them, avoiding procrastination, and limiting distractions (cell, IM, chat, etc.)
- Learn who the go-to adults are: IB Assistant Ms. Lane about IB details, Assistant Principal Mr. Tucker about athletics, faculty advisors about the activities they sponsor, Attendance Secretary Ms. Fisher about absences and tardies, etc.

And from Mr. Lacks, these pearls for parents:

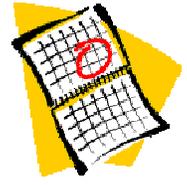
- Resist the temptation to rescue your students. It is far better to help them learn how to e-mail/talk with their teachers and coaches than to do it for them. And having to live with the consequences of poor choices will teach students more than any parental lecture.
- Help your student get enough sleep! Sleep is restorative. Sleep deprivation makes any bad situation worse.

JUNIORS AND SENIORS LEARN ABOUT THE "REAL" IB YEARS FROM MRS. GEIMER

Upperclassmen and their parents gained some valuable insights into the IB years at the September IBPA meeting. Mrs. Geimer expanded on the recent mailing and responded to questions. Here are some highlights:

- Exam fees are due to Mrs. Geimer by October 5, and are based on the number of IB courses a student will complete this year. Students must also register for the exams by going to Mrs. Geimer's office (October 13-23) and inputting their exam orders online.
- Students are sometimes confused about how to read the IB exam schedule. Seniors will take "English A1 HL" exams. Students completing Level 4 of Spanish or French or Level 2 of French *ab initio* will take the "Spanish B SL," "French B SL," or "French *ab initio* SL" exams, respectively. If in doubt, ask your teacher.
- The IBO does not permit exams to be administered at any time other than the published schedule. There is absolutely no way to make up a missed exam except by taking it the following November or May. Please plan accordingly.
- A failing grade in EITHER the Extended Essay or Theory of Knowledge (TOK) makes a student ineligible for the IB diploma, as does failure to complete any of the Internal or External Assessments (IAs or EAs).
- The Extended Essay Extravaganza on October 16, 12 PM, is an opportunity for seniors to share information and advice about the EE process with juniors. Since the EE is not a classic research paper, this is a good opportunity to learn what it is about. A list of this year's EE titles will be published so that juniors can speak with seniors whose interests are similar to their own. Parents are invited.
- Juniors will decide their EE subject area and advisor by December 1.
- All IB science courses require a "G4" project, due this year on December 7. Each year the science faculty selects a common theme. Students work in groups of four on a research presentation that relates to the theme from the vantage of point of the science course they will complete this year. Students and parents will be invited to the G4 Extravaganza also.
- The last day of regular classes for seniors is April 30 and for juniors is May 3. The remainder of the year is devoted to review sessions, IB exams and, for juniors, completing the first draft of their EEs.
- Graduation is set for the evening of Friday, May 21, in the Ritchie Center at DU, with rehearsal in the morning.

2009-2010 Events Calendar



- October 2** Dessert Theatre, 7:00 PM, Priest Theatre, GW
- October 5** Payment for IB Exams due to IB Office – juniors and seniors
- October 6** IB Parents Association Board meeting, 7:00PM, Community Room — Parents Welcome
- October 9** Senior Photos must be submitted to the yearbook by this date
- October 10** Homecoming: Football game at 10:00 AM; Dance at 8:00 PM
- October 10** In- and Out-of-State College Fair, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Cherry Creek HS
- October 12** Senior Extended Essays due to Advisors
- October 12** College Fair at GW – 9:00 - 10:30 AM, Gym
- October 13** IB Parent Association monthly meeting – *What Every 21st Century Parent Should Know* – 7-8:30 PM
- October 13-23** REGISTER for IB exams in the IB Office – juniors and seniors. This second step is essential!
- October 16** Early Release Day
- October 16** CAS Fair – Gym, after early release – sophomores and juniors
- October 16** Extendend Essay Extravaganza – seniors share their EE experiences with juniors, after early release
- October 17** PSAT – 7:45 AM at GW, preregistration required – primarily a junior event – see article
- October 26-27** Parent-Teacher Conferences, by appointment, beginning after 3:00 PM
- October 28-30** Fall Break – no classes
- November 9 & 10** CAS Writing Workshop for juniors - held during English classes
- November 10** IB Parent Association monthly meeting - *Sophomore Course of Study for IB Diploma Program* – 7-8:30 PM, GW Auditorium
- November 11** School Hoilday
- November 13/14 and 19/20/21** *The Tempest*, Priest Theater, GW, 7 PM all dates, plus 2 PM on Nov 14
- 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

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IS HERE!

National History Day research projects will soon be starting in several social studies classes. All GW 9th-12th grade students are welcome to participate. This year's theme is "**Innovation in History: Impact and Change.**" Students may present their research as individual research papers, individual or group exhibits, individual or group documentaries, individual or group performances, or individual or group web sites. Competitions are held each spring at the District, State, and National levels. For more information, please contact Ms. Lamitie, Ms. Gale-Martinez, Ms. Kohan, or Ms. Guggenheim.

**PARENTS:
WANT TO SEE WHAT COLLEGE REP
VISITS ARE ALL ABOUT?
Volunteer for one or more shifts as a
greeter during the school day,
October 8 & 9**

Contact Linda During, lmd329@juno.com, 303-694-9266

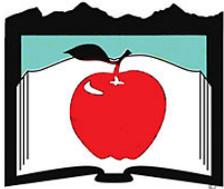
GET TO KNOW YOUR CSC REPRESENTATIVES

Parents who attended Back to School Night had the opportunity to vote for four parent representatives for this year's Collaborative School Committee at GW. At the same time, Student Leadership and the faculty were busy identifying four representatives each.

The members of the 2009-2010 GWHS CSC are as follows: Principal **Steve Goldstein**; teachers **Jim Goffred, Bonnie Guggenheim, Lynn Orman, and Anna Wadsworth**; students **Ashley Ajayi, Isabel Hoyt, Amelia Kucic, and Kyra Trimble**; and parents **Yvonne Culberson, Linda During, Becky Moore, and Mary Jo Minogue**. Two additional members will be selected soon, from the community and from GWHS "classified employees."

Notices of meetings (with agenda), meeting minutes, and contact information should be posted on the GWHS website soon.

Volunteers Needed for Denver Teacher Award



Each year parents help nominate a teacher from George Washington High School for a Distinguished Teacher Award through the Denver Teachers' Awards program. Please consider

helping out with the 2009-2010 school year!

Volunteers are needed to request and organize supporting data, as well as to prepare a submission document by early February. The submission typically consists of supporting text, graphics, and photographs. General program information is available at <http://www.denverteachersawards.org>. If you'd like to help out with any of these tasks, please contact Lisa Haddox at lisa_haddox@nps.gov or 303.969.2811 (work) or 303.377.7099 (home). Our work will begin this fall and be complete by early 2010. Please volunteer to help honor our wonderful teachers!

2010 YEARBOOK DEADLINE & FUNDRAISING

Senior photos are due to the yearbook no later than Friday, October 9 (see form on www.georgeib.com). Pre-orders for the 2010 yearbook will be accepted until November 20 (when the cost will increase). The yearbook is also offering senior dedications and business ads to raise money for the program.

GROUND & GATEWAY COMMITTEE NEWS (formerly Landscape Committee)



Time to play in the dirt! And plant a Cherry Tree (no lie!) at the Monaco entrance to the school. Join us **Saturday morning, October 3** from 9 a.m. to noon. We'll be replacing a couple of dying trees with live ones. Come and meet fellow parents and students, eat bagels, drink coffee, plant a couple of trees.

The GW Student Landscape group has started up again. Students have decided to focus their energies on fundraising this year. Regular meetings will be held at lunchtime on the first Monday of the month in the Resource Center Conference Room, next to the Attendance Office. Bring your lunch and ideas!

Have you placed your **Brick Order** yet? Use the order form online at gwhs.dpsk12.org and under "Quick Links" in the right-hand column, click on "**GW Community Gateway Project**". Once there, it's easy to order your brick or paver, or to dedicate a tree.

See in the illustration where the bricks and pavers will be laid out in an attractive pattern when funding for the project is complete. Meanwhile, bricks will be added to edge the triangular flower bed already in place by the north entrance. Each purchased brick or dedicated tree brings the project that much closer to reality! A huge **Thanks** to all who have already contributed.

Jennifer Janes

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Saturday, Oct 3	9:00 a.m.	East (Monaco) side of GW
Wednesday, Oct 14	7:00 p.m.	GW Community Room
Tuesday, Nov 10	12:00 noon	GW Community Room

CELEBRATE DAY OF THE DEAD aka DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



Openings at the edge Pirate: Contemporary Art gallery are always fun, but none is more so than the premiere of its annual Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration and exhibit. Stop by 3655 Navajo St. on October 30, 6:00-10:00 PM, to enjoy the show, which will include **works by IB Visual Art students**. Expect music and costumes—wear one if you like. The exhibit remains open through November 15. Hours: Fridays 6:00-10:00 PM; Saturdays and Sundays Noon-5:00 PM.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GWIB'S NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALISTS



Please congratulate George IB seniors **Luke Leichty**, **Brennan Harris**, **Hannah McGehee**, and **Chase Kernan**, who qualified as National Merit Scholarship Semi-finalists by scoring at or above this year's Colorado cutoff (213) on the PSAT.

These students' scores place them in the top 1% of those who took the PSAT last fall as juniors. They will progress in the National Merit Scholarship competition, which offers awards from colleges and corporations as well as from National Merit Corp. itself. NMC will soon be announcing students whose PSAT scores qualified them for Commendations, for the National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP), and for the National Achievement Scholarship Program (NASP, for African-American students).

This year the PSAT is being offered at GW on October 17. Juniors were given the opportunity to register at school. Students who wish to be considered for the NHRP or NASP must indicate their race/ethnicity in Item 14 of the PSAT answer sheet.

The PSAT is also open to sophomores on a space-available basis, but only juniors' scores are considered for the National Merit process. Some students find it helpful to have a "trial run" that gives them some idea of how they might score the following year and of how they might want to prepare.

Thank You

Many thanks to Frank Tapy, past DPS volunteer of the year, who has made substantial repairs in the IB art room—this in spite of his own son having attended arch rival, East High!



50TH ANNIVERSARY YEARBOOK

**BABY DEDICATIONS
&
SENIOR PICTURES
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

[WWW.WHSYEARBOOK.WIKISPACES
.COM](http://WWW.WHSYEARBOOK.WIKISPACES.COM)

**FOR ALL THE NECESSARY
FORMS**

**SHOW YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT
FOR YOUR GRADUATING SENIOR BY
PLACING A PERSONAL BABY
TRIBUTE
IN THIS YEAR'S YEARBOOK &
ENCOURAGE YOUR SENIOR
TO SUBMIT THEIR
SENIOR PHOTO TO
YEARBOOK BY OCTOBER 9th**



THE IB COUNSELING AND COLLEGE CORNER

This month's advice is mostly captured in a single sentence: **FOLLOW LAST MONTH'S ADVICE.** The September *Broadcaster* (available online at www.georgeib.com) included detailed instructions for juniors and seniors about two major topics:

- working with IB's college counselor Mr. Haynes, both individually and in his workshops
- meeting with college admissions representatives when they visit GW

Here's the other big "heads up" for seniors and their parents: **APPLICATIONS FOR EARLY DECISION AND EARLY ACTION ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID SHOULD BE READY TO GO OR VERY CLOSE TO IT.** Parents, the CSS/PROFILE financial aid application went online October 1 and should be submitted with any ED/EA apps. (The FAFSA comes later, starting January 1.) Regular decision admission and aid applications have a little more time, but get better reading if they are submitted well ahead of deadline. Congratulations to those organized seniors (you know who you are) who have already begun – or even finished – submitting their applications! Remember to get teacher recommendation forms/envelopes to the teachers in a timely fashion as well; these are different from and in addition to the Secondary School Report form that is completed in the IB office and mailed with Mrs. Geimer's recommendation and your transcript.

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 school, not online. Alternatively the test is offered on Wednesday, October 15, but not at GW.

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). 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.

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.

ACT? SAT? BOTH? NEITHER?

For some great insights about how to decide which tests to take, plus how/whether to send scores to colleges, go to <http://www.theadmissiongame.com/blog/> to read college admissions counselor Peter Van Buskirk's September 22 blog on the topic.

A reminder for **seniors and juniors**: Find out what tests are required by your colleges, and to plan ahead so that all scores will arrive on time.

STANDARDIZED TEST	TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION (additional fee)
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 (28 th ?)	ALL JUNIORS - 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

~Linda During, College Counseling Chair

WELCOME ADDITIONS TO GW STAFF

Community and family outreach is a priority this year at GW because family involvement increases student achievement. Two new staff members have been added to GW: Katresa Carroll is a full-time Community and Family Liaison. Her office is located in the Counseling Center. Kendra Black has been hired part-time to run the Patriot Parent Volunteer Office. Katresa and Kendra will work very closely with the GW faculty, staff and CSC to improve family engagement in order to increase student success. Some of their goals are to improve communication, create a parent welcome center, increase volunteerism and parent interaction with students and faculty, and organize school community-wide events.

Your involvement is crucial to the success of all of GW's students! If you would like to be more involved, please contact Kendra in the office at 720423-8662 or KendraBlack.gwhs@gmail.com

DENVER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE AT GW

Imaginative Shakespearean insults? "Hot seat" improvisations? Debate over real life ethical dilemmas? All this and more awaits IB students participating in a residency to be conducted at GW by the **Denver Center for the Performing Arts**. Professional actors will perform brief scenes from the following four plays in our auditorium: *Tartuffe* by Moliere, *Othello* by Shakespeare, *Eventide* by Kent Haruf, and *The Living* by Anthony Clarvo.

During the two-day residency (October 5 and 6), made possible by the generous support of the **IB Foundation**, the actors will follow up their performance with high-energy, interactive workshops in IB English and IB theatre classes.

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW: PEDRO CAMACHO



Many changes occurred at the beginning of this year: a new schedule, new classes, and, as usual, a new IB Spanish I and IV teacher. Pedro Camacho is the third teacher in as many years to fill this role, but he's here to stay. Ever since he arrived at GW three years ago, Mr. Camacho has been hoping to teach IB Spanish—and now he has finally gotten his wish. His motivation and determination to provide long-term help for students are refreshing. “The approach for teaching IB is different,” said Camacho. “I think IB students like to be challenged... [therefore], I'm happy to teach [them].”

Although Mr. Camacho has only been in the building for three years, his teaching career has been a long time in the making. He was a grade school teacher at Fallis Elementary for six years, before leaving his position there to be an instructor at

DU's law school. “I taught legal Spanish for lawyers,” said Mr. Camacho, who graduated from DU law school himself, with a masters in elementary law, and was a practicing lawyer for several years before he became a teacher. However, after two years of teaching at DU, he decided that he wanted to move on from teaching college students. “I wanted to [disprove] the myth that teaching elementary, high school, and college students is so different that you can't jump between them,” said Camacho with a small smile. “I said, ‘I will show them!’”

Camacho's enthusiasm is a welcome addition to his classroom, where he tries his best to keep students engaged through a variety of debates, written activities, reading assignments, and listening exercises. “I want to apply music to my class,” said Camacho, as he explained the different methods that he uses to keep his class involved. “I am also hoping to get a projector, so that we can read Spanish newspapers and find out what is going on in the world.” Although he admits that it can be difficult to come up with exciting teaching methods, Camacho believes that it is all worth it in the end. “The best reward you can receive as a teacher is when the students learn from you, and are interested in what you have to say,” he said.

Because of his dedication to helping students become more fluent in Spanish, Mr. Camacho has already developed a reputation for keeping his students on their toes. “I like to challenge students,” said Mr. Camacho. He also expressed great confidence in the abilities of his students, saying, “The IB students have similar attention [spans] to college students.” Nevertheless, he realizes that high school students' concentration can sometimes taper off during a particularly dry lesson. “I use my sarcastic way to call their attention,” he said, explaining that he will sometimes joke about charging his students for eating in class.

His students aren't the only people that Mr. Camacho likes to challenge, however. He has recently returned to school himself, and is currently working on getting his masters in Spanish from the University of Colorado at Denver. When asked to describe the challenges of being both a student and a teacher, he said, “You have to be very organized, because your time is limited.”

Despite all the stress that he faces every day, Mr. Camacho still manages to find opportunities to go running four times a week and to spend time with his wife and dog, preferably while hiking. “I like to challenge myself every day,” he said. “So I like to challenge my students also. They often go above expectations. I have high hopes for them.”

Amelia Kucic, Student Reporter



**November 1
Daylight Savings Time Ends at 2 a.m.**

New GW Counseling Assignments

The new GW Counseling Office assignments are as follows:

Grades 9 and 11	A-L	Terrilyn Vigil
Grades 9 and 11	M-Z	Dr. Leonardo Johnson
Grades 10 and 12	A-L	Lindsey Vesceri
Grades 10 and 12	M-Z	Christina Smith

IB seniors should consider Mrs. Geimer their counselor. Students considering leaving IB should see their GW counselor for scheduling, per the assignment list above.

All schedule changes for IB students should go through **Marjie Lane**, IB Assistant. Her office hours are as follows:

Monday	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Tuesday	8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Thursday	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Friday	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

If you need to see Ms. Lane for assistance outside of these hours, she is available by appointment and by email: Marjorie_Lane@dpsk12.org

Pumpkin Call!

IB Physics teacher **Derrick McNeill** is planning the **Annual Physics Pumpkin Drop Contest** in early November and is requesting the donation of pumpkins. Anyone who wishes to donate one or more pumpkins (whole, not carved), should plan to deliver them during the October parent conferences or arrange delivery with Mr. McNeill: Derrick_McNeill@dpsk12.org



Copyright © 2002 Stephanie Baker-Thomas

SCIENCE FIELD TRIP

Thursday, October 8, Environmental Systems and Societies classes will be visiting the **National Renewable Energy Lab** in Golden to help investigate and inspire student Group Four Science projects.

Josh Vinlove, Science Teacher

HS Internship Program Accepting Applications

Sen. Michael Bennet's campaign is now accepting applications for its new high school internship program. If the school offers, students may receive class credit for their work.

This is a great opportunity for students to work for a sitting U.S. senator. All the necessary information is provided on the link below. Please let Mrs. Geimer or Ms. Lane know if you are interested. Students can follow the link below to apply: <http://benetforcolorado.com/internships>

Extra, Extra! Read All About It in *THE SURVEYOR*

Keep up with the students' view of school news by reading GW's monthly newspaper. Better yet, support *The Surveyor* by subscribing for a semester or year. Contact editors-in-chief **Jane Culkin** or **Maddie Czufin** or faculty advisor **Ms. Morrow** (sara_morrow@dpsk12.org) for details.

Interpreting IB's Weighted Grades

With the distribution of the first 6-week report cards, IB students and parents (especially in the freshman class) should familiarize themselves with the "weighted" grading system. High school students enrolled in more challenging courses – including IB – receive more points on their transcripts than do students in regular courses for the same grade earned. Weighted grade point averages and class rankings at GW are calculated based upon AP/X/PIB and IB courses. All pre-IB and IB courses are weighted with the exception of IB PE, IB seminar, and any assistantship. Also, please be aware that the grading scale (i.e., 90-100 = "A") is an individual teacher's decision and not a program- or school-wide policy. Each faculty member has the discretion to set the grading standard in his/her own class(es).

AP/X/PIB/IB Classes

A=5.2 points
B=3.9 points
C=2.6 points
D=1.3 points
F=0 points

Other Classes

A=4 points
B=3 points
C=2 points
D=1 point
F=0 points

IB FOUNDATION NEWS: WE NEED YOUR DEEP POCKETS

Last month's college prep meeting for seniors was instructive for the valuable information presented by IB's new counselor, Rusty Haynes. We also witnessed firsthand the great value of the IB program for our kids, as Rusty, Suzi Geimer, and Marjie Lane guided parents and students through the labyrinth of the college application process. Services of this sort (and we are all aware of the range of assistance our kids receive from the IB program from the time they choose GW in the Spring of their 8th grade year through graduation) ensure the highest standards. And they come at a *very* steep price. **Very.**

The IB program of excellence – and truly, it is the gold standard of excellence in the area – is *not* free. This year, as you know, the IB Foundation is funding a larger portion of Marjie's position as deputy to Suzi because of budget cutbacks. That could amount to over one-third of the Foundation's total budget. But without Marjie, the IB program would simply not provide the array of help, supervision, and guidance that you have come to expect. The Foundation bit the bullet and pitched in with funds, much of it donated by you. Rusty Haynes also comes at a cost that we need to foot so that your students end up at the best college for them. And I could go on and on (teacher needs, subsidies for students, etc), not just about the services and programs in IB but the *expense*.

I am asking, even pleading, with *all* of you to donate more to the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation. Many of you have been so generous already, but please do more. Dig deeper in these times of economic uncertainty. For those of you who have not donated (or have not *paid your \$40 dues*), you need to step up and do so. Please.

You are a member of the best high school program in Denver. Period. You expect the highest quality, and so you should. The IB program seeks to meet your standards. *It cannot do so, however, without money.* That has become all the more apparent this year as DPS and the GW administration have drained away financial support. We are moving on all fronts – politically, bureaucratically, etc. – to remedy the situation. The *funding* front is where you can help.

If you've paid your \$40 dues, think of doubling that with a donation. If you've generously given \$100 in the past, why not \$250? Why not \$500 or \$1,000?

Parents of seniors: a donation would indicate your appreciation to the program for your student's excellent high school preparation while also helping with Rusty Haynes' salary;

Junior parents: counseling and materials are costly in this first year of "real" IB;

Sophomore parents: you now understand how wonderful this program is after the freshman year, so please help;

Freshman parents: you've paid dues but that funds just a tip of the IB iceberg of educational resources your child will benefit from this first year and beyond.

For those of you who have come from private schools, think of your cost-savings. For those of you from public schools, think of the cost-savings. No amount is too much to donate!! Think of your kids, think of the teachers, think of the IB program. Thank you for all you've done already. And *dig deep* to ensure the *future* is as bright as the past. Thank you!

Tom Zeiler, President, IB Foundation

I WANT TO KEEP GWIB STRONG!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____
payable to the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation.

Name of Donor(s)

Name of Student(s)

Street Address, City, and Zip

E-mail address

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.

Contact Information

2008-2009 IB Parents Association Board of Directors

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Broadcaster Editor
Senior Brunch Chair
Student Directory Chair
CAS Chair
Public Relations and Web site
Teacher Appreciation-Chair
IB Ambassadors Chair
Welcome Fest Chair
Picnic Chair
College Counseling Chair
Alumni Representative
Distinguished Teacher Chair
Friends of IB Foundation President
Friends of IB Foundation Secretary
GW Grounds & Community Gateway
Committee
IB Coordinator
IB Administrative Assistant

Kristi Butkovich 303-829-4414, kbutkovich@comcast.net
Kristin Schledorn 720-201-8671, kschledo@comcast.net
Leslie Lilly, 303-910-0910, snillow@comcast.net
Janice Thomas, 303-757-1624, janicekempthomas@yahoo.com
Laura Whalen, 720-490-1283, lewhalen@gmail.com
Dave Marsh, 720-252-2920, dave@bellabasil.com
Gail Saxton 303-377-2955, gailsaxton@comcast.net
Gail Sigman, 303-388-1118, gailsigman@comcast.net
Kelly Morrison, 303-393-8604, kellymorrison2@gmail.com

Cora Neslin, 303-722-7238, dcnesl@comcast.net
Linda Williams, 303-752-2477
Terry Brandl, 303-333-7018, stainedglassbear@yahoo.com
Linda During, 303-694-9266, lmd329@juno.com
Pam Troyer, ptroyer1@mscd.edu
Lisa Haddox, 303-377-7099
Tom Zeiler, tomezailer@msn.com

Jennifer Janes, jjanes@ecentral.com, Lee Ann Huntington,
leeannah@earthlink.net and Martha Tucker, rtucker@frii.com
Suzanne Geimer, 720-423-8626, Suzanne_Geimer@dpsk12.org
Marjie Lane, 720-423-8673, Marjorie_Lane@dpsk12.org

George Washington HS: 720-423-8600

Denver Public Schools
900 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

IB Broadcaster
George Washington High School
655 S. Monaco Pkwy
Denver, CO 80224
720.423.8600
www.gwhs.dpsk12.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 46
DENVER, COLORADO