

George Washington High School's I.B. Broadcaster



World School A publication of the IB Parents Association of GWHS

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From the Board

February was a busy month in the GWIB office. Applicants for 2010-2011 continued to keep **Ms. Geimer** and **Ms. Lane** busy with interviews, questions, and last minute paperwork, leading up to the mailing of admission decision letters on the 22nd.

We look forward to meeting many of the incoming freshmen (and transfer students) at the upcoming **Welcome Fest** on Monday, March 8, which is also the deadline for them to submit reply letters, accepting or rescinding their places in the Class of 2014. Many thanks to Welcome Fest chair **Linda Williams** for organizing this year's event. Student volunteers (greeters; club, sport, and activity reps, tour guides) and parent donors (water, cookies, goodies) are still very welcome. Please contact Ms. Williams at lindasue222@comcast.net or 303-752-2477.

The February IB Parent Association meeting focused on state-wide issues in K-12 funding. Stories of drastic budgets cuts have filled the news in recent months, leaving us all a bit concerned and anxious about our own children's educational futures. We are fortunate that the proposed 2010-2011 GWHS budget will fund the IB program at close to current levels, with DPS continuing to support IB programming district-wide. But no school or district is immune from fiscal worries in these hard times.

The featured speaker at February's meeting helped put Colorado's educational funding issues in context – and the picture she painted was grim indeed. **Lisa Weil**, Director of Policy and Communications for **Great Education Colorado**, explained the “perfect storm” of legislative changes that have taken Colorado from being at or above the national average before 1988 to being 40th in per pupil funding and 50th in teacher salaries today. Facts, figures, and a call to action can be found on GEC's excellent website at <http://www.greateducation.org/>. The talk inspired our IB Parents Association to join the **Great Futures Colorado Campaign**, a

grassroots education advocacy coalition. You can learn more at <http://www.greatfuturescolorado.org/>.

The April IBPA meeting will be a kind of “**Everything You Wanted to Know about College Apps but Were Afraid to Ask**” session, and is mandatory for juniors and their parents. Ms. Geimer and Ms. Lane will provide detailed information, including specific due dates, to help rising seniors get on top the process and stay there. The pace of the fall of senior year is incredibly fast and furious. This meeting will help tame the beast. Juniors: **DO NOT MISS THIS MEETING** – Tuesday, April 13, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Auditorium.

As always, the IBPA welcomes parent involvement. We want to extend a special welcome to new families and look forward to meeting you at upcoming events. Please feel free to contact me at kbutkovich@comcast.net or 303-829-4414 with any questions – especially those regarding how you can get involved!

Kristi Butkovich, IBPA Board President



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2009-2010 Events Calendar

March 1 – 4	CSAP test days: Freshmen and sophomores test in the mornings; IB juniors and seniors attend classes in the afternoons. GW benefits from full CSAP participation. Do your part!
March 3 – 6	The Wiz , GW Drama's spring musical, 7 PM each evening, plus 2 PM matinee on March 6; Performing Arts Fundraiser/Silent Auction precedes the March 5 performance, 5 PM
March 8	Welcome Fest for prospective students , 6:30 PM
March 26	DPS early release day: Noon dismissal; regular (non-block) schedule on Wed. and Thurs.
March 29 - April 2	Spring Break – no classes
April 13	Mandatory meeting for IB juniors and their parents , 7:00 PM, Auditorium
April 19	DPS early release day: Noon dismissal; regular (non-block) schedule on Wed. and Thurs.
April 30	Last day of classes for IB seniors
May 2	IB Senior Brunch: A celebration for the Class of 2010, their parents, and the faculty.
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
May 26	Last day of school for freshmen and sophomores

Parent Volunteers Needed!

This is a **FUN** way to get involved!

The **2010 Senior Brunch** Committee needs your help.

Help plan and execute this fun and exciting event for our outgoing class.

Please call Dave Marsh at 720-252-2920 or send an E-mail to Dave@BellaBasil.com

Teacher Appreciation Committee



Special kudos to Leslie Freeman and Alesia McCloud-Chan for hosting January's IB teacher appreciation monthly event. The duo prepared a sumptuous and healthy lunch of vegetarian and meat lasagna with salad. Little homemade goodies of lemon squares and chocolate meltaways completed the feast.

OPPORTUNITY NOW TO DEDICATE A TREE ON THE GW CAMPUS



Choose a tree from this year's Spring Tree Planting to celebrate your graduate, school club, or a favorite teacher!

A plaque will be placed in front of your tree to tell the world of your appreciation. If we receive enough tree-dedication orders, the plaques can be put in place this spring as the trees are planted. A minimum number of plaques need to be ordered at once, so if you've been considering a tree dedication, **now** is the time to **ACT**. Go online to <http://gwhs.dpsk12.org> and click on "GW Community Gateway Project" under the Quick Links or send an email to jjanes@ecentral.com for an order form.

STUDENT NEWS YOU CAN USE

MODEL UN IN WASHINGTON, DC



NAIMUN students and chaperones await a predawn flight to DC, after their previous day's flight was cancelled due to record-breaking snowfall in the Capital

Despite the “snowpocalypse” in Washington, DC, GW’s Model UN team made it to this year’s North American Invitational Model United Nations (NAIMUN).

The students participated in six councils, including a Security Council in which World War III broke out, a simulation of the Constitutional Convention in which they almost adopted the koala as our national mascot, and a special summit on the DPRK in which China and Russia instigated a civil war in North Korea, culminating in a nuclear blast. Participating were **Rachel Yahn** and **Brian Sullivan** representing the World Trade Organization as the Chinese Tai Pei, **Patrick Lofgren** in the Ugyhur Independence Movement, **Levi Peterson** representing Mexico in the Security Council, **Erik Oerke** representing Gordon Brown in the EU, **Nate Skeen** representing Japan in a special summit on North Korea, and **Erik Morrison** who won 3rd place representing Alexander Hamilton in the Constitution Convention. **Olivia Edwards** was unable to attend due to the flu.

The students were simply wonderful on the trip. What a superb bunch of young people. I am very proud of them.

Leslie Whitty, MUN Faculty Advisor

<http://www.georgeib.com>

GWIB’S HL MATH MAKES THE GRADE

Steve Lacks and his Higher Level Math students were spotlighted by the Sunday *Denver Post* on January 22, in the aptly titled article “Finding the Formula for Student Success” by local writer Ben Cape. The portrait of Mr. Lacks was flattering indeed – and deservedly so. (See the “People You Should Know” article in the February 2010 *Broadcaster*.)

But perhaps even more flattering was the depiction of Mr. Lacks’ students, who were described as vigorous and engaged scholars, full of potential and devotion, who embrace being challenged, who are eager to learn, and who understand that being willing to risk failure is key to achieving real success. Evidently that formula is working well enough to impress the admissions officers at MIT. Mr. Cope spotted a letter from them, thanking Mr. Lacks for all his work with one of our alums, who is now at that bastion of math wizardry.

The full article can be found at http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_14242218

ART HONORS FOR GEORGE IB SENIORS

Please congratulate our seniors who won various honors in the Plymouth Congregational Church Art Exhibit for high school students. **Patricia Park** won an Honorable Mention for a cut-paper work entitled *Rocky Mountains*; **Chelsea Proctor** won an Honorable Mention for a digital photograph entitled *A Lunch in the Park*; and **Robin Zeller** won a Certificate of Merit for a photograph entitled *The Pursuit of Happiness*. Works by other GW students were accepted for the juried show, as well. A reception honoring the artists was held on Sunday, February 7 at the church, located at 3501 South Colorado Boulevard in Denver.

ANNUAL POETRY OUT LOUD COMPETITION

Congratulations to sophomores **Ben Reilly**, winner of George Washington's Poetry Out Loud competition, and **Forest Fowler**, who placed second. Ben will go on to represent GW on March 9th at the state Poetry Out Loud championship in Lakewood. The state winner will compete in the national championship in Washington, DC, where thousands of dollars in prizes are awarded to top winners. Poetry Out Loud is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation.

The school-wide contest was held on Thursday, February 18, where winners at the classroom level presented two poems each. We received a grant from the Colorado Council for the Arts for Jane Page, a drama coach, to work with the classroom winners before they performed their recitations. Colorado's Poetry Out Loud winner receives a free trip to Washington, DC to compete in the National Finals, where a total of \$50,000 is distributed to the top 12 winners.

"Our students this year were especially well-prepared and highly expressive. They have chosen intriguing poems to recite," commented Anna Wadsworth, sponsor of the GW Poetry Out Loud competition.

In addition to Ben and Forrest, other talented competitors included **Ruth Demese, Ahmed Elsayed, Elyana Feldman, Skyler Gallun, Francesca Lipinsky-DeGette, Nyssa Lowenstein, Daniel McCarthy, Richard Medina, Angie Neslin, Ali Norwood, Sarah Pierce, Emma Thompson, Lily Tran, Eleah Wilkerson, Alexandra Wollins, and Luis Zavala.**

GEORGE DRAMA PATRIOT PLAYERS THEATRE COMPANY	
The Wiz March 3-6 at 7pm March 6 at 2pm GW Priest Theater	

GEORGE IB STUDENT RECOGNIZED BY 9NEWS KIDS WHO CARE

For her outstanding volunteerism, freshman **Ann Moorman** has been recognized as one of the 2010 9Kids Who Care.

At an Ethiopian dance performance in 2007, Ann picked up a Children of Ethiopia Educational Fund brochure and learned that a donation of \$250 would support an Ethiopian girl's schooling for a year. Ann signed up to sponsor a student named Amezen.

After she and her friends held a successful bake sale that covered that first year, Ann's creative juices went to work. She helped create the "B Sharp" quartet, a group of friends who perform holiday concerts for seniors in retirement homes. She wanted to give back to people in her community while still raising money for Amezen. After each performance Ann told the group about Amezen and the students in Ethiopia. Friends and family of the seniors contributed enough money for another year of expenses for Amezen.

Ann is also the community service coordinator for 4-H in Arapahoe County. Go to the GWIB website for a link to the full story at 9News.com.

NHS APPLICATIONS APPROACHING

By March 8, invitations to apply for National Honor Society will be sent out to high achieving GWHS students (at least one full prior semester at GW is required). Successful candidates must provide evidence of strong scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Scholarship is demonstrated by achieving a career grade point average of 3.4 for candidates leading into their senior year, 3.6 for candidates leading into their junior year, and 3.8 for candidates leading into their sophomore year.

Applications will be due to Ms. Gale-Martinez in Room 104 or Mr. Sedillos in Room 336 by Friday, March 26. NO late applications will be accepted. The Faculty Council will render a decision by April 15, 2010. Induction will be Tuesday, April 20, 2010 in the GW Library at 6:00 PM.

GW SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM RACKS UP SUCCESSES

Speech and Debate has been extremely busy since the start of Spring Semester, preparing for and participating in a rapid series of competitions. As you read the following accounts of those events, you cannot help but marvel at the extraordinary work being done by all team members and by their faculty sponsor and coach, **Maryrose Kohan**.

I CANNOT TELL A LIE:

GW SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM RULES

George Washington High School co-hosted the Cherry Tree Chop Debate Tournament on January 9, with Cherry Creek High School. The tournament was no sprint, lasting from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM and involving many parent and student volunteers. Speech and debate coach **Maryrose Kohan** provided tireless support throughout. The tournament was a great success, with many Patriot teams qualifying for finals.

Here are the results highlights: 1ST place Varsity Policy Debate – **Chase Kernan** and **Jamie Tran**; 2nd place Novice Policy Debate – **Katie Morris** and **Katie Probst**; 2nd place Foreign Extemporaneous Speech – **Dan Morgan-Russell**; 2nd and 5th place US Extemporaneous Speech – **Lawson Williams** and **Gabe Neslin**, respectively; 4th place Congress – **Langston Williams**; 4th place Dramatic Interpretation – **Julia Sigman**; 6th place Original Oratory – **Heather Yin**. The GW debate team continues to excel this season.

GW SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM CONTINUES TO WIN

This article, written by senior **Gabe Rusk**, was selected for publication in the February 18th *Denver Post Your Hub*.

At the 50th Annual Mullen Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament, held on January 15 and 16, George Washington again performed above and beyond. In Public Forum debate, with over 55 teams competing, GW closed out finals, meaning that the only teams in finals were from GW. Senior **Madi Pluss** and junior **Ethan Melnick** defeated senior **Josh Carson** and senior **Ryan Boyd** to win. In Cross-Examination debate juniors **Tanner Sandoval** and **Sarah Tran** placed 3rd. In National Extemporaneous Speaking senior **Lawson Williams** took 1st place and senior **Gabe Neslin** took 4th. In Foreign Extemp **Lawson Williams** took 6th. In Duo Interpretation juniors **Erin Semple** and **Izzie Gall** took 5th place. In Original Oratory sophomore **Angie Neslin** took 1st place. In Lincoln-Douglas debate sophomore **Michael Homiak** took 2nd place.

The following weekend, at the Overland Blazing Sun Invitational, co-sponsored with Kent Country Day School, GW again performed exceptionally. More than 30 schools from two states were represented at the

<http://www.georgeib.com>

meet. At the end of the day, beating out Cherry Creek, Kent, and Denver East, George Washington High School took home 1st place in Sweepstakes, meaning the team as a whole out-performed all other schools present.

Among the 75 teams that participated in Public Forum Debate, GW had three of the ten teams in finals; no other school had more than one team in finals. Seniors **Madi Pluss** and **Clara Troyer** placed 1st, sophomores **Emma Thompson** and **Miles Moore** placed 2nd, and seniors **Josh Carson** and **Ryan Boyd** placed 6th. Senior **Lawson Williams** placed 1st in National Extemp. Sophomore **Dan Morgan-Russell** placed 3rd in Foreign Extemp. Seniors **Monica Smith-Acuna** and **Teleri Gee** placed 6th in Duo Interpretation. Seniors **Madelaine Czufin** and **Chase Kernan** placed 1st in Policy Debate. In Original Oratory, 3 of the 6 finalists came from GW: **Ben Reilly** placed 2nd, **Angie Neslin** placed 3rd, and **Heather Yin** placed 5th.

BERKELEY IS FOR LOVERS – OF DEBATE

The George Washington Speech and Debate team spent Valentine's Day weekend in Berkeley, California at a large tournament attended by hundreds of teams from across the country. There were many successes.

Over 350 teams were entered in the highly competitive Public Forum debate and GW performed very well. Senior **Gabe Rusk** and junior **Brendan Patrick** placed in the top 16, while seniors **Gabe Neslin/Lawson Williams** and **Ryan Boyd/Josh Carson** all advanced to the quarter final round (top 8). Sophomore **Michael Homiak** enjoyed a big win in JV Lincoln-Douglas debate, breaking in the top 16 and receiving the top speaker award. Sophomores **Olivia Czufin** and **Davis Berlind** placed in the top 8 of JV Policy debate and sophomores **Sarah Pierce** and **Lucy Shen** took 2nd in JV Policy debate out of a field of 150 teams. **Matthew Zavislan** was in the top 32 JV Lincoln-Douglas debaters. Other successes included **Angie Neslin** and **Ryan Boyd**, both of whom made it to the top 56 in their events, Original Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking respectively. George was represented well, and the team members hope to continue to see this success as they move into state and national qualifying tournaments.



THE IB COUNSELING AND COLLEGE CORNER

COLLEGE PREP TO-DO LISTS FOR MARCH

SENIORS:

1. Look for the rest of your application results to arrive between now and April 1. Good luck!
2. Complete any last financial aid application requirements.
3. Consider making “admitted student” visits, without missing school.
4. Compare financial aid packages; www.collegeboard.com (among others) has helpful tools.
5. Keep looking for private scholarships.
6. Thank Ms. Geimer, Ms. Lane, and the teachers and counselors who helped you apply.
7. If you reach a college decision, inform Ms. Geimer and Ms. Lane – e-mail is good.
8. Update your Naviance account with acceptances, scholarships, and your decision.
9. If you’ve decided on a public college, follow procedures for housing. Don’t delay.
10. Go to every class, every day, and keep up with assignments, IAs, and exam prep.
11. Complete your CAS portfolio and interview

JUNIORS:

1. Create or update your résumé to bring to your upcoming interview with Ms. Geimer. She will use the résumé and other information you provide to help her complete the “Secondary School Report Form” and accompanying recommendation letter for your college applications. Interviews will begin in early April.
2. Attend a college application training session during the school day; details to come. This will REALLY help you in the fall – DON’T MISS OUT!
3. Continue to research colleges and develop your realistic list of schools.
4. Continue to use Mr. Haynes for help with #3. Schedule an appointment with him at 719-232-5305 or RHaynes@CSS.org
5. Visit colleges over Spring Break, if that fits for you, to see professors and students in action.
6. Attend the MANDATORY Junior/Parent College Application meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Auditorium. Ms. Geimer and Ms. Lane will walk you through IB’s timeline for applications, including what will be due the first week of senior year and how to complete it well and on time!
7. Put April 28 on your calendar for in-school, free, state-mandated ACT (without writing) testing. ANOTHER DO-NOT-MISS EVENT!
8. Register for standardized tests that are required at schools on your list – ACT (if you need it with writing), SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests. June test dates are the last ones until October.
9. Prepare for SAT/ACT, either on your own (books, practice tests) or through a program. You may be able to take a free practice SAT on March 13 or May 1; see www.princetonreview.com, under “find course”, then “free events.” Review Mr. Haynes’ great test prep advice from your January 30 meeting notes and/or his PowerPoint and audio podcast at http://www.georgeib.com/ib_college_prep.html.
10. Put the DU College Fair on your calendar, April 18, 1-4 PM, Ritchie Center. See www.rmacac.org for list of participating colleges.
11. Decide which teachers you will ask to write your letters of recommendation.
12. Plan your summer. There are some great enrichment programs out there, but application deadlines are approaching fast. Explore. Think CAS (and get signatures). Include some college visits, perhaps.

SOPHOMORES:

1. Review your ACT PLAN results with your parents, and contact your GW Counselor for help interpreting the results.
2. Plan your summer! It’s a great time to accomplish CAS goals that don’t fit into your school year routine. Do something fun, something that you care about, something that will help you learn more about yourself. You might even visit a college or two.
3. See Juniors’ #10. Actually, check out the whole to-do list, just to see what’s in your future. Let yourself dream!

FRESHMEN:

1. Check out what the older students are doing, and start putting yourself in their shoes. It’s coming sooner than you think.
2. Make plans for your summer that involve something a little more substantial than working on your tan, your gaming skills, and/or your social life – not that those aren’t important .

~Linda During, College Counseling Chair

GREAT TEST PREP SEMINAR!

On Saturday, January 30, juniors and a smattering of younger students attended a two-hour session on preparing for college admission testing. We are fortunate to have **Rusty Haynes** as our contracted college counselor, as he has extensive expertise in this area.

The presentation included many detailed recommendations about overall test-taking strategies as well as specific suggestions for how to prepare in each area and “tricks” for maximizing your results on the day of the test.

Because this seminar was announced with short notice, and because so many of our students are involved in so many outside activities, not everyone who wanted to was able to attend. Mr. Haynes was kind enough to allow us to record his presentation and download his PowerPoint slides. They are posted at http://www.georgeib.com/ib_college_prep.html, thanks to parent volunteer extraordinaire **Kelly Morrison**

MANDATORY MEETING

for

**Juniors
and**

Parents of Juniors

**Tuesday, April 13, 7:00-8:30 PM
in the GWHS auditorium**

Extremely important college application information

- IB-specific college application process
 - Crucial deadline information
- How to hit the ground running in August and more!

Be there or be . . . confused ☹

Standardized Test	2009-2010 Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late (addl fee) Registration
SAT <u>only</u> – no Subject Tests	March 13	passed	passed
ACT with writing option	April 10*	March 5	March 19
ACT without writing (all Colorado juniors)	April 28*	N/A – Registration is free, through GW	
SAT or Subject Tests	May 1*	March 25	April 8
SAT or Subject Tests	June 5	April 29	May 13
ACT with writing option	June 12	May 7	May 21

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

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW: BARBARA GALE-MARTINEZ



Walk into social studies teacher **Barbara Gale Martinez**'s room, and her passions immediately become clear. Various awards earned by the Mock Trial team decorate the walls, along with multiple colorful posters designed to help students visualize some of the more complicated civic theories that she teaches. Potted plants are nestled into various corners, reflecting her passion for both gardening and feng shui. One particularly lush plant rests by her desk, which is not always visible beneath a seemingly endless cascade of worksheets, paperwork, notebooks, essays, and teaching materials. However, considering that she teaches several subjects both in and out of IB, it is amazing that Ms. Martinez manages to keep on top of it all—but that she does.

In her eight years of teaching at GW, Ms. Martinez has managed to shoulder a load that many teachers might find impossible. In addition to teaching PIB freshman government, sophomore history, and traditional civics, Ms. Martinez sponsors AVID and National Honor Society. As if that wasn't enough, she also coached the GW Competitive Mock Trial team to a historic victory in 2008—making it the first DPS team ever to win the state championship—and continued the team's success last season, when the GW team went home with six individual awards, including the Outstanding Attorney Award and Outstanding Witness Award. In fact, in the 2008-2009 school year, Ms. Martinez was named the Denver Bar Association Teacher of the Year.

Considering all the extra hours she puts in at GW, one might expect Ms. Martinez to be worn out by the time

she returns to her home in Aurora. Although she moved around quite a bit during her childhood—"I was an army brat," she said with a smile—Ms. Martinez has spent much of her life in Colorado, earning her Bachelor's degree at Colorado State University and her Master's degree at the University of Colorado. However, despite long hours that overlap with the weekends due to Mock Trial, Ms. Martinez still manages to spend quality time at home.

"Family is very important to me," she said, explaining that after her initial four years of teaching, she took a 16-year hiatus to spend more time with her children. However, Ms. Martinez was far from your typical stay-at-home mom—she ran her own interior decorating business for many years, with great success.

Nevertheless, teaching proved to be her true passion, as she returned to work after her kids had left the nest.

"I am very lucky in that I get to spend my time doing what I love," she said.

Her students also feel very blessed to have such a committed teacher in their lives. Junior **Ashley Ajayi**, who has taken several of Ms. Martinez's classes and been a member of the Mock Trial team for two years, was adamant about Ms. Martinez's skills, and the excitement that she brings to both the team and the classroom.

"Ms. Martinez is very opinionated and very intelligent," she said. "I really liked being in her class, but she's also very experienced in mock trial because she's done it for so many years and knows a lot. I feel lucky to have her as a coach!"

However, even someone with as much passion and energy both in and out of the classroom as Ms. Martinez needs to relax now and then—although, unsurprisingly, many of her favorite pastimes keep her up and about. "I love golf, and spending time in the garden," she said. She also keeps busy with sailing, feng shui, and even the occasional interior design job.

To the delight of her students, her diverse areas of interests seem to reflect themselves in her abilities to make even the driest subject matter fascinating and to spark students' interests in a variety of activities beyond the classroom door. We can only hope that Ms. Martinez will continue to contribute to the GW community for years to come.

COLLABORATIVE SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

If you're like my pre-CSC self, you have only the dimmest idea of what the CSC at George Washington HS does. Seven months into my term as a parent representative, I am just beginning to appreciate the scope of what we could be doing as a parent community to improve the academic and cultural environment in the building. It's a bit daunting, but also exciting.

This was a fortunate year for GW in that we received funding for two parent outreach positions. **Katresa Carroll** is serving as the Parent/Community Liaison; her time has been largely devoted to connecting with families of students at risk of failing classes and/or dropping out. **Kendra Black** (parent of IB senior Keenan Black) is the part-time coordinator of the Patriot Pride Volunteer Office. She has gone above and beyond in her efforts to engage parent volunteers in all aspects of GW and to support a positive school culture. DPS is lending a hand too, via both the Office of Intentional School Culture and the Office of Parent Engagement.

The school has also been fortunate in its current Student Leadership (Student Council, for us oldsters), mentored by teacher **Meryl Cohn**. Elected student reps have wholeheartedly embraced the task of boosting school spirit and pride in every aspect of GW. Anyone who has been in the building on Spirit Fridays, attended a big game, or spied the crowds at Homecoming or the recent Birthday Bash knows that they are making a real difference. (A special shout-out to IB juniors **Ashley Ajayi** and **Isabel Hoyt** doing double duty as reps on both Student Leadership and CSC!)

The CSC held an open forum at its January meeting, followed by a parent survey and a follow-up focus group meeting. There was good participation from the various constituencies within the GW community, and the message was clear: Parents and students alike are eager to make GW the best school it can be, and are willing to do what it takes to get there.

We need to take advantage of this momentum NOW. Kendra will be leaving as her son graduates, and continued funding for her position is uncertain. Katresa's position was a victim of the recent budget cuts. Before the end of this school year, we need to build on their good work to support the students and the school.

How, you ask? There are many wonderful ideas and some wonderful parents willing to make them a reality. But they need more person-power. Please consider coming to the upcoming

CSC FOCUS GROUP #2 THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, COMMUNITY ROOM A light dinner will be served.

You will not be committing to anything – yet. Just come and join the conversation, test the waters, and see where you can match your talents to a task that needs doing.

If you come away from reading this with only one message, I'd like it to be this: Become involved in George Washington High School as a whole, and encourage your students to do the same. There are many ways in which you can make a contribution to this school community, and the experience will enrich you as well.

Thank you so much for all you do for GW – both in and out of the IB program. You are making a difference for your own students, and for every student in the building.

~Linda During

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BE MORE ENGAGED WITH GW WITHOUT COMING TO A MEETING, VOLUNTEERING, OR OTHERWISE TAKING A BIG PLUNGE?

- Join the email-list for the *Patriot Press* and READ it
- Attend a game/sport your student is playing in
- Attend a game your student is *not* playing in
- Wear green and white when you go to a game
- Bring green and white stuff with you – balloons, etc.
- Attend a drama production or other performance
- Bring other parents & friends along to events/games
- Wear green and white on a Friday at GW
- Read the daily announcements on the GW website
- Subscribe to and READ *The Surveyor*
- Purchase an ad in *The Surveyor*
- Buy and READ the yearbook
- Purchase an ad in the yearbook
- Get to know the Main Office staff
- Get to know non-IB students, parents, and faculty
- Just come and spend a little time at GW!

AN UPDATE ON THE FRIENDS OF IB SCHOLARS FOUNDATION, INCLUDING OUR NEW ALUMNI SEARCH

Fund-raising Update: The Friends of IB Scholars Foundation wishes to thank the IB families, alumni and friends for their generous contributions so far to this year's fundraising campaign. The Ebrahimi Family Foundation has, once again, offered its challenge grant of \$15,000, and we are well on our way to matching it. While we have not been as fortunate in attracting new foundation donors, some of our old ones have come through in these hard times. And YOU have been there for us, as well. Thanks so much for your assistance!

We still need to match fully the Ebrahimi Challenge grant, so think of IB. I don't need to remind you about the budget crisis facing DPS and George Washington; the news for this year's budget is not good. Principal Steve Goldstein has performed near magic in insulating IB from the cuts as best as he can, but we are at risk – as we were last year – of sharply curtailing the assistant position to IB Director Suzi Geimer. We need you again! Your contributions will make a real difference in the academic and educational excellence of the IB program this year, and in the years to come.

As a reminder, the names of those who have contributed to the Foundation will be published in the *Broadcaster*. If we inadvertently printed the names of any donors who wished to remain anonymous, please accept our apologies for the error. If you have not received a letter acknowledging your tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation, please contact our Treasurer Janice Thomas at the address below, or me at: tomzeiler@msn.com.

Foundation Board Meeting: The IB Foundation Board will be meeting in February to review grant proposals and the DPS funding crisis, and we will report on the grants made by the Foundation in an

AND, SPEAKING OF ALUMNI . . . Meera Rao ('06) recently sent **Mr. Lacks** an update on her activities at the University of Pennsylvania, excerpted here:

At Penn, I plunged into the sciences by enrolling in The Vagelos Program for Molecular Life Sciences, which required me to take a lot of math, physics, chemistry, and biology starting my first year. What kept me going was something I gained in your class: the endurance to fight through tough ideas. Put another way, I learned how to wrestle with hard concepts and be comfortable doing so. I was amazed that concepts taught in HL [Math] were launch points for topics taught through four semesters of calculus. Imagine my delight when a quiz in Calculus IV required me to add and take powers of complex numbers!

I stuck with the Vagelos Program, including its two summers of funded research. In May, I will be graduating with a BA in biochemistry and biophysics and an MS in chemistry. In the fall I hope to start graduate school in biochemistry and molecular biophysics. I'll let you know where I decide to go.

P.S. Your little lecture about the features and usage of the umbrella has served me well here on the East Coast.

issue of the *Broadcaster* later this spring. For your information, Robin Semple has become the new Secretary of the IB Foundation board.

Alumni Search: In addition, we are at the brink of contacting ALL of our IB alumni to celebrate IB's 25th anniversary, to begin festivities for GW's 50th birthday, and to reconnect, at long last, with over 700 people who had their lives changed by the program. More on this later, but if you can help fill in gaps in our alumni data base, please let me know. We hope the alums will not only serve as a source of funding but of valuable contacts for students as they consider their college and career options. As one step in this process, and also to diversify our ranks, we welcomed David Winkler, Class of 1999, to the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation Board. An enthusiastic member, David represents a twenty-something cohort that we hope to energize. This is a step toward reaching out to all graduates of all ages. So if you have contacts, please let me know. But above all, stay tuned to our alumni search initiative!!

Contributions can still be made to the Foundation this year. The Friends of IB Scholars Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your gift can be tax-deductible. You may send your contributions to **Friends of IB Scholars Foundation, c/o Janice Thomas, Treasurer, 1634 S. Leyden Street, Denver, Colorado 80224**. Please contact me at home, 303-364-9181, at my office, 303-492-2353, or by email at tomzeiler@msn.com, if you have any questions about the IB Foundation, or if you have any ideas for funding or fundraising. Thank you for your continued support of the GW IB program.

*Tom Zeiler, President
Friends of IB Scholars Foundation*

Please help us meet the challenge!!

The Friends of IB Scholars Foundation wants to remind all IB families that the Ebrahimi Family Foundation has pledged to match \$15,000 of contributions to the IB Foundation from IB families, alumni and friends. This means that the first \$15,000 of contributions from IB families, alumni and friends will be doubled to \$30,000. Also remember that part of the Ebrahimi Challenge Grant is designed to match contributions from other foundations, so please let me know of any charitable foundations that might help us out.

Remember that since the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your gift can be tax-deductible. Last year, the IB Foundation was able to fund around \$45,000 of grants, and we were still not able to meet all of the faculty requests. With student enrollment in the GW IB program rising, your donations to the IB Foundation are more important than ever. So, please do not delay in sending in your contributions, whether \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 or more. Please send your contributions to:

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

Please contact me at home, 303-364-9181 or at my office, 303-492-2353, or by email at tomzeiler@msn.com, if you have any questions about the IB Foundation.

Thank you for your support of the GW IB program!

Tom Zeiler, President Friends of IB Scholars 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)

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

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