

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

Malcolm Forbes

April 2016

GWIB Broadcaster

April Update

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From the IBPA President

Happy spring!

Congratulations to our IB seniors for their remarkable accomplishments at GW! You have worked diligently with great commitment and focus, and we wish you continued success as you move on to the next exciting chapter of your lives! Also, the IB community would like to acknowledge a few parents of IB seniors who have notably contributed to the IBPA and who will be moving on with the completion of this school year: Kim Benson (Senior Brunch), Kim Kelsay (IB Directory), Leslie Lily (former IBPA President), Jamie Sarche (Shadow Greeter) and David H. Wollins (former CAS President). I would like to give a huge shout-out to Jon Sarche, our dedicated and talented IB Broadcaster editor. Lastly, the IBPA recognizes and thanks Tom Zeiler as he brings to a close his eight-year commitment as president of the IB Foundation. Thank you all for your service to GWIB!

Thank you to those who attended the IBPA meeting in March. We had great attendance and exchanged worthwhile information and ideas. From this meeting, we determined three areas of focus for the IBPA in the immediate future: IB fall event, counseling opportunities, and speakers. If you are interested in participating in the action committees to discuss the evolution of our fall social event (former IB picnic) or the development of additional counseling opportunities at GW, please email me at maura@solucian.com. Also, please let me know if you would like to be part of the dialogue for planning our speakers for next school year.

If you are interested in helping with the IB Book Buy-Back and Sale in May, please email Kathryn Stieneker at kstieneker@comcast.net. Also note info about the sale in this Broadcaster.

You should have received the sign up for proctoring the IB exams this spring. Please sign up and/or contact Kate Pettersen at kbpettersen@yahoo.com if you have any questions or would like to help.

Seniors, you should have your electronic invitation to the much-anticipated Senior Brunch on May 1, 2016. If you would like to

GW Prom/After Prom Donations

Thanks to the approximately 30 families who have donated to After Prom. We are a little more than halfway to our goal of \$5,000. We will continue to take donations, even after the event on May 7, so please consider donating.

The suggested donation is \$50 per family, though any amount is greatly appreciated.

Please make checks out to George Washington After Prom and include your student's name or ID number in the memo line (the treasurer needs it).

Send the check to Kerstin Froyd at 102 S. Ulster St., Denver CO 80230.

HELP NEEDED FOR THE EVENT

We also need volunteers to help the day and night of the event. During

the day, we need help to decorate the Prom venue (Denver Museum of Nature and Science) and the school for After Prom. At night, we need parents to chaperone and help with After Prom from 11 p.m.-2 a.m.

Please contact Roxana Witter at rzwitter@msn.com to let her know when

you can volunteer.
We can't do it without your help!

Student Council plans and funds the Prom. After Prom is the late night event following the dance and offers music, games, raffle prizes, big kid trikes, food, etc. After Prom is planned in collaboration with the Student Council but is funded and implemented by parents. It is free for the students.

Please help make this a safe and fun event for the students!
Kerstin Froyd for the Patriot Parents After Prom
Committee: kerstinfroyd@aol.com.

Senior IB Brunch Registration

The Senior IB Brunch is 10:30 a.m. May 1, 2016, and tickets are still available. The purchase deadline has been extended to April 20, and tickets may be bought online at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/isbr>.

Families wishing to buy more than 3 tickets, please contact [Kim Benson](#). Additional tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Financial assistance is available - please call Ms. Bryant at (720) 423-8884.

Used Book Buy Back and Sale

This year's annual Used Book Buy Back and Sale will be May 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and May 27 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the IB Office.

Please note this sale is now applicable only to juniors and seniors. Used books will be bought back from current juniors and seniors and resold to rising juniors and seniors.

We also will facilitate a group order of new books for rising juniors and seniors. Your participation in this group order helps raise funds to cover book expenses for our IB students-of-need. New book order forms will be available in early May.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions: Kathryn Stieneker, 303-881-1839, kstieneker@comcast.net; or Marijke Sheraden, 303-810-6598, mjsheraden@gmail.com.

Engraved Gateway Pavers Available

Celebrate your student's experience at George! Engraved pavers placed at the Gateway entrance can be purchased at the GWHS website. This is a great way to contribute to the gateway and commemorate your student!

The deadline is June 1, and the pavers will be placed in the coming months. Simply click on "About", "Community", then "GW Grounds Committee". You will see "Store" on the left menu and different paver options. Upon payment, you will provide your personalized inscription. Here is a direct link:

volunteer to help in the final stages of preparation, please email Kim Benson at knbenson@centurylink.net. This will be a wonderful event!

To help our IB students with their CAS projects, please contact Josie Ostrander at jhostrander@gmail.com. If you are interested in Patriot Pairs, please contact Caren Press at carenpres@gmail.com. Many of you have seen this article, but I wanted to post the link one more time...Juniors (and sophomores & freshmen) may find [this article](#) interesting and helpful.

Lastly, please support George by responding to the DPS Parent Satisfaction Survey you will receive next week.
Thanks for your support and involvement!

Sincerely,
Maura Mackintosh

Goodbye and Hello from the IB Foundation

Yet another great year for the GW IB program - 2015/16 was simply stellar in terms of the accomplishments of our students, teachers, and staff!! Your generosity has allowed the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation Board to fund our teachers and programs this year, and lay the groundwork for the next one. While I applaud IB, let me also stress that you - as the community - are amazing!!! Thanks for your help once again! We say goodbye to a great group of students, but look forward to the next crop!

The Foundation Board welcomed new members this year and enjoyed the continued vigorous and dedicated contributions of a dozen or so existing members. My invitation remains open to those of you interested in serving on the Foundation board. I also want to extend special thanks to Tim and other parents of seniors on the Board for their service: Kim Benson, Katie McCrimmon and Mary Jo Minogue. Please contact Tim Bakken, the new IB Foundation President, at timbakkenib@gmail.com.

Note that Tim, not I, is your contact point! After eight years as President of the IB Foundation - years of great gratification in helping to build and maintain the best IB program in the nation, as well as working with the dedicated and selfless fellow Board members - I will now give way to Tim. He and his wife Stephanie's daughter, Emma, graduates in May and their other daughter, Catherine, will be a sophomore in IB. It is important to have the Foundation in the hands of current parents, so thanks to Tim for

rising to the challenge of leading us into a new era. He will be boosted by new VP Jana Roush and Secretary Kittie Hook, and our veteran financier, John Murray as Treasurer, who has agreed to stay on.

As always, IB comes back to you. In my years on the Foundation, I noted how many families and our community members come forth with contributions. However, we can always do more and involve

CAS Corner

Preparing GWIB Students for CAS: How Can a Student's Family Help?

Many students need adult guidance as they begin CAS. This is an important time when parents and other family members can help. As your student implements CAS during the junior and senior years, you may provide occasional guidance, but should avoid active involvement in your student's CAS experiences and projects to help your student get the maximum benefit from CAS. Click [here](#) to see a student timeline document.

The Summer Before Junior Year

Though a student's experiences during the summer BEFORE junior year do NOT count toward the 18-month CAS requirement, your rising junior should review the CAS requirements and begin to plan potential CAS experiences so that he or she is ready to begin CAS when the school year starts.

1. Review the "[GWIB CAS Long Range Planning Form](#)" with your student and help him or her identify potential experiences for each of the three CAS elements (Creativity, Activity, Service). Review the completed form with your student.
2. Encourage your student to identify and contact organizations for volunteer opportunities in his or her areas of interest. Although the Internet holds relevant information, encourage your student to go beyond the Internet and initiate personal contact with potential resources to determine their needs (i.e., "How can I help?"). The ability to talk to strangers in a mature manner is an important skill for students to develop. Your student should begin any necessary application processes during the summer. Remind your student that it may be necessary to apply to more than one organization. (Planning means not putting all of your eggs in one basket.)
3. Help your student imagine potential experiences that would present him or her with new skills and experiences. Challenge your student to try experiences outside his or her comfort zone. For example, if your student is not artistic, you might suggest he or she take an art class at a local recreation center.
4. While CAS is a formal and mandatory requirement of the IB Diploma program, it also is a chance for students to expand their worlds. Most adults appreciate the value of being able to move out of their comfort zones without repercussions. Many adults find it difficult to do so and others simply do not have the time to try. Help your student appreciate that CAS can be more than an IB requirement.
5. Focus your student on CAS during the summer so that he or she returns to school for junior year with a draft, but concrete, plan to fulfill his or her CAS requirements.
6. Your student must complete and hand in the completed "GWIB

more alums, businesses and families in our campaign to ensure the excellence of IB. Your donations of money, time, and actions have enabled the IB program to remain vibrant and the Foundation supportive of our students, staff, and faculty. We appreciate all you have done.

Contributing is easy. You may donate the traditional way, and send your contribution to:

Friends of IB Scholars Foundation, c/o John Murray, Treasurer,
1243 South Williams Street, Denver, Colorado 80210.

Or use the electronic payment method:

https://secure.qgiv.com/cps_donors/index.php?key=friendsofib

The Foundation looks forward to the continued support of the George Washington IB community next year! And you will be in great hands with Tim Bakken, the other officers, and the other members of a wonderful Board!

Sincerely,

Tom Zeiler

Friends of IB Scholars Foundation

IB COLLEGE COUNSELING CORNER

Congratulations, seniors! As we go to press, members of the Class of 2016 are finalizing their college choices. It will take some time for the dust to settle before we can determine the facts of this year's college admissions frenzy. What we do know is that the Class of 2016 received acceptances and scholarships from many fine schools, that they are spending the month of April considering their offers, and that the reply deadline is May 1. We hope to post a list of their final college choices on the GWIB website soon.

Seniors should update their Naviance accounts ASAP with their college, financial aid, and scholarship outcomes (with any subsequent changes added as needed), so that (a) each final transcript is sent to the correct school, (b) the Naviance database remains accurate and helpful, and (c) their graduation program listings are complete. The author will be coming to senior English classes in the coming two weeks to get that information from students who have not entered it on their own. (That moment can be a little uncomfortable for the students, so please give a nudge now.)

IB exam results will be available on the IBO website at <https://candidates.ibo.org> on July 5. In order to view those results, seniors will need the access code they were given. They should then follow IBO's procedures if their chosen college needs an official score report for admission confirmation and/or for advanced standing. GWIB cannot provide this; it must come from IBO directly.

IB exam prep is in its final days, with exams taking place over the first three weeks of May. We hope seniors will enjoy some well-

CAS Long-Range Planning Form," at the student's initial CAS interview, which should occur the week following Labor Day.

The Summer Before Senior Year

Students must complete one CAS project during senior year. At the end of junior year, the CAS Coordinator will meet with students about formulating senior-year CAS projects. Because senior year is extremely busy, particularly the first semester, we strongly urge students to begin the investigation (research) component of their senior CAS project over the summer.

Families can help focus seniors on this effort so that students can prepare a tentative outline of their project before senior year starts.

The investigation stage of a CAS project is the most difficult - and often neglected - step to develop a CAS project. Advise your student to begin by narrowing his or her area(s) of interest to an issue for which he or she feels passion, such as the elderly, animals, the environment, poverty, domestic violence, homelessness, literacy, or other political or social issues.

Once your student has focused on an area of interest, he or she can begin to investigate (research) organizations, groups, and individuals working in this field, in a manner similar to what he or she did in junior year (see paragraph 2, above).

You also can help your student develop realistic project goals/measurable objectives for the senior year project. Students often show unbridled enthusiasm during the initial stages of developing a CAS project. While student enthusiasm is to be encouraged, students must remember that CAS is only one piece of their very busy lives. On the other hand, students can exhibit complete denial of CAS, perhaps planning on "knocking off" this requirement a week or so before the completion date. Obviously, this is not a good idea, negates the CAS experience, and endangers your student's IB Diploma. Both extremes call for adult guidance. CAS experiences and projects should enhance IB and not create unnecessary stress.

deserved R&R after finishing those exams, and we wish them safe and happy graduation celebrations. There are just a few loose ends that remain.

Please encourage your senior to thank everyone who helped him or her get to this point, and to let those helpers know how everything turned out. Once the big decision is made, seniors should respond to their chosen college's paperwork requests promptly. It would be a shame to get into the college of their dreams, only to wind up with a nightmarish roommate or orientation experience because of tardy submission of a questionnaire. Summer is the time to make a packing list, to decide about buying/upgrading a computer, to discuss college finances as a family, to attend orientation, and most of all, to have fun and relax - within reason.

Juniors (aka rising seniors) are receiving detailed information about what to expect regarding the application process via individual meetings with their GW counselors. Please ask your junior about that meeting. Many parents of juniors attended the IB Junior Parent Night on April 13, where you were also given information about the college application process within GWIB. If you missed the meeting or lost your handouts, check with your student's counselor as soon as possible, well before the end of the school year.

Starting May 23, Ms. Bryant will be conducting individual interviews with current juniors to collect information for the college recommendation letters she will be writing over the summer (bless her). The quality of the information a junior can provide will affect the quality of the letter he or she can write. IT'S IMPORTANT!

Next fall will be an incredibly busy time for rising seniors, whose time-management skills will be tested as never before. Anything that can be done over the summer to get a jump on the to-do list will help keep students and their parents sane. Become familiar with Naviance and have your rising senior use it to track schools of interest. Encourage him or her to work on narrowing the college list to no more than seven schools, and to plan campus visits if possible. Even in the summer you may be able to arrange an admissions interview and/or a meeting with a faculty member, coach, or activity director, in addition to a formal information session and tour.

Rising seniors are highly encouraged to complete a first round of the SAT or Subject Tests (June 4) and/or the ACT with Writing option (June 11) if any of their colleges require these. Testing/retesting will not be available again until the fall, but students can do some test prep between now and then if they need to improve their scores. Summer also is the time to write a draft of the main Common Application personal essay and to prepare other materials, mostly on Naviance, that counselors have told juniors to work on (e.g., Common Application sections, updated résumé, and lists of 2-3 teacher references and no more than 7 colleges). They also should use the summer to engage in meaningful experiences such as job shadowing, paid or volunteer work that relates to academic/career interests. CAS activities, and anything else that

helps them along their path to independence. Here is a [schedule of college entrance exams](#).

Wise sophomores will give themselves a leg up before the start of formal IB classes by engaging in worthwhile activities - work, academics, athletics, extracurriculars, pursuit of passions - over the summer. Just as they prefer meaningful school assignments over busy work, they'll prefer summer activities with some substance over pure time-killers. And don't forget that they'll be eligible to take the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship, National Scholarship Service [for African-American students], National Hispanic Recognition Program, and Telluride Seminar Scholarships Qualifying Exam) in October, and the SAT (and maybe SAT Subject Tests and/or the ACT) later in the year. The 2016 PSAT will use the redesigned PSAT, which should help prepare the Class of 2018 for the redesigned SAT later in the year. Please see <https://www.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt> for more details. It's not too early for rising juniors to browse some practice tests and decide what kind of test preparation they need. A reminder: the ACT will no longer be offered free to juniors by Colorado public schools. The Colorado Department of Education opted for the SAT instead. Next year's junior class will be the first one to experience the switch.

Freshmen will also be happiest with some worthwhile summer plans that build on their year's worth of high school experience. I believe, but am not certain, that they will be taking the PSAT 10 at GW in Spring 2017, as a way to prepare for the following year's PSAT/NMSWT and SAT.

It's not too early for rising sophomores and juniors to visit a campus or two, especially if any family summer travels take you close to a college you all might not otherwise get to see.

All students and parents, take note. A large college fair is coming up on Sunday, April 24, 1-3:30 p.m. at the Ritchie Center at the University of Denver. Go to <http://rmacac.org/college-fairs/spring-college-fair-in-denver-co/> for details.

Another interesting college fair will take place in Denver right after the start of the new school year: Colleges That Change Lives Fair, www.ctcl.com, Tuesday, August 30, 7 p.m., Denver Convention Center, 700 14th St.

There will be three larger and broader college fairs at the end of September. Please go to <http://www.collegefairsdenver.org/> for details. Right around the dates of those fairs, GW will see a large increase in the number of college admission representatives visiting and recruiting at the school. These visits are an excellent opportunity for seniors and juniors to get face-time with a college's regional representative, who will typically be the first reader of their applications. Notifications of these visits appear in Naviance. When students sign up for a college's mailing list, they also receive notification from the college directly. Please note: it is important for students to get permission from their teachers to miss part of class

to meet with a rep, and that permission is not automatic. Students should be thoughtful about their choices. Attendance is taken, by the way.

We are working on recruiting more resources to support and enhance what GW's in-house staff can provide in terms of college counseling. We'll share information as it becomes available. In the meantime, you are encouraged to subscribe to Peter Van Buskirk's excellent and free website at <http://www.bestcollegefit.com/>. Juniors (rising seniors) who have the requisite time, money, motivation, and anxiety might consider attending his local workshop on college application preparation on Sunday, May 1. Details and registration (by April 17) are available on the website.

Questions? Contact your student's counselor before the end of school. If questions crop up during the summer break, I can try to provide interim answers as a lay person. Email is best: lindaduring@gmail.com.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer.

Linda During, College Counseling Committee

Please contact us if you have story ideas or information you would like to include in the GWIB Broadcaster Newsletter.

Sincerely,

GWIB Parent Association