



IB PARENTS MEETING FEBRUARY 12

Colorado Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff Will Review School Reform

Parents are fundraising more and more each year to fill in the gaps left unfilled by inadequate school budgets. Among other things, parents often finance additional teachers, counselors, classroom supplies, and even school security. Why is it GW has only three security officials for the entire school? Is it a surprise that GW's 11 full-time and part-time custodial and maintenance personnel have a difficult time keeping the school and pool clean and maintained? What about those outdated textbooks?

You are invited to come to the IB parent meeting on **February 12, 7:00pm**, and hear **Colorado Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff** discuss Colorado public school reform, developments in the legislature, and other issues that definitely impact *all of us*! **Mr. Romanoff** is excited to come to our meeting, where he hopes to share with you his school tour experiences and offer us an opportunity to ask questions and tell him our opinions/ideas about school reform. One of his top priorities this legislative session **IS** education – please come and enjoy this wonderful opportunity to meet not only **Andrew Romanoff**, but also to hear Great Education Colorado, a grassroots, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of parents and other public school supporters, whose mission is to be a catalyst for improved and wise investment in Colorado's public Education. Discover why Colorado ranks in the bottom 5th for state support of K-12 education and 48th in per capita spending on higher education. Learn how we can all get involved to improve our state's investment in public education.

Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.

Martin Luther King Jr.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR IB WELCOME FEST

The IB Parent Board is pleased to announce the annual welcome fest. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m. at George. We are looking for IB students who are involved with extra-curricular activities and are willing to share their experiences. Free pizza will be served before the event for participating students!

I would like to hear from anyone who wants to showcase their talents, clubs, competitions, honor societies, sports, etc. This would be a great way to recruit members for your activities and get a start on next year's membership! If anyone has any art they would like to display or a performance they would like to try out, there's also room for you. We would also welcome any 9th graders who would be willing to act as general hosts and interact with the prospective students. I also welcome parent volunteers to help staff the event and/or provide baked goods. Please call **Jennifer Ostrom** at 720-748-1492, or e-mail me at jnnfrcara@earthlink.net to volunteer.

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From the Board

Our January IB Parent Meeting provided a chance for four recent GW IB graduates to share an inside look at what it is like to be a GW IB graduate in college. The program also reminded us of what great kids we have coming out of the IB program at George. We really would encourage all IB parents and students to attend at least one of these meetings during your four years at GW. You will come away with an appreciation of how well-prepared our students are for college, even compared to other IB students at some of the finest colleges in the country. Many thanks to our IB grads who participated on the panel: **Antoinette Bronesky** – Notre Dame, **Anna Brozna** - CU, **Andrew Foote** – Lewis and Clark, and **Emily Sigman** – Yale.

The next IB Parent Meeting will be **February 12, @ 7:00 pm**. Please come and meet the **Colorado Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff** and find out what he has learned from his many visits to schools and school districts throughout the state. Education is a focus of his legislative agenda during this session and he will encourage your questions, opinions and ideas about school reform. Also in attendance will be **Great Education Colorado**, an organization of parents and other public school supporters that advocates for adequate funding for public education in Colorado. **We heartily encourage you to attend this wonderful program** – you will learn much about how Colorado supports (or doesn't) public schools, including **GW**, and hopefully be sparked to **get involved** in helping to change the status quo!

Also coming up in February is the annual **Welcome Fest**, that magical evening when GW's IB Program shines for all of the accepted 8th grade IB applicants. There will be food, activities, demonstrations, lots of action and current students showing off our IB Program on **Tuesday, February 26th**, starting at **6:30 pm**. Thanks to **Jennifer Ostrom** for spearheading this fabulous night. Come and share the excitement!

Now that we are into the second semester of the school year, it is again time to begin thinking about Board positions for next year. Committed and involved parents are what make the Association such a successful organization and strong voice for the IB Program. If you are interested in a Board position for next year, please let a Board member know.

**Board Co-Presidents
Andrea Shea and Debi Roads**



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

The IB Program has made significant strides in the past several months – among them, joining the **21st Century** by now having a beautiful, informative and user-friendly web site, **georgeib.com**.

We want to thank IB dad **Kelly Morrison** for designing, launching and maintaining our **incredible** website! Another reason we are 'getting up to speed' as a program is IB mom **Laura Whalen**, who has diligently and painstakingly created a database of all IB families and students. We are now able to communicate directly with the overall IB community via email with this DB.

THANK YOU LAURA AND KELLY!

People You Should Know



Mr. Lukowski, affectionately known as Mr. Luk, originally planned to be an auto mechanic. Today, he teaches five different IB math classes that include all four grade levels.

After completing four years in the army and earning a bachelor's degree in math and a master's degree in education, **Mr. Lukowski** began his teaching career. Mr. Lukowski is now in his sixteenth year of teaching, twelve of which have been spent at GW. At George, he taught part-time in IB for a few years before becoming a full-time IB teacher in 2003. Today, his numerous types of classes require lots of preparation; however, he enjoys every minute of it, especially teaching trigonometry.

Mr. Lukowski was born in Omaha, NE, one of six children raised by his widowed mother. He attended South High School in Omaha and explains, "Something people don't know about me is that I was a terrible student. I never got out of basic math." Today, after completing many advanced math courses, **Mr. Lukowski** combines his love of math and his own sense of humor every day in the classroom. From personal experience he advises his students, "Do not close any doors because you have no clue where you'll be in ten years." Through **Mr. Lukowski's** encouragement and dynamic teaching, students succeed at math and in life.

At home, **Mr. Lukowski** enjoys the company of his wife, who just retired from 25 years of teaching special education at Montbello High School, two cats, three dogs, and two horses. In his spare time, **Mr. Lukowski** enjoys woodworking and is currently starting to make furniture. He also specializes in cooking Cajun food and eating chocolate raspberry cake. In addition, **Mr. Luk** is a history buff and, if given the opportunity, hopes to travel across the U.S. to view historic monuments from the Civil War and Revolutionary era. One day he would also like the adventure of renting a car and driving across Europe.

Mr. Lukowski's expectation of his students is simple – that they do their best. He also recognizes that high school is about preparing students for the world. "Although I hope they learn math, I hope that they take something from my class that they can use in real life."

Caitlin Opperman
Student IB Reporter

Travel to Costa Rica in Summer 2008!



Costa Rica Sunset

Fulfill IB requirements and have the time of your life! Relax on the beach, hike in the jungle, visit active volcanoes, live with a Costa Rican host family, and have more fun learning Spanish than you ever thought possible, June 5-19, 2008. Registration deadline has almost passed... Contact Common Ground International directly (303) 684-5557

Rory Foster
Common Ground International, LLC
PO BOX 174
Lafayette, CO 80026
Ph. (303) 684-5557
Fax. (303) 684-5558
rfoster@commongroundinternational.com
info@commongroundinternational.com
www.commongroundinternational.com



Jungle Canopy Tour, Costa Rica

Model UN Team Continues to Score Big at Local Meets



Congratulations to the Model UN team for their fantastic performance at the Boulder meet Saturday December 8, despite the horrible weather.

Ella Peterson and Becca Chazin won honorable mention in the World Health Organization for Botswana. **Angela Bae** and

Taylor Webster won outstanding delegation for Sierra Leone in the Ad Hoc Committee on Demilitarization. **Nate Austin** and **Emily Peterson** won best delegation for Uganda in the World Health Organization.

Other teams participating in the event were:

Beginner Security Council – Beginner
Patrick Lofgren and **Erik Oerke** – Somalia
Dora Georgescu and **Sarah McClelland** - Zimbabwe

World Health Organization (WHO) – Intermediate
Maddie Wolberg and **Amie Kashon** – Zimbabwe

Ad Hoc Committee on Demilitarization – Intermediate
Vidya Pugazhenthii and **Austin Ishii** – France
D. J. Mares and **Brinton Mitchell** – Mozambique
Chris Lowe and **Ryan Stroud** – Uganda

Ad Hoc (Corruption) – Advanced
Anders Jeffery – Sudan

Great job Model UN!

Leslie Whitty
IB Teacher



George Drama

This year, the George Drama Club is attempting to buy a new curtain and update the theatre's acoustics (both sorely in need of updating). The Drama Club is hosting a silent auction to be held on February 29th before the Friday performance of *Once* on this Island (The show will start slightly later that night). All Drama Club members are requested to donate at least two auction items; the last day to drop off items will be January 30th. The audition will be a ticketed event but discounted tickets will be available online (see URL below). EVERYONE is invited to attend and support this worthy fundraiser for George Drama.

Check out George's Drama website to get up-to-date info on upcoming performances:

<http://www.georgedrama.com>

2007-2008 Main Stage Performances:

Show	Audition Dates	Performance Dates
Musical: <i>Once on This Island</i> , a Jamaican Legend	Dec. 3-6, 2007	Feb. 27-March 1, 2008
<i>War of the Worlds</i> , a radio play	March 5-7, 2008	April 24-26, 2008 and May 2-3, 2008



GW Young
Ambassadors to
France & Spain

Summer Trip 2008

For anyone interested in the GW trip with Colorado Young Ambassadors to France and Spain this summer there is now a website that contains all of the information. Please go to:

www.voyager-france.com

IB COLLEGE COUNSELING CORNER



We hope that you were able to attend the January 8th Parents Association meeting – our annual college panel and a perennial favorite. **Antoinette**

Bronesky ('04, U of Notre Dame), **Anna Brozna**, ('04, CU Boulder), **Andrew Foote** ('06, Lewis & Clark College), and **Emily Sigman** ('07, Yale U) shared their collective wisdom about college choices and college life with a standing-room-only crowd of current students and their parents. They were wonderful, and we cannot thank them enough for taking time from their winter breaks to give back to GWIB. It isn't possible to recount all that was discussed, but the overarching message was this: If you approach the college process thoughtfully and research schools thoroughly, your efforts will be rewarded by finding a good match for your college years.

Our panelists brought that message to life with their own stories of finding their match, adjusting to life on campus, and making the most of the next four years. Here are a few of their choicer recommendations: If possible, visit the campus and stay overnight – what looks perfect on paper may not feel right in person. Think about what is most important to you when assessing colleges, including things you may take for granted, like diversity. Size matters, but bigger is not always better. A financial match is important too, and sometimes is best found outside of the absolute top tier of colleges, plus it can feel good to be at the head of the pack. College applications are not the place for excessive modesty – assess your talents and present them creatively. If you have your heart set on a “reach” school, you have to do more to make yourself stand out from the crowd (in a good way, of course). Fastweb.com is a particularly good site for finding private scholarships. Continue looking for scholarship money during your college years, as some funds are available to enrolled students and most don't think to apply. Approach your freshman housing/roommate situation with an open mind – even if you don't become bffs, you will almost always find ways to live together happily and there is help available when this seems impossible. Be active during high school, but choose activities based on what you care about, not what you (or your parents) think will look good on your application. And stay involved during college – it's how you'll meet people who share your interests and how you'll prepare for life after college, whether graduate school or work.

Congratulations, **SENIORS!** You've made it through the whirlwind that is the first semester of senior year and your college applications have been sent (with a very few exceptions for later-deadline schools). Seven happy seniors who opted for Early Decisions already know where they are headed in the fall: **Hannah Adler** – U of Penn, **Granger Atkeson** – Vanderbilt U, **Rebecca Chazin** – Smith College, **Che Reyes** – **Embry Riddle** Aeronautical U, **Tasha**

<http://www.georgeib.com>

Russman – Scripps College, **Kathleen Shea** – Pomona College, and **Christine Stewart** – Carleton College. Other acceptances (either Early Action or rolling admissions) that students have shared with the IB office as of mid-January include Coe College, Colorado College, Colorado State U, Goshen College, U of Colorado at Boulder, and U of Tennessee. Students with EA or rolling acceptances have until May 1 to accept or decline these offers. Once you decide where you will be going, do not delay arranging your housing, particularly at large institutions which often fill prime residences quickly. Please continue to share the outcomes of your applications with the IB Office and with your recommending teachers. This column is happy to report your good news, but we won't pair a student's name with a college until you tell us that you have committed to going there.

During the third week of January the IB Office mailed Mid-Year Reports and updated transcripts to complete all the seniors' applications. **Mrs. Geimer**, **Mr. Achbach**, and all the teachers who wrote recommendations deserve a standing ovation for successfully sending out the mountains of paperwork required to support the hundreds of applications submitted by our 75 seniors. Although the volume is less daunting, they are still hard at work responding to requests for supporting documents for scholarship applications. Remember to thank them – profusely! By now most colleges should have finished filing all the pieces of your applications, but some will still be a work in progress. If you receive notices that something is missing, please contact **Mr. Achbach** before getting upset. Usually a quick phone call and/or fax can remedy the situation, and you'll often discover that “what once was lost has now been found.” If you receive any additional awards or honors that would enhance your application, be sure to update your admissions representatives. Now is also a very good time to continue looking for additional scholarships; remember www.fastweb.com. Fight the temptation to succumb completely to senioritis; maintain your grades. You'll be glad you did when you are requesting advanced standing from your college in the fall.

SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS should be working on, or done with, financial aid applications now. Many highly selective schools require that the FAFSA and CSS PROFILE be filed by February 1, with actual tax returns due soon after. Please check your colleges' requirements carefully, and meet them to the letter. It is wise to check the status of your FAFSA about a week after you file it online, or as soon as you receive a written confirmation if you filed on paper.

JUNIORS should be getting serious about their college search by now and planning for visits over spring break. If you have been working on your college list with **Mr. Franklin**, your visits will be better focused and more worth the time and expense. Now is also the time to decide what combination of SAT, ACT, and Subject Tests you will take in the spring. Testing is not offered during the summer, and it is wise to complete at least one round of testing before the

fall. (A few freshmen and sophomores may also decide to take a subject test or two.) Once you have decided about your test schedule, complete your online registration to avoid late fees. On January 17th, **Mr. Franklin** met with juniors and their parents and shared essential information about selecting and applying to colleges. If you missed this session, you can get a copy of the handout in the Future Center. There will also be a meeting later in the semester to teach the junior class the nuts and bolts of putting together their fall applications, including details of how to obtain counselor/school reports, transcripts, and teacher recommendations. **PARENTS OF JUNIORS**, be assured that many, many juniors are not nearly as ready to launch themselves full tilt into the process as you think they should be. Try to stay out of any power struggles while helping your student acquire the tools to do the job. By the same token, do what you can to get on track because next fall will become overwhelmingly busy. Encourage your junior to talk with **Mr. Franklin** and with current seniors and college students, and make college guides available. Campus visits will also make college much more real and tangible for your junior.

ALL STUDENTS should be thinking about how they will spend their summer break. Many graduating seniors will need to earn their contribution to next year's tuition, and should be lining up a job as early as they can. All students should consider activities like summer study at a college or abroad, volunteer work, an internship, or a job. The IB Office has some information on file to help jumpstart your

research. And don't forget to include plenty of summer fun too.

Linda During, College Counseling Chair

<i>Test</i>	<i>2007-2008 Test Date</i>	<i>Regular Deadline</i>	<i>Late Registration (additional fee)</i>
ACT	Feb. 9	Jan. 4	Jan. 18
SAT only	Mar. 1	Jan. 29	Feb. 7
ACT	Apr. 12	Mar. 7	Mar. 21
ACT without Writing (Jrs)	Apr. 23	N/A	N/A
SAT & Subject Tests	May 3	Apr. 1	Apr. 10
SAT & Subject Tests	June 7	May 6	May 15
ACT	June 14	May 9	May 23



Mom,

All this college testing, writing essays, and filling out applications is interfering with my social life!



Mark Your Calendar for these Important Dates

IB Broadcaster editors receive and report Calendar information from GWHS administration (for school-wide events) and the IB Office/IB Board of Directors Committee Chairs (for IB-specific events). The editors are unable to answer Calendar inquiries. For questions about specific events, please contact the appropriate party directly (GWHS, IB Office, or IB Committee Chair). Contact information is located on the last page. Thank you!

Date	Event	Time	Location
Feb 12	February IB Parent Meeting	7:00 pm	GW Community Room
Feb 18-19	NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day; Professional Day)		
Feb 26	Welcome Fest	6:30-8:00 pm	GW - TBD
Feb 27 – Mar 1	Musical – Once On This Island College testing dates—see IB College Counseling		
Mar thru Jun	Corner in this issue		
Mar 10 – 14	Senior Peer Interviews		
Mar 18	Junior CAS Q&A	3:00 pm	
Mar 24 – 28	Spring Break Spring College Fair (Juniors and interested Sophomores)	1:00-4:00 pm	University of Denver
Apr 6	Sophomore CAS Introduction Meeting	7:30 – 9:00 am	TBD
Apr 17	Freshman CAS Service Day		
Apr 23			
Apr 24 - 26,			
May 2 – 3	War Of The Worlds (A radio play)		
May 10	Prom	TBD	TBD Denver Convention Center
May 25	GW Graduation Day	1:00 pm	

REMINDER

George is publishing a bi-weekly newsletter via email named the GW Patriot Press. If you are not receiving this all-school newsletter please call the attendance office to update your email address.

Friends of IB Scholars Foundation

A Thank You and a Report on the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation Fundraising Campaign February 2008

The Friends of IB Scholars Foundation wishes to thank the many IB parents, families, alumni and friends for their generous contributions to this year's fundraising campaign. IB parents, families, alumni and friends have donated \$16,650.00 so far this year. \$10,000.00 of this amount has been matched by The **Ebrahimi** Family Foundation challenge grant, and we are very grateful for the **Ebrahimi** Foundation's continued support for the GW IB program. We also want to extend our thanks for the anonymous contribution of \$15,000.00 from a private foundation of an IB family, bringing our total fundraising thus far for this year to \$41,650.00. We plan to publish the list of donors in the March IB Broadcaster.

While our results this year have been excellent, we want you to know that there is still time to make a contribution to this year's campaign. Due to the generosity of IB families, alumni, alumni families, friends, and other charitable foundations during last year's fundraising campaign, the IB Foundation was able to fund over \$40,000.00 of grants for the IB program, many of which are benefiting the IB program this year, including our IB college counselor, Dan Franklin; the summer enrichment program held this past summer, including a class for this year's entering IB freshmen on the transition to high school, and a class on IB English skills for juniors; books, curriculum materials and equipment for IB classes; continuing education for IB teachers; honoraria for IB teachers advising students on IB extended essays; and many other benefits that enrich the IB program at GW.

With the increase in enrollment in the GW IB program from the record freshman classes for the last two years, in order for the IB Foundation to continue to support the IB program at levels to ensure the continued excellence of the IB program, additional contributions are still needed. So, we hope that those IB families who may not yet have been able to make a contribution will consider a donation to the IB Foundation. Your donations remain a critical part of the continued success and excellence of the IB program at GW. Please consider a contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 or more. Remember that the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your gift can be tax-deductible. Please send your contributions as soon as you can to Friends of IB Scholars Foundation, c/o **Janice Thomas**, Treasurer, 1634 S. Leyden Street, Denver, Colorado 80224.

Please contact me at home, 303-759-1176, at my office, 303-539-3159, or by email at James.Kaplan@publicans.com, if you have any questions about the IB Foundation. We are still seeking contributions from new foundations, in order to secure the additional \$5,000.00 from The **Ebrahimi Family** Foundation challenge grant. If anyone has any suggestions on other foundations that might be able to support the IB Foundation this year, please let me know. Thank you for your continued support of the GW IB program.

Jamie Kaplan, President
Friends of IB Scholars Foundation

Shop with Scrip to Benefit the GW Friends of IB Scholars Foundation

Your day-to-day purchases with retailers and restaurants can benefit the GW IB program when you register through the **ShopWithScrip** program.

[Learn more](http://www.georgeib.com) at www.georgeib.com. Click on **Fund Raising** on the left-hand menu.



Contact Information

2007-2008 IB Parents Association Board of Directors

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Co-Vice Presidents	??
Treasurer	Janice Thomas, 303-757-1624, janicekempthomas@yahoo.com
Secretary	??
Broadcaster Co-Editors	Joanne Irons, 720-289-6753, joanne.irons@ch2m.com AND Barbara Tung, 303-750-4870, betung@comcast.net
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Alumni Representative	Pam Troyer AND Andrea Shea, 303-722-9033, aspurecolor@aol.com
Distinguished Teacher	Tom Waymire, trwaymire@aol.com
Public Relations	Tim Biscaye, biscayes@comcast.net
<u>IB Office</u>	Suzanne Geimer, 720-423-8626, Suzanne_Geimer@dpsk12.org
<u>George Washington HS</u>	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
720.203.8600
www.gwhs.dpsk12.org

