

From the Board

A warm and friendly welcome to our George Washington IB students and families—especially to the freshman and first-year IB students! We are eager to begin what we expect to be another **GREAT** school year!

The IB Parents' Association strives to provide IB students and families with informative, educational, social and supportive meetings and gatherings so that everyone may gain more knowledge about the IB program and the unique IB experience. The IB Parents' Association also works hard to support our valued IB faculty and staff. Our Board is comprised of dedicated IB parents who look forward to sharing their experiences with all IB parents. Our first event this year was **the IB Family and Faculty Picnic on Wednesday, August 25 at Creekside Park**. It appeared the kids had a great time playing volleyball and ultimate Frisbee. Thank you to everyone who attended and brought food to share. I'm hoping you enjoyed the time we spent socializing, and sharing ideas and thoughts as much as I did. There are so many ways to be involved as an IB parent—the more you know, the more you learn how to help, the greater the IB program functions! The IB Parents' Association helps to foster communication and the exchange of ideas: we are allies for the success of our IB students and our IB program!

Our **IB monthly meeting is held on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 8:30p.m.** The first meeting will feature **Peter Van Buskirk**, author, motivational speaker and former Dean of Admissions at Franklin and Marshall College. He will present "***The Admission Game: Student Centered Solutions for College Planning***", an interactive and informative presentation about the selective college admission process. His presentation is a must see for every IB student. His book, Winning the College Admission Game: Strategies for Parents and Students will be available at the meeting for \$12.00. Mr. Van Buskirk will not return to GW for 2-3 years so do not miss this opportunity! Future meetings will provide information on various interesting and relevant topics, including: • presentations from IB teachers on the IB curriculum • panel discussions with IB alums who are now in college • a return visit by retired Juvenile Court Judge Dana Wakefield and his wife juvenile prosecuting attorney, Pam Wakefield. This is an eye-opening meeting to attend with your child!

Here at GW, **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."

I look forward to inner acting with you in one way or another this year.

- Kristi Butkovich
Parents Association President

GET INVOLVED

Now more than ever there are many good reasons and opportunities for you to get involved in the IB Parent's Association. It's a great way to show your student that you take an interest in his or her education, and it sends a positive message that you consider the IB Program a worthwhile cause.

It's not a myth that the GW IB Program has to raise their own funds for such things as: staff salaries, activities and supplies that would once have been considered basic necessities, and parent volunteers are essential in helping to organize these fundraising events, as well as to participate in other program sponsored activities.

Parent volunteers offer a huge resource and support base for the IB Program while showing their kids the importance of participating in the larger community. And the school isn't the only one to reap the benefits of your involvement. By offering some of your time to the program, and by interacting with other parents on a regular basis, you can gain a first-hand understanding of your child's daily activities and some insight into the trends and fads of school life that will help you communicate with your child as he or she grows and changes (all without intruding on your child's privacy or personal space).

There are open positions on the IB Parent Board and several committees that need your help. We can do it all, but we can't do it alone. Please, email Kristi Butkovich, President with information on how you can help. kbutkovich@comcast.net