

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

The first IB Parent Meeting of the New Year was held on **Tuesday, January 4, 2011** in a 'packed house' Community Room, and featured a panel of GW IB graduates who shared their impressions and experiences as college students, and addressed how the IB program helped to prepare them for college. The evening's program was informative, enjoyable, and insightful. Students on the panel are attending large schools, small schools, coed, all girls, rural, urban, suburban, in state, out-of-state, public and private institutions. There was ample time for questions and the responses were as varied and diverse as the students themselves.



Our next parent meeting will be **February 8th, in the Community Room**. This is a return visit for IB parents **Dana and Pam Wakefield**. Dana is a retired juvenile court judge and Pam was a prosecuting attorney in the juvenile courts. They are currently in private practice as Court Appointed Special Advocates.



We have 310 applications from potential freshman and **Mrs. Geimer and Ms. Lane** have been interviewing applicants daily since the beginning of the semester. Our students are the best advertisement for the IB program. We hear that many applicants have chosen to come to the IB

program because of their shadow experience. A BIG thank you goes out to the students who helped make the shadows so comfortable at GW. **Cora Neslin**

continued our GW hospitality by following up every shadow date with a phone call to the family.

Behind the scenes, IB parents are planning and coordinating 2nd semester events. **Linda During** is working closely with **Rusty Haynes**, the GWIB college counselor by promoting his informative Saturday workshops and by helping introduce the college application process to our junior students. **Paul Day-Lucore** continues to edit The Broadcaster. **Linda Williams** is once again spearheading our March "Welcome Fest." Co-Chairs **Julia Fitzpatrick** and **Dave Marsh** are soliciting parent volunteers to help with the annual Senior Brunch and **Leslie Lilly** and I have just completed **Mrs. Geimer's** "Distinguished Denver Teacher Award" nomination portfolio.

Now that we are into the second semester of the school year, it is time to begin thinking about Board Positions for next year. Committed and involved parents are what make the Association such a successful organization and a strong voice for the IB Program. This is the perfect time to get involved with the IB Parent Association Board, especially if you have a 9th or 10th grader. Call or email Kristi Butkovich if you'd like more information. The IB Board meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Community Room. We invite you to join us! All are welcome!



—*Kristi Butkovich, IBPA Board President*



Volunteer Proctors needed for IB Exams May 3-23



Seniors and some juniors will be taking IB examinations during May.

IBO has stringent guidelines for the conduct of these exams, and meeting them is a logistical challenge that Mrs. Geimer manages to meet every year – but she needs our help to do it.

Parents, this is a golden opportunity to get an insider’s glimpse of the IB External Assessment experience. Please consider volunteering to proctor (“invigilate,” in IB-speak) one or more of the May exams, being held at Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape Street. Morning exams begin at 7:30 AM, and afternoon exams begin at Noon.

Proctor training will be offered in April (date TBD). While not required, it provides helpful guidance, particularly for those new to the process.

You can see the complete IB exam schedule at www.georgeib.com. Click on “Student Info” then click on “IB Exam Dates – May 2011.” This will download a pdf file from the IBO web site. Don’t be frightened by the schedule! GW only offers a subset of the subjects listed!

For more information, e-mail Elaine Tintera at dtelainet@msn.com.



Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 PM

The IB Parent Board is pleased to announce the upcoming annual Welcome Fest. We are looking for IB students who are involved with extra-curricular activities and are willing to share their experiences. In addition, we are looking for 8 to 10 IB Freshmen to act as general hosts and interact with the guests. Parent volunteers are welcome to help staff the event and/or provide baked goods or snacks. **Free pizza** will be served before the event **for volunteer students!**

The committee chair would like to hear from anyone who wants to showcase their talents, clubs, sports, competitions, honor societies, etc. This is a great way to recruit members for activities and get a start on next year’s membership! If anyone has any art you’d like to display, or a performance you’d like to try out, there’s room for you too!

Please contact **Linda Williams** at lindasue222@comcast.net or 303-752-2477 if you’d like to help.

**Register online with the
GWIB Parent Association**
<http://www.georgeib.com/index.html>

“The Prince Is Giving a Ball!”



The entire school community is invited to participate in a fun-filled evening of live entertainment, dinner, prizes, and, of course, fabulous shopping, to be held at GW— just prior to the March 11 performance of “Cinderella.” The proceeds of this event will help us upgrade our aging auditorium’s sound system and will also benefit the programs of GW’s Performing Arts and Speech & Debate Departments.

Donations purchased, provided, or solicited by GW families, faculty, and staff are welcome and appreciated! Examples of donations that have been popular and profitable in the past include:

Gift certificates from local businesses:

- Restaurants
- Spas, salons, shops
- Recreation—golf, bowling, fitness

You know someone who knows someone:

- Lunch with a local celebrity
- Behind-the-scenes tour or backstage pass

- Tickets for concerts or sports events
- Meet-and-greet with a local band, team, or celebrity

Your profession, skill, or hobby:

- A free consultation or lesson
- Several hours of your services
- Items you create or design

Keep in mind that donating to the auction is also great exposure and PR for merchants/businesses. We are happy to display brochures, business cards, etc. at the pre-auction table, and we plan to publicize items available for sale in our pre-auction communications.

OUR NEXT AUCTION DONATION DROP-OFF IS COMING UP:

Friday, January 28, 5:30 -7 PM in the GW Lobby just outside the Stage Door (Musical Theatre Night Begins @ 7 PM)

If you have any questions about the auction or this drop-off, please contact Marcia Bickel at 720-300-0560 or gwonstage@gmail.com.



Support the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation



This is a **free fundraising program** for you and for the IB Foundation. Simply transfer all your on-line shopping to:

www.marketamerica.com/georgeib

Save money and earn Cash-back!

Register as a preferred customer by clicking “sign-in” in the upper right hand corner. Enter your e-mail address, and then “No I am a new customer.” Then follow the prompts.

Now you are ready to shop and earn up to 35% Cashback on all your purchases at thousands of

online stores. And best of all, you also **support the IB foundation!**

Check out some of the great **Valentine’s Day ideas** below. Type the store name in the search bar on the home page to find any current coupons and a link to the store.

- Dine out somewhere special. Buy a gift certificate at **Restaurant.com**.
- Gourmet gift cakes at **Bake Me a Wish**.
- Valentine’s candy at **candywarehouse.com**
- 15% off Valentine’s cards until Feb 18th at **cardstore.com**
- Multiple great flower stores, including **Flowers Across America**, offering 8% cashback
- 30% cashback when sending e-cards through **Jibjab**.

“LIFE AFTER IB” Meeting a hit!

Six members of GWIB’s Class of 2009 shared their collective wisdom with current students and their parents at the well-attended January 4th IB Parent Association meeting. We are deeply grateful to this panel, (pictured below: Front row: **Connor Williams and Sophia Prado-Irwin**; back row: **D.J. Mares, Parker Martin, Will Witwer and Arielle Finegold**) for allowing us an honest glimpse into campus life – for better and for worse – delivered with remarkable grace, charm, wit, and good humor.

Attendees gained insight into what impels students to choose a large vs. mid-sized public or private university vs. a small liberal arts college, or an urban vs. suburban vs. rural setting. While there were plenty of happy tales of finding academic and social fulfillment, our guests also shared stories of challenges faced and mastered, which included everything from having to reapply to colleges after a gap year to roommate/dorm challenges to making the decision to transfer.

As is typical of our grads, these students find themselves well-prepared to take advantage of the opportunities college life offers. We wish them well as they continue their college careers and look forward to following their future adventures.



**February IB Parent Meeting:
"Smart Kids Making Poor Choices"**

An informative, eye-opening and important evening featuring a
PANEL DISCUSSION WITH:

Retired Denver Juvenile Judge, Dana Wakefield,
Former Chief Deputy District Attorney, Pam Wakefield
Both currently practicing Family and Juvenile Law

Tuesday, February 8, 6:30 – 8 PM

IB Students are bright, competent, clever, and intelligent, right? Hardworking, ambitious, dedicated high school students abound in GW's IB program, and we know they love learning, enjoy feeling independent, and thrive in challenging situations. Yet, life isn't always smooth sailing, and even our students will face dilemmas at times. You will go home with many new ideas and levels of awareness regarding our children's lives. With their combined experience, the Wakefields will provide much to think about!

Parents and Students are encouraged to attend!

***La Voz Nueva* Student of the Week**

GWIB Senior **Tanner Sandoval** was selected as Student of the Week by the weekly bilingual periodical *La Voz Nueva* in October of 2010. (<http://www.lavozcolorado.com/news/5294/tanner-sandoval-profile>) Each week, *La Voz* selects an outstanding Hispanic high school student and pays tribute to him or her. Tanner was selected because of his community service, Speech and Debate participation, and school sports (football and baseball), as well as his outstanding academic record. Congratulations, Tanner! We're proud to have you represent GW!



Here's a FUN way to get involved!



The **2011 Senior Brunch** Committee needs your help in planning and executing this fun and exciting event for our outgoing class. Please e-mail Dave Marsh dave@bellabasil.com or Julia Fitzpatrick juliefitzpatrick@msn.com for more information and to offer your help!

SPEECH & DEBATE

GW Speech and Debate Team Excels in National Tournament!

On December 3 and 4, 2010, the team competed in a national-level tournament for debate events in Alta, Utah. Patriots excelled on the national scene by taking first place in Public Forum debate and breaking into the late rounds in several other events. **Ethan Melnick** and **Brendan Patrick** took First Place in Public Forum debate. **Emma Thompson** and **Miles Moore** were Semi-Finalists in Public Forum, and **Sean Chilelli** and **Cal McIntyre** made the Octo-Finals in that event. Other finalists included **Sam Clark** and **Miles Owens** in Cross-Examination Debate, and **Michael Homiak** and **Matt Zavislan** in Lincoln/Douglas Debate. Miles Owens and Sam Clark were also among the Top Ten Speakers in Cross-Examination Debate.



Cheyenne Holiday Classic Tournament, Cheyenne, Wyoming:

Congratulations to our team who competed in this tournament on December 17 and 18, 2010! This is a multi-state tournament bringing together competitors from several states, and is traditionally a tough contest to close out the first semester. Please congratulate our entire team on their efforts all semester!

1st Place:

Angie Neslin – Original Oratory;
Matt Zavislan – Lincoln/Douglas Debate;
Brendan Patrick/Ethan Melnick – PF Debate

3-Way Tie/Close Out for 1st in CX Debate:

Sam Clark/Miles Owens
Matt Symonds/Olivia Czufin
Sarah Pierce/Lucy Shen

Fifth Place:

Suzanna Steele – Novice Oratory;
Hope Cornish/Adam Wise – Duo.

Sixth Place:

Monisha Lensink-Vasan – Novice Oratory;
Dan Morgan-Russell – Foreign Extemp.

Semi-Finalists:

Zach Papodopoulos – Extemp;
Maddie Hughes – Oratory;
Claire Trainor – Novice Oratory.

Quarter-Finalists:

Julia Sigman – Drama;
Rachel Crowe/Alexandra Wollins - Duo

Cherry Tree Chop:

Congratulations to the Patriot Speech and Debate Team Members, who divided their efforts between competition and ensuring that the Cherry Tree Chop the weekend of January 8 and 9 ran smoothly!

First Place:

Dan Morgan-Russell – Foreign Extemp

Second Place:

Eli Gordon/Langston Williams – PF

Third Place:

Rachel Crowe – Poetry

Fourth Place:

Aiden Murray/Jacob Waters – PF

Fifth Place:

Monisha Lensink-Vasan – Oratory
Sydney Sibelius/Ellis Aune – CX

Sixth Place:

Elijah Durso-Sabina – LD

Outstanding Speaker in Congressional Debate:

Carlos Talamante

Coach **Maryrose Kohan** and the GW Speech and Debate Parents' Organization wish to pass on a big "thank you!" to all the parents and students who helped work the tournament!

--Barbara Laff and Andrea Morgan

Coming GWIB Events

February 5	Test Preparation -- SAT
February 8	When Good Kids Make Bad Choices presentation
February 19	Test preparation -- ACT
February 21-22	Presidents Day/Professional Day – no classes
March 8	Welcome Fest
March 28-April 1	Spring Break – no classes
April 4	Professional Day – no classes





THE IB COLLEGE COUNSELING CORNER

Congratulations, **SENIORS**, on making it through the whirlwind that is the first semester of senior year and completing your college applications (with a few exceptions for later-deadline schools). More than a third of the Class of 2011 has already received one or more acceptances! Eleven happy seniors (primarily those who opted for Early Decision) already know where they are headed in the fall: **David Alpert** – University of Colorado at Boulder, **Amelia Brunner** – Columbia University, **Tai Chen** – Duke University, **Hannah Fisher** – Northwestern University, **Kourtney Green** – Hampton University, **Ben Holston** – Stanford University, **Amelia Kucic** – Swarthmore College, **John (Cal) McIntyre** – University of Colorado at Boulder, **Ethan Melnick** – George Washington University, **Julia Sigman** – University of Pennsylvania, and **Devon Stork** – Harvey Mudd College. Other acceptances (either Early Action or rolling admissions) that students have shared with the IB office as of mid-January include Alaska Pacific University, Arizona State University, Auburn University, California Institute of Technology (aka Cal Tech), Clarkson University, Coe College, Colorado College, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Drew University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Academy (FL), Georgia Institute of Technology, Hiram College, Lewis & Clark College, Lynchburg College, Montana State University-Bozeman, Oregon State University, Pacific Lutheran University, Pennsylvania State University, Regis University, Ripon College, Tulane University, University of British Columbia, University of Chicago, University of Colorado at Boulder/Colorado Springs/Denver, University of Denver, University of Kansas, University of Michigan, University of Northern Colorado, University of Oregon, University of Vermont, Western Washington University, and Whittier College. Students with EA or rolling acceptances have until May 1 to accept or decline these offers. Once students decide where they will be going, they should respond promptly to all requests for paperwork, particularly regarding housing and particularly for large institutions which often fill prime residences quickly. They should continue to share application outcomes with the IB Office and with recommending teachers, and to enter the information in their Naviance accounts. This column is happy to report all seniors' good news, but we won't pair a student's name with a college until Naviance shows that the student has committed to that college.

By mid-January, midyear transcripts were in final stages of preparation for mailing, the last step for most applications. **Mrs. Geimer, Ms. Lane, and the IB teachers** who wrote recommendations deserve a standing ovation for successfully sending out the mountains of paperwork required to support more than 500 applications submitted by our 95 seniors. Although the volume is slightly 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 the **applications**, but some will still be sorting through the masses of paper on their end. If a student receives a notice that something is missing, please contact Ms. Lane (Marjorie.Lane@dpsk12.org or 720-423-8673) 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 a student receives any additional awards or honors that would enhance applications, he or she should update the admissions representatives. Now is also a very good time to continue looking for additional **scholarships**; remember www.fastweb.com. Seniors should maintain their grades and fight the temptation to succumb completely to senioritis. They'll be glad they did when they request advanced standing from their college in the fall. We've all heard tales of students whose acceptances were rescinded due to poor spring grades and no GWIB senior should become one of them!

SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS should be working on, or done with, **financial aid applications**. 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 each college's 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. Future Center Advisor **Michael Jennings** is offering FAFSA Help Nights on February 2 and 16, at 6 PM in the Business Lab (Room 321).

JUNIORS should be getting serious about their college search by now and perhaps planning for visits over spring break. On December 4, **Mr. Haynes** made an excellent presentation about **researching colleges and developing a list**. On January 22 he followed up with **College Admission 101**, an orientation to the application process. Many thanks to **Kelly Morrison** for making podcasts of these talks, posted on the website under "College Prep." Mr. Haynes has also been meeting with juniors and parents individually, primarily on Saturdays. Contact him via email at collegemasters@comcast.net or phone at 719-232-5305 or 719-576-9487 to schedule an appointment. Working on the college list with Mr. Haynes will help make campus visits better focused and more worth the time and expense.

This is a good time for juniors to begin work on a **résumé and personal statement** to share with Mrs. Geimer when they meet with her later in the spring. There will also be group meetings later in the semester to teach the junior class the nuts and bolts of putting together their actual applications, including details of how to obtain counselor/school reports, transcripts, and teacher recommendations.

Now is also the time for juniors to complete their test preparations and to register for whatever combination of **SAT, ACT, and Subject Tests** they will take between now and early June. Testing is not offered during the summer, and it is wise to complete at

<http://www.georgeib.com>

least one round before then. (A few **freshmen and sophomores** may also decide to take a Subject Test or two.) Mr. Haynes is offering **test prep seminars** on February 5 (SAT) and 19 (ACT) at 9 AM. Once students have firmed up their test schedules, they should complete online registration promptly (<http://www.collegeboard.com/testing> and <http://actstudent.org>) to avoid late fees.

PSAT scores from October have been distributed by Asst. Principal Sara Leikin, who reports that a few stragglers have not yet picked theirs up. Notification of National Merit/Achievement/Hispanic Scholar status will not come until the fall.

PARENTS OF JUNIORS, be assured that many, many juniors are not nearly as ready to launch themselves full tilt into the college 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 guide your student to get on track because next fall will become overwhelmingly busy. Encourage your junior to talk with Mr. Haynes 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.

JUNIORS' PRE-ACT, SOPHOMORES' ACT PLAN and FRESHMEN'S ACT EXPLORE results will be distributed by Ms. Leikin in class meetings soon. Results are a good predictor of future ACT performance and can help students begin to identify colleges whose admission profiles are a good fit for them. Results can also help students figure out what areas they should be working on in their test preparations. Parents, ask your student to share these results with you. They are too important to leave languishing in the bowels of his or her book bag!

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

Anyone who is curious about the college search process might enjoy reading ***Acceptance: A Legendary Guidance Counselor Helps Seven Kids Find the Right Colleges – and Find Themselves*** by David Marcus. It contains a lot of wisdom – and sanity – that just might help with keep things in perspective. The book is a good follow up to the January alumni panel, reminding us that there is no one "right" college, but rather many possible ways for students to find their own paths.

IMPORTANT COLLEGE DATES AND DEADLINES

January 22, Saturday, Noon-2 PM, Community Room: **College Admission 101**, an orientation to the application process. This is most relevant for juniors and their parents, but all are welcome.

February 5, Saturday, 9-10:30 AM, Community Room: Test Preparation – SAT

February 19, Saturday, 9-10:30 AM, Community Room: Test Preparation – ACT

March 31: Virtually all college decisions are mailed or posted online by this date. Financial aid packages typically arrive simultaneously, or within a week of the acceptance.

April 9, Saturday, Noon-2 PM, Community Room: Breaking Away/Surviving the First Year of College, a program targeted at seniors and their parents.

April 16, Saturday, Noon-2 PM, Community Room: College Admission 202, a more detailed look at how students can best present themselves in rep visits, interviews, correspondence, applications, supplements, etc.

April 27: 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.

May 1: Deadline to respond to colleges that have offered admission, with a confirmation deposit (typically \$200-500) to the chosen school.

May 1, Sunday, 1-3:30 PM, Lakewood HS: Spring College Fair aimed at juniors and interested sophomores.

2010-2011 STANDARDIZED TESTING SCHEDULE

Standardized Test	Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late (added fee) Registration
ACT with writing option	February 12	passed	January 21
SAT (no Subject Tests)	March 12	February 11	February 25
ACT with writing option	April 9	March 4	March 18
ACT <i>without</i> writing (CO ACT)	April 27	Automatic and free for all juniors	
SAT or Subject Tests	May 7	April 8	April 22
SAT or Subject Tests	June 4	May 6	May 20
ACT with writing option	June 11	May 6	May 20

—Linda During, College Counseling Co-Chair

IB Foundation Reception a Success!

To help launch the 25th anniversary of the International Baccalaureate program at George Washington High School, an esteemed group of honorary hosts (**Helen Atkeson** and **Stan Raine**, **Patricia Ebrahimi**, **Laurie Hirschfeld Zeller** and **Marty Zeller**, **Robin** and **Frank Semple**, **Don** and **Ruth Mares**, **Pam** and **Bob Troyer**, **Margie Strook** and **Andy Low**, **Gully Stanford** and **Dorothy Denny**, **Ed Stein** and **Lisa Hartman**, **Chetter** and **Tony Latcham**, and the **Honorable Diana DeGette** and **Lino Lipinsky**) sponsored a reception at the home of **Helen Atkeson**. **Cora Neslin** did a magnificent job from start to finish orchestrating the event!



Over seventy friends of the wonderful IB program who have played or continue to play a role in the success of the program attended. It was gratifying to see such support, and not only monetarily (the attendees contributed over \$10,000!!) but as boosters of the program as well. Thanks to all who came and donated! We reconnected with many, and we hope to maintain the momentum by enlisting your backing!

The reason behind the reception was to build an alumni base, become reacquainted with friends and family of IB, and launch an outreach initiative called the *Bridges to Excellence* program. The latter involves a major effort to support the program and all of those – from **Director Suzi Geimer** to the **teachers**, **administrators**, and **parents** - who are so committed to maintaining the highest standards of education that IB has represented for years. The aim is to make the IB diploma that you or your student worked so hard to earn accessible to all qualified students in the Denver community. Once they are at George Washington, *Bridges to Excellence* will provide them, as well as our teachers and staff, the tools needed to live up to IB's reputation for excellence built over the past quarter-century.

Bridges to Excellence will focus solely on the educational mission of the IB career, ensuring that the program remains open to all students who seek a rigorous and comprehensive four-year learning experience that sets them on the road to college and a fulfilling career. This new project will be multi-faceted. It will help some students by enrolling them in a special course of study designed to make them IB-proficient. Others will benefit from updated or new technology, deep and permanent support for teachers in all subjects, and counseling and other services that need our backing. *Bridges to Excellence* will ensure that the IB program that so served you will continue to benefit generations to come.

We are proud to have sponsored the reception, and again, thank the donors and attendees. And we welcome, as usual, *your* support through your \$40 dues to the IB program and donations in any amount you can make. You can contribute by signing up and using our new purchasing program for thousands of products (a percentage of which goes to the IB program every time you buy something online) by visiting: www.marketamerica.com/georgeib.

And please remember that since the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your gift can be tax-deductible. Please do not delay in sending in your donations, whether \$25, \$100, \$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**.

Finally, always feel free to contact me by phone, at 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, fund-raising, and the program, or simply have some ideas for us. We always look forward to hearing from you!

—Tom Zeiler, President, Friends of IB Scholars Foundation

People You Should Know: LAURIE BUCHANAN

Every morning before school even begins, IB math teacher Laurie Buchanan is happily interacting with students and her fellow teachers. Outside of her third floor classroom, she has a jovial face on and says a warm welcome to everyone she sees.

This eagerness does not stop in the halls. All day every day, Buchanan is GW's bright light in a subject that seems mundane to many. She describes her teaching style as "enthusiastic" and her students would agree. Why? "I have a lot of fun doing math, and I want my students to enjoy it too!" (She's pictured at right with Junior Chloe Thomas.)



With Buchanan's can-do attitude, it is no wonder she has become what some would call a big shot in the IB world, "Two years ago, I was invited to the IB offices in Cardiff, Wales to attend a curriculum review meeting for the class I teach, IB Mathematics SL. IB reviews the curriculum for all the classes every six or seven years, and they are interested in the input they get from teachers all over the world. I had already been grading IB exams for a few years, so I was interested in the process. When they asked for teacher comments, I filled out a survey about the new curriculum review, and this is how I was chosen to attend the meeting along with eight other teachers from other parts of the world,"

As if this were not enough of a big deal, Buchanan has gone even further in depth with the International Baccalaureate Programme.

"In the two years since attending that first meeting in March 2009, I have gone to seven different meetings in Cardiff. I have also become a Deputy Chief Examiner for IB Mathematics SL. There are five of us, and we travel to Cardiff about four times a year to help work on writing the exams, grading exams and setting the grade boundaries," Buchanan explained.

Buchanan's experiences have enriched her knowledge of the IB curriculum she teaches as well as the general classroom experience for her and her students.

"It's really exciting to be so involved with the IBO for the class I teach every day. I get to work with these great teachers from different countries who are teaching the same thing I am. It has all made me enjoy my classes even more!" raved Buchanan.

One would think that with all of this energy spent on school Buchanan would have no time to enjoy other things in life. But somehow Buchanan finds the time to partake in the finer things that life has to offer.

"I love books, traveling with my family, walking long distances-especially when the weather gets nice- and I love cheering for my kids at all their weekend sports events," said Buchanan.

What is one thing about Ms. Buchanan that her students would not expect? "I was a cheerleader in high school! Okay, maybe they would expect that."

Even though Ms. Buchanan has a great sense of humor and plenty of fun in and out of the classroom, she still manages to successfully create a great learning environment for her students. Her IB Mathematics SL students rack up excellent scores on their math IB exams.

Even with ten years of teaching at GW under her belt, Buchanan remains excited about her job which is evident when you see her.

"We have the greatest students here!" she said. "It's so nice that I get to go to a job I love every day."

—Cass Duchan, IB Student Reporter

GW Community Gateway Project Is a Go!



Thanks to a matching grant to cover half of the total cost, plans are moving ahead to build the Gateway Project and give the north side of GW a dramatic makeover.

Be a part of it! Order your engraved bricks and pavers today. All proceeds from these sales go directly to the project. With the matching grant, your contribution will be doubled! See the order form below, or pick a form up from GW's main office. See our website for more drawings of the project and to order on-line: gwhsgateway.com. You can also find personalization

examples there to spark your creativity.

We thank all who've already purchased a brick and for showing such faith in this project. All bricks and pavers ordered **before February 10, 2011** will be installed during Spring Break. Later orders will be installed at a later date, so don't delay! Celebrate a school club or team, add a favorite quote, or honor a teacher or graduate. Help build our future brick-by-brick and change the face of GW this summer!



Yes, I want to help build George Washington's future brick by brick!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Day-time phone #: _____

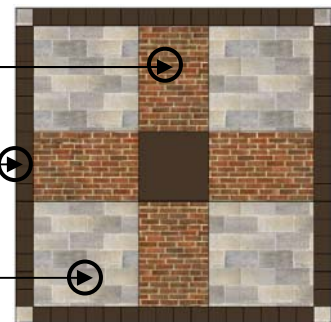
E-mail address: _____

Please send the completed order form with your payment to:

GW Community Gateway Project
8653 E DOANE PL
DENVER CO 80231

Choose from three sizes of pavers:

- Brick paver 4" x 8"
 \$100 up to 3 lines of text; 16-20 characters per line _____
- Brick paver 8" x 8"
 \$500 up to 8 lines of text; 16-20 characters per line _____
- Stone paver 8" x 16"
 \$1,000 up to 8 lines of text; 30 characters per line;
 Symbols or logos can be included _____



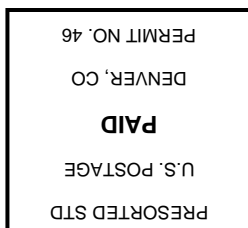
Designate my donation. Enter the text in the box below as you would like to see it on the paver.

See guide above for the maximum number of lines and characters. Please check all your spelling! Note if you would like include a logo or symbol, and we will contact you.

Contact Information

2010-2011 IB Parents Association Board of Directors

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