

Weekly Calendar

Thanksgiving Holiday
November 26

Eid El Adha Holiday
November 27-29

**Parent Forum on School
Wide Learning Outcomes**
December 2, 6:30-8:00 pm
in Room 600

**Community Strings Holiday
Concert**
December 5, 3:00-6:00 pm
in the Theater

Egypt Festival
December 6-10 Room 600

**Maadi Community Choir
Performance**
December 6, 7:00-8:00 pm
in the Theater

CAC Carol Concert
December 7 – 7:00 - Maadi

Athletic Awards Night
December 8, 7:00-9:00 pm
in the Theater

Middle School Winter Social
December 10, 7:00-9:00 pm in
the High School Gallery

Schedule at a Glance

Sunday, 29	Eid El Adha
Monday, 30	4F
Tuesday, 1	5C
Wednesday, 2	6G
Thursday, 3	7D

November 25, 2009

Dear Parents,

Thanksgiving is an original American holiday and this week it coincides with Eid Al Adha. Thanksgiving celebrates the importance of family that is a cultural universal around the world. This coming Eid also has a strong family connection. If you equate our Middle School learning community as a family, you know that we are most thankful for our diverse and good-natured students, our caring and committed faculty and staff and our supportive parents. It is something that we never take for granted in our daily work. So we will give thanks this weekend for all those involved with the Middle School at CAC.

Have a good long weekend, travel safely if you are leaving Cairo and all classes at CAC will resume on Monday, November 30. Happy Thanksgiving and Eid Mubarak!

Michael Popinchalk
Principal
mpopinchalk@cacegypt.org

Andrew Ferguson
Assistant Principal
aferguson@cacegypt.org

Middle School Activities

Thanksgiving Holiday – November 26

This is a reminder that there will be no school on Thursday, November 26. This is a true North American holiday and so we extend a Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Eid El Adha Holiday – November 27 – 29

We wish everyone a happy Eid El Adha Holiday! This holiday goes from Friday, November 27 to Sunday, November 29. Classes resume on Monday, November 30 so please make travel plans that do not have your child missing school.

World AIDS Day – December 1st

Next **Tuesday, December 1st**, is World AIDS Day. Millions of people continue to be infected with HIV every year with 7,400 becoming infected everyday. In low- and middle-income countries, less than half of those in need of antiretroviral therapy are receiving it, and too many do not have access to adequate care services. The Middle School will host activities to educate and raise awareness about this global reality on that day.

Learn more at:

<http://www.worldaidsday.org/>
<http://www.unaids.org/en/default.asp>
<http://www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm>
<http://www.unaids.org/learnmore/en/the-epidemic.html>

Carol Concert – December 7

On Monday, December 7, the CAC Choirs will present a Carol Concert featuring the Concert Choirs and Chamber Singers. The performance starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Holy Family Catholic Church (Building 55, Road 15, Maadi), and all donation proceeds will benefit the Sudanese refugee schools in the Cairo area. Please get there early for seating.

Middle School Technology Support for Students and Parents

- A technology support site is now available for students and parents at <http://sites.google.com/a/q-cacegypt.org/student-and-parent-technology-support-site/>. A link will soon be added to the CAC website, but for now please create your own bookmark on your home computer for easy access. Feel free to send suggestions regarding this site to jkeevy@cacegypt.org.
- Live support via Skype is now available. Add the following contacts to your Skype address book: cairoteacher, MS Tech Support 1 and MS Tech Support 2. If someone isn't able to help you immediately, leave a brief, specific message as to what you need.

Community Announcements

Moving on from CAC at the End of the Semester?

To help us prepare your records in time for your departure please use the link below to let us know if you are withdrawing from CAC this semester. <http://www.cacegypt.org/about/withdraw.php>

Danya Amin - Director of Admissions/Registrar

Food and Entertainment

The Thespian Society will hold its first annual Spaghetti Dinner on December 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary School lunchroom, where anyone and everyone can enjoy wonderfully home made pasta dinner accompanied with a live Thespian Performance, all for LE 50. This is also a charity event where all the money will go to help Saber, our Theater Technician, who was unfortunately involved in a car accident last year. Tickets are on sale at the Box Office during lunch and in front of the Health Office after school, so bring your friends and family for some spaghetti laughter!

THREE CHEERS

Three cheers to the PTO who sponsored a Teacher/Staff Appreciation lunch this week – thank you!!
Three cheers to the CAC Health Office – working hard to keep CAC healthy!
Three cheers for the Middle School parents who attending the parent forums this week on Virtual Continuity and Student Lifestyle Survey Information – thank you for your support!
Three Cheers for the all the Middle School students mentioned during the recognition assembly and those who earned Honors during the first Trimester!

<http://www.cacegypt.org/ms/PDF/HonorRollTri109.pdf>

PTO Announcements

PTO PRESENTS A DAYTIME MOVIE!!!
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 - 8:30-11:30am!!

Room 70 in the Middle School (movie: 8:30-10:30; discussion: 10:30-11:30am)

Join us at a screening of the acclaimed movie/documentary by Dr. Michael Thompson: "Raising Cain: "Exploring the Inner Lives of America's Boys". Parents that previously attended our evening show found it to be very interesting and insightful. This is a second opportunity for you to view this thought-provoking film. Following will be a discussion hosted by our school counselors. If you attended the earlier screening, please attend this discussion session! This is a

great way to familiarize yourself with some of the topics that Dr. Thompson will be presenting and sharing with CAC faculty and parents in January.

Counselors Corner

Summer vacation might seem like a long way off, but actually it's not too early for parents and students to start exploring opportunities for summer enrichment programs and camps. Some programs may have a time sensitive application process or require a qualifying exam such as the SAT. This article provides an overview of some of the options.

Summer Camps: An Opportunity for Exploration, Focus, and/or Fun?

What's the best way for your child to spend an enjoyable and satisfying summer? At the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), we find that children are able to best develop their potential in an environment that offers experiences suited to individual needs. That's why it's worth searching for a proper fit. It's obvious that not all children thrive under the same circumstances. Well-matched and appropriate educational programs give children opportunities to develop their talent potential, and the summer months can provide powerful learning options that extend well beyond regular classroom fare.

At first look, you'll see an abundance of summer camp options from which to choose. The challenge is to sort through this almost overwhelming array of possibilities. Of course you need to be concerned with basic questions about safety, cost, location, and staff training. Checklists can be found through organizations such as the American Camping Association (www.acacamps.org) or the National Camp Association (www.summercamp.org). What else can you do to assure a good fit? Here are some ideas to help narrow choices and make camp shopping much more productive.

Begin by talking with your child about his/her hopes for the coming summer and compare them to yours. The words exploration, focus, and fun can be useful guideposts for these conversations.

Exploration:

Children perform at their highest level when they pursue an activity in which they have both interest and ability. In other words, they will show more willingness to put in effort when the something they are good at is also something they enjoy doing. While some children are lucky enough to easily connect to such a passion, other children need to be exposed to a smorgasbord of activities before they will select. Summer camps can be the perfect place to dabble in a number of different domains. Think of camp as an opportunity for discovering a new interest area.

Focus:

The school year can be frustrating for children who have a strong focus, especially in an area not addressed in the regular classroom. What if your child wants to pursue music, drama, archaeology, or even advanced math? These children want to experience the pleasure of delving deeply into a subject without distraction. Finding a camp with high-level training in a focus area can help a child not only master specific skills, but also develop persistence and self-discipline. This type of camp can also be a place where your child finds true friends and interest-peers.

On the other hand, you might be looking for a place where your child can develop necessary skills missed during the school year or to work on problem areas. Don't think of this as remediation or drudgery. Instead look carefully and don't stop until you find a program that primarily focuses on strengths and interests, but also recognizes and addresses deficit areas. This can help your child gain confidence in his/her abilities.

Fun:

Maybe your child just needs a real break from on-going lessons and tight schedules. Summer camps can be just the ticket for regenerating the mind and body. And, don't forget the importance of cultivating a spirit of adventure. The unexpected moments of discovery will create vivid, lasting memories.

With careful thought and consideration in advance, it's actually possible to combine the three objectives of exploration, focus, and fun. The key is for both you and your child to agree on how they are to be prioritized.

Once you have them in order, it's time to begin a search. Check the NAGC website (www.nagc.org) where you will find information about summer and enrichment programs across the nation, including two articles with tips for researching summer camps.

The good news is you will likely find a match for your child, if you take the time up front to carefully consider what is most important.

From: <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=1102>
National Association for Gifted Children

For other resources and more information about specific programs, please check the following websites:

Petersons Guide to Summer Programs: <http://www.petersons.com/summerop/code/ssector.asp>

John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth: <http://cty.jhu.edu/>

Duke University Talent Identification Program: <http://www.tip.duke.edu/>

Northwestern Center for Talent Development: <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/>

Summer Institute for the Gifted: <http://www.giftedstudy.org/>

Summer Discovery: <http://www.summerdiscovery.com/>

SuperCamp: <http://www.supercamp.com/middle-school-summer-camps.html>

Ms. Jo Jean Schulte **A-K**

Mr. Patrick Kimerer **L-Z**