

**Weekly Calendar**

February 14, 2008

**Dear Parents,**

The Middle School Spirit Week, sponsored by the Student Council, is a student-generated event that aims to build strength and unity among the three different grade levels. We think it is also a great way to have fun! The various themes and activities over the past five days have been enjoyed by all and remind both students and faculty members that we are kids at heart. Thank you to Ms. Alicia Peterson and the entire Middle School Student Council for your efforts this week to build support and teamwork among the grade levels. The photos below say it all!

Progress reports are now available on line via POLAR. If parents do not know how to access this information please call the Middle School Counseling office. This week our Middle School Festival team returned from Jordan with many memories and a multiple of positive comments from the host school about our student athletes. They were competitive but also polite and perfect ambassadors for CAC. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Bowie for leading and coaching this team. This weekend a number of our students are running in the EMAC Cross Country Championships that are being held here in Cairo. We wish them the best as they run two different courses in Cairo.

We ask that you all join us in the celebration of International Mother Language Day that takes place each year on February 21. Please read the information included in this News and Views to help us recognize and honor the linguistic diversity that exists in our international school community. Parents are invited and encouraged to support us in that process.

Finally, there is no school for students on February 17. The Middle School faculty will be continuing their work with Atlas Rubicon curriculum mapping and preparing the Program of Studies for 2008-09 on this full professional development day. Have a good weekend!

Sincerely,

**Michael Popinchalk**  
Principal  
[mpopinchalk@cacegypt.org](mailto:mpopinchalk@cacegypt.org)

**Mark Anderson**  
Assistant Principal  
[manderson@cacegypt.org](mailto:manderson@cacegypt.org)

**Professional Development Day**

**No School for Students**  
February 17

**Middle School CAT Meeting**  
February 20 - 3:30 pm -  
Counseling Center

**Middle School ITBS Standardized Testing Program**  
February 25 and 26

**Parent Forum - Freedom from Chemical Dependency**  
February 27 - 5:30-6:30 pm in  
Room 600

**Band/Strings Concert**  
February 27- 7:00-9:00 pm in the  
Theater

**Schedule at a Glance**

Sunday, 17	
Monday, 18	2E
Tuesday, 19	3B
Wednesday, 20	4F
Thursday, 21	5C





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## Middle School Activities

### International Mother Language Day - February 21

Did you know that about half of the 6,000 languages spoken in the world are in danger of becoming extinct? Half of today's languages have fewer than 10,000 speakers, and a quarter have fewer than 1,000 speakers.

**UNESCO proclaimed February 21 International Mother Language Day in 1999. International Mother Language Day is observed yearly by UNESCO member states to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.**

*"Languages are at the heart of humanity's intangible heritage. They are born, they evolve and, sometimes, they are doomed to die. Yet, it behooves us to do all in our power to safeguard them so as to preserve the world's invaluable cultural diversity. To this end and to rise to the challenge of multilingualism, UNESCO supports language policies that promote mother tongues."* **Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO's Director-General**

At CAC, we have over 40 known languages represented in our school community. Help us celebrate our linguistic diversity on International Mother Language Day. Various activities are planned for next week to honor and respect mother languages and here are some ways that you can get involved.

Send a mother tongue book to school with your child on Thursday, February 21, to read during independent reading time.

Encourage your child to wear clothing with their mother language on it all next week.

Share mother language books with the CAC Library who will put them on display - contact the CAC Librarians - Paul Bartos, Ann Costner or Beth Phillips

Contact Mr. David Johnson [djohnson@cacegypt.org](mailto:djohnson@cacegypt.org) who will be working with Middle School technology students to record examples of the different languages for the CAC web site. They will also develop a collection of songs in the different languages.

Look out for another article about CAC's multilingual library in next week's Newsletters at all school divisions. To find out more about International Mother Language Day and bio-cultural and linguistic diversity, look at some of the websites below.

<http://www.terralingua.org/index.htm> Terralingua supports the integrated protection, maintenance and restoration of the biocultural diversity of life through an innovative program of research, education, policy and on-the-ground action.

[http://webworld.unesco.org/imld/res\\_en.html](http://webworld.unesco.org/imld/res_en.html) Information about a language policy for the world based on multilingualism.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Mother\\_Language\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Mother_Language_Day)

**Homepage : UNESCO-CULTURE**

2008, International Year of Languages: A call for action. 21 February: International Mother Language Day. Multilingualism at UNESCO: A panoply of activities ...  
[www.unesco.org/culture/](http://www.unesco.org/culture/)

We look forward to a daily celebration of language and cultural diversity at CAC with the support of students, teachers and parents. Shokran! Merci! Gracias! Asante Sana! Dhonnobad! Grazie! Danka!

### NESA Virtual Science Fair is Back at CAC in March

Do the soccer skills taught in training really make a difference on the field? What type of earthquake fault triggers the largest

tsunamis? Do the earphones on i-pods hurt your ears? These are some of the many questions are students are exploring in this year's virtual science fair. This year many students in Grade 6 and 7 are participating in a unique science fair project. Virtual Science Fair is a program involving 12 Near-East South Asian schools and a growing number of additional international schools around the globe. Students conduct their local science fair projects with a twist. They have science mentors in different locations around the world. They do some record keeping and documentation of their project, and in the end the projects will be judged by a team of international judges through "blackboard" (an online site).

### **Judges Wanted:**

How can you get involved and support this project? We are looking for a few brave individuals to help out with the judging of this year's fair. What skills do you need? You need to be a good listener, understand some basic science concepts, and follow a grading rubric. You also need to be willing to be encouraging and supportive to students as they present their work to you (they may be a little nervous). There will be a training session before the event to help you learn what to ask, what to look for, and how to be an effective judge. If you are willing to and able to help out with the judging of the local portion of our fair on March 5, 2008 - please contact Cathy Berghahn at [cberghahn@cacegypt.org](mailto:cberghahn@cacegypt.org).

Yes, you can judge if your child is participating, you will just not judge your own child's project.

The Fair set up will be on March 4th, judging and community viewing on March 5th and break down on March 6th. Students involved have all the due dates in their manuals.

### **Freedom from Chemical Dependency Visits CAC**

Consultants from *Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD)* will visit Cairo American College from February 17 - February 28, 2008. FCD, based in Newton Massachusetts, provides alcohol and other drug education to U.S. and international school communities.

Programming for CAC students will be offered in classroom settings, small-group assemblies, and on an individual consultation basis. All programming is developmentally appropriate and richly interactive; combining up-to-date information with real-life experiences. Teaching methods include presentations, discussion, role-play, and exercises. Student questions and concerns often serve as a springboard for further discussion and reflection. The overall goal of programming is to address individual/group attitudes and behavior thereby minimizing the risks of substance use and abuse.

Parent involvement is clearly an asset to effective prevention. Programming for the CAC parent community will be offered with the unique developmental needs of our PK-12 student body in mind. FCD goals for parents meeting are to:

1. Help parents understand the unique and essential role they play in keeping this kids drug-free during childhood and adolescence;
2. Provide parents with the latest facts about addiction and the physiological and psychological effects of alcohol and other drugs; and,
3. Give parents the tools and confidence they need to address these issues with their children

A Forum for parents with Middle School and High School students will be offered from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM on Wednesday, February 27. We invite you to mark your calendar for this important conversation.

The CAC Middle School and High School Counseling Department

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## **Parental Reminders**

### **Parents: Run for the School Board!**

**This is your chance to make a *lasting* impact on CAC.**

The CAC Board of Trustees is seeking nominations to fill two community representative spots for the 2009-2010 two-year term.

We urge all interested parents to learn more about the work of the Board - if you have questions, you may reach Election Chair Melanie Nelson at 010-361-3083 or [melanieextex@hotmail.com](mailto:melanieextex@hotmail.com), or Board Chair Nivine Captan-Amr at 010-111-3035 or [yamr104@link.net](mailto:yamr104@link.net).

**Deadline to nominate yourself is Thursday, February 28, 2008 by 3:00 P.M.: Click <http://www.cacegypt.org/about/board.html> for a nomination form.**

### **The Board Does:**

- Long term strategic decision making (ie. Master Plan construction)
- Financial planning and oversight
- Write and review policies governing the school
- Meet at least two evenings a month to accomplish these and other goals

**The Board DOES NOT:**

- set curriculum
- make admissions or personnel decisions
- get involved in day-to-day running of the school

**CAC 2008-2009 Academic Calendar**

Many of you have seen the 2008-09 academic calendar dates on our website, where they have been posted since December. We have recently received queries regarding the early opening in August, and I want to share with you how we arrived at the 12th as the first day for students.

Through a combination of government obligations and tradition, CAC is obliged to incorporate a number of holidays in its calendar. This next year, Eid El Fitr, October 6, and Eid El Adha alone account for what would be six teaching days. Unfortunately, they all fall in the first semester, which is already shorter than the second.

School Board Policy # 1.401 states: Middle School and High School have two semesters, from August to December and January to June. Efforts are made to balance the lengths of the semesters. In 2006, school opened on August 15 to align with policy.

The calendar which has been approved, while in no way perfect, complies with policy, accommodates the holidays, and was vetted through a variety of stakeholders the Board Trustee Committee, CAT teams, and faculty.

We truly regret the inconvenience that some families will experience with an August 12 student opening in 2008. Certainly the response to this decision will inform the conversation as we plan the next few years. In the meantime, we are hopeful that our students will join us on opening day with their typical exuberance for the full, productive year ahead.

Monica N. Greeley  
Superintendent

**Drop-off and Pick-up at CAC**

Student safety is our first priority at CAC. This is something that we know you expect of us and it is something we expect from ourselves. Pick-up and Drop-off is an area that has become a safety issue as many drivers are not following the correct procedures which has resulted in unsafe conditions for students, drivers, and our security guards. Unfortunately, we are unable to make the correction to this problem directly as it is all of you, or the drivers that you employee, who are responsible for this safety issue. Approximately two weeks ago we distributed flyers to the cars at drop-off in which the procedures are explained. Still, we are concerned by the rate of noncompliance.

We are asking for your support in helping to make CAC a safe place for students to learn by patiently following the procedures. For a copy of the procedures, please click on the link: <http://www.cacegypt.org/about/MapStreet.html>. Thank you for your support in helping to keep CAC a safe place for students to learn.

Larry Kraut  
Business Manager

**Cold Weather**

Mornings are damp and chilly, but many students are coming to school with lightweight clothes. Parents, please make sure your child wears something warm in the morning.

**Middle School Yearbook**

Guess What? It's that time of the year again! Yearbooks are now officially on sale. Don't be late, reserve yours now at the school store! Cost is the same as last year. LE 250 before April 1. After April 1 until April 15 the cost is LE 270. Hurry before supplies run out!

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## PTO Notice Board

### PTO-Multicultural Committee Trip

The Multicultural Committee is organizing a trip to the Mohamed Ali Palace and the Asfour factory on Tuesday, February 26th, 2008. Our meeting point is the CAC back gate. Please supply your own mid-day snacks and beverages.

Time: CAC back gate at 8:30 am, and will return at 2:00 pm.

The ticket to enter the Palace costs 10 LE.

Those interested in joining us please RSVP:

Helga 016-264-1805 [helga@meinardus.net](mailto:helga@meinardus.net) or

Samia 012-103-7880 [samiaw@aol.com](mailto:samiaw@aol.com)

### CAC-PTO Garage Sale



Cleaning out your closet or need to get rid of too much stuff? Why not rent a table at the PTO Garage Sale on:

**February 23- 2008, at Cairo American Softball Field (opposite to Victoria college), between 9am - 1pm.**

Any CAC ID card holder may rent a table for:

**100 LE for Goods and Things**

**200 LE for Food Stall**

Entrance Tickets will be sold at CAC between: Sun -Thurs: 17-21 Feb and on the day of Garage sale at **Cairo American Softball Field** for 10 LE

For more information and to reserve your table, please contact:

Samia Wadman 012-103-7880

Or Kum How 010-338-8976

E-mail: [kumh261@yahoo.com](mailto:kumh261@yahoo.com)

### PTO ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

A new class for English Conversation will start on Monday, 25 February at 1:00pm in the PTO room.

These classes will run every Monday and Wednesday, and is for ADVANCE level.

Due to the size of the room, we can allow only 10 students.

Please contact Mrs. Karen Perry directly at: 2519 6650 for further information.

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## Community Announcement

### WEEKEND WITH PAUL GAUGUIN



COLORED PENCIL Workshop for Children taught by KIMBERLY ODEKIRK

Paul Gauguin, lived an exciting life in the south of France and then on to Tahiti. He shared many experiences with his friend, Vincent Van Gogh as they pioneered the fresh ideas of the Impressionists. We'll start with a bit of his history, a review in drawing, and then experiment with color pencil techniques that will make the drawing come alive. The artwork will be professionally double matted and framed, making it the perfect addition to your family gallery or a treasured gift for a loved one.

Friday to Saturday, February 15-16, 1:00 pm-3:30 pm, CAC, Room 626, for students in Grades 3-8 \$60. Please reserve space with Kimberly Odekirk, Tel: 010-517-6831, the Activities Office, Tel: 2755-5461, or [sserry@cacegypt.org](mailto:sserry@cacegypt.org)

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## THREE CHEERS

Three Cheers for all of those students and faculty members who participated in the Digla Dash!

Three Cheers for the Middle School Festival team and their efforts in Jordan!

Three Cheers for the Middle School Student Council who organized a great spirit week!

Three Cheers for Ryan Henck in Grade 7 who returned lost money to the Middle School Office!



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## Counselors Corner

### ITBS Notice for Parents

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) will be administered to all CAC MS students on February 25th & 26th. This examination is a standardized test that measures student academic skills when compared to peers in the same grade level in the areas of reading, writing and math. It will be very important that your students NOT be absent or late for class because testing will begin promptly at 8:00 am on each of these two days. Once testing begins, students who are late will not be permitted to enter the testing room because this would be a disruption of the test and interfere with other students' performance. We are hoping for full attendance of our student body on both of the testing days.

### ITBS Parent Tip / Information

As parents of middle school students, the nature and protocol of standardized testing is probably very familiar. However, we would like to remind you of a few points:

- Students should be encouraged to do their best in the ITBS as they should for all of their school activities. However, it could be harmful to place too much emphasis on the importance of the tests, or to make students feel anxious or stressed about the outcomes. By maintaining a typical schedule and atmosphere at home during the period of time when testing occurs, you can help your child have a positive testing experience.
- Your child cannot prepare for this test by extra study. However, student performance can be enhanced if the student has a good night's rest before each test day and a healthy breakfast.
- It is important for your student to not miss these test days or be late to her/his testing location when the test begins at 8:00 am on each of the two test days.
- Standardized testing may be used in planning effective instructional programs to enhance the student's chances of success in learning.
- The ITBS results may provide information to parents about their child's performance in specific areas as compared to a USA population of equal grade and age.
- Test make up days (February 27th & 28th) are set aside for any students who may have missed a portion of the test due to traveling, illness, etc. The schedule for the make-up exam will be posted in the MS Morning Announcement for the students

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

**Mr. Patrick Kimerer L-Z**