

Weekly Calendar

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

Grade 8 Registration Meeting for Students

March 2 - 1:00-3:00 pm - Room
70

March 3 - 3:15-5:00 - Room 70

Middle School ISTA Auditions

March 2-4, 3:15-5:00 pm

Middle School NESA Virtual Science Fair

March 4-6 - Room 600

Middle School Social

March 6, 7:00-9:00 pm in the
High School Gallery

Grade 6 Luxor Trip Parent Information Meeting

March 10 - 2:00-3:00 pm

February 21, 2008

Dear Parents,

On this International Mother Language Day we remind our diverse community of parents how important it is to keep clear lines of communication with the CAC Middle School. Each week in this News and Views we strive to tell you about the accomplishments of our students and teachers and at the same time invite you to participate in that process. Next week will be no different. You all have the opportunity to make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before they take their standardized tests, meet as parents to dialog with one another about how to help you children avoid the risks of alcohol and drugs, or come out with your family and watch our students perform in a concert.

The Middle School is a learning community that appreciates your support. No matter what language you speak - we seek your constructive comments that make our school a place where respect, caring, trust, safety and diversity are experienced everyday. We encourage you to look at discussions underway with the Middle School CAT team regarding the modern languages program and the concept of educational continuity as CAC implements the campus master plan.

Have a good weekend and we look forward to seeing you on campus in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Michael Popinchalk

Principal

mpopinchalk@cacegypt.org

Mark Anderson

Assistant Principal

manderson@cacegypt.org

Schedule at a Glance

Sunday, 24	6G
Monday, 25	7D
Tuesday, 26	8H
Wednesday, 27	1A
Thursday, 28	2E



Middle School Activities

CAC's Multilingual Book Collection

Today marks CAC's first celebration of International Mother Language Day. As this is also the Year of the Reader, it is a perfect time to encourage a visit to the Multilingual Book Collection in the CAC library. Currently there are more than 1,500 books representing 36 languages on the shelves, and there are still many more in the process of being added. Financial support for the collection has been provided by the CAC Academic Innovation fund, as well as the PTO. In addition, several families and teachers have also generously donated new and used books.

This year the focus has been on books for the Middle School and High School students, so you will begin to find a variety of fiction and nonfiction that support the CAC curriculum (e.g., translations of Hamlet and To Kill a Mockingbird), as well as popular books students want to read simply for personal interest and enjoyment.

We are especially appreciative of those parents and students who have helped us purchase books in other countries to bring back to Cairo. Many others have provided invaluable help translating titles so that we can enter them into our English-based circulation system. In fact, right now, we need help in translating Thai, Japanese, French, Dutch, and Norwegian. If you would like to help us purchase books (we still have some funds available for reimbursing you for new books this year) or translate titles, simply contact Beth Hawley (bhawley@cacegypt.org). Spring Break travel will provide a perfect opportunity to pick up one or two more books to put on our shelves!

Smithsonian Musicians at CAC

Last Tuesday, we were very fortunate to have five musicians from the Smithsonian Jazz Ensemble visit and perform in the theater during lunch at CAC. Students, parents and faculty were present to hear these musicians play jazz standards, and they explained aspects of jazz and its history. Thanks to all those who helped organize this event, especially Mr. Bob Fedorak and Ms. Helen Lovejoy who collaborated to make this event possible. Also, thanks go to all those who were present to hear these excellent musicians play at our school.



After School Activity - Fencing

Fencing after-school activity is still running every Monday in the lower gym from 3:15-4:15 with Coach Mohamed, one of the coaches of the Egyptian National team. There are still a limited number of spaces open for this activity which will continue through May. No equipment needed, it is provided and there is a 50 LE cost per lesson. Contact Angela Dillon at adillon@cacegypt.org for more information.

From Performing Arts - Band/Strings Showcase Night - February 27

CAC is proud to present 'The Band/Strings Showcase' on Wednesday, February 27th at 7:00 pm in the theater. The concert will feature the Beginner Band, 7/8 Band, Strings Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Band. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

NESA Virtual Science Fair Update



NESA Virtual Science Fair is coming to CAC on March 4, 5, and 6. Mark your calendars to see the wide array of projects and support student research and work on March 5, 2008.

Some deadline reminders for students:

- Students should be in the heart of their data collection for all projects now.
- The Second interim report should be posted by February 21st.
- The Final Interim report should be posted by February 29th (at that point the data collection phase of the project should be complete).
- Students should be writing to their mentors a minimum of twice a week.
- Students should be writing in their project journals each time they work on the project.
- The Final Report and backboard are due for set up March 4th
- March 5th is the judging. Some will be done during the school day other after school. Students will be expected to be available from 5-7pm on March 5th for the project presentation to the community and parents.
- March 6th students will have an opportunity to share projects with other classes before the break down of the fair

[More details are listed in the student manuals and additional materials given in class].

Judges still needed.

If you are interested in supporting this project by being a science fair judge. Please contact Cathy Berghahn in the middle school cberghahn@cacegypt.org.

You will receive a brief training in how to judge and a clear rubric to follow in the process. It is a great way to support some young scientist and maybe even learn something new. You can be a judge even if your child is involved in the project. You just will not be assigned their project to judge.

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, or Board Chair Nivine Captan-Amr at 010-111-3035 or 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

Athletic Awards Night

CAC parents and sports fans, we need your help! The Athletic Awards Night is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11th at 7:00 P.M. in the CAC Theater. Booster Club needs photos of your students involved in Winter Season JV and Varsity teams to create the slide show. If you have game, practice, travel, or just fun photos of you or your child or their teammates, please email Melanie Nelson at: melanieextex@hotmail.com and arrange to either put the photos on a CD or a memory stick and get to her as soon as possible. As ISST athletes only return to school on the 10th and the Awards Night is the 11th, you can see that the turnaround time to create the slide show is extremely short this season.

Varsity and JV teams included this season are: JV Boys & Girls Soccer, JV & Varsity Basketball, JV and Varsity Tennis, JV & Varsity Wrestling, JV & Varsity Cross Country, and JV & Varsity Swimming.

The Booster Club wants to include all teams in the slide show but it is up to you to provide the photos of a great season! Congratulations to all our athletes this season and thanks to all our parents for your support!

DHL Rate Increase

We have recently learned that DHL will be increasing their rates. Please be advised that beginning March 9, 2008, the rates will increase to LE97 for the basic rate (half-kilo). Thank you for your understanding.

Larry Kraut
CAC Business Manager

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. Please hurry and make your order before supplies run out!

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 26, 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 or Samia 012-103-7880 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

Community Announcement



Applied Technology is Seeking a Bicycle

The Middle School and High School Applied Technology department is looking for a good used bike to use with our electricity generator module. The bike does not need to have multiple gears, but does need to be a sturdy and run smoothly. Please contact David Oswald doswald@cacegypt.org if you would be interested in donating a used bike to enhance this part of the Applied Technology curriculum.

THREE CHEERS

Three Cheers for the Faculty as they continue to their work to enhance the Middle School 2008-09 Program of Studies!

Three Cheers for all the students, parents and faculty members who contributed to the International Mother Language Day celebrations!

Three Cheers to Mr. Johnson and the Technology students who recorded samples of the various languages spoken in our school community! - Listen to them out at <http://www.cacegypt.org/johnson/webpages/IMLD.html>

Three Cheers to all the Middle School students who participated in the recent EMAC Tournaments - in particular to our runners - who helped secure the EMAC Championship!



Counselors Corner

Parent Forum Freedom from Chemical Dependency Wednesday, February 27 5:30 pm Room 600

Consultants from *Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD)* have been visiting CAC this week to provide information to students. FCD, based in Newton Massachusetts, provides alcohol and other drug education to U.S. and international school communities.

FCD consultants will also be presenting a forum to help parents understand how their involvement is 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 the parents meeting are to:

1. Help parents understand the unique and essential role they play in keeping their children 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

Other resources and information from FCD are available on their website www.fcd.org. Check out their website and plan to attend the parent forum on Wednesday, February 27!

ITBS Notice for Parents

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) will be administered to all CAC Middle School students on February 25 and 26. 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 27 and 28) 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 Middle School morning announcement for the students.

Ms. Jo Jean Schulte A-K

Mr. Patrick Kimerer L-Z