

Weekly Calendar

March 1, 2012

Dear Parents,

American Citizen Services

Monday March 5th
10:30-12:30 -
Captan-Amr Rm. 600

"Middle School Class of 2016" Grade 8 into 9 Parent Meeting

Monday, March 5th
6:30 pm, Captan Amr Room

Trimester Two Report Cards Issued Online via POLAR

March 8th

Middle School Soccer Sign-Ups

March 12th and 13th , Lunchtime
outside the MS

Middle School Student Led Conferences

Tuesday, March 13th
3:00 - 5:00 pm

K-12 Parent Coffee: Focus on Homework

Wednesday, March 14th ,
Elementary Hall, 10:00 am

Middle School Spirit Week

March 25-29

Spring Social

Thursday, March 29th ,
7:00 - 9:30 pm
HS Eagles' Nest

Thank you for reading this week's edition of the News and Views. Sunday was the beginning of the final trimester this week with our students resuming their learning in core classes and embarking on new electives and exploratories. We hope that your children have come home this week excited about the new learning opportunities that await them over the final twelve weeks of the school year. Already the trimester has featured a wonderful Middle School/High School Choir concert, which took place on Sunday evening, as well as the Grade 7 Poetry Cafe, which took place throughout the day today.

With the conclusion of Trimester Two now complete, we plan to issue our Trimester Two Report Cards on Thursday, March 8 th . As we did with our recent progress reports, **we will issue our Trimester Two report cards electronically** . Parents will be asked to log-in to POLAR to check their child's progress . Parents and students have previously received their POLAR username and password and will be asked to with log on to POLAR using this information. Our standards-based report card will provide students and parents with valuable information related to learning traits and academic achievement. Narrative comments will be provided for all students. Middle School Trimester Two Report Cards will be accessible to parents and students after 3:00 pm on Thursday, March 8th. Please do not attempt to log on before this time as the information may still be incomplete or inaccurate. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance to you. You can also send an email to polar@cacegypt.org if you need any technical assistance.

Following the issuing of our report cards, we will host our annual Student Led Conferences on Tuesday, March 13 th from 3:15 - 5:00 pm. Student Led Conferences are a wonderful opportunity for parents to listen to their children reflect upon their learning and to observe samples of their work. Student Led Conferences will be hosted in your child's Advisory teacher's room. These conferences will take place after school from 3:15 until 5:00 pm. There will be two 50 minutes sessions, one from 3:15 until 4:05 pm and the other from 4:10 until 5:00 pm. Students and parents are expected to attend. In the next few days, parents will receive notification from their child's Advisory teacher regarding which of the two time slots they have been scheduled for. Please contact your child's Advisory teacher or call the Middle School Office if you have any questions. We look forward to your participation and support in your child's learning.

It was great to return to CAC this week from the ASB Unplugged 1:1 conference in Mumbai. In total fourteen CAC teachers and administrators attended the conference. I can share with you that the Middle School is in a good place when it comes to the advances that we have made with learning and the use of technology. Spending time in classrooms at the American School of Bombay, a school that has been on the cutting edge of 1:1 learning, was very reaffirming. Our teachers and students are both making great strides in 21 st century teaching and learning.

Another group from CAC was also in India last week. We welcome back Ms. McAninch, Mr. Said, and the ten Middle School students who travelled to New Delhi to participate in the Math Counts competition. The Math Counts Competition Program consists of fun and creative problems that promote critical thinking and problem solving skills. The program provides extra incentives and the perfect atmosphere for students to push themselves to achieve more in mathematics. Though challenging and non-routine, the competition problems focus on the 6th through 8th grade standards of the National Council of Teachers in Mathematics.

Schedule at a Glance

Sunday	March 4	6G
Monday	March 5	7D
Tuesday	March 6	8H
Wednesday	March 7	1A
Thursday	March 8	3E

All of our students who participated performed capably and held their own against the competition, especially 8 th grader, Kyuri Kim, who placed 6th overall in the competition.

As we head into the final twelve weeks of school, planning has begun in earnest for the 2012-13 school year.

During the months of March and April, we will host a series of meeting with parents to orient them about the year ahead. The first of these meetings takes place for 8th grade parents on March 5th from 6:30pm - 7:30pm. Ms. Cuthbert, one of the High School Counselors, will hold an information meeting about Gr. 9 course registration. The meeting will take place in the Capt. Amr Room. Please keep reading the News and Views and stay tuned for more information regarding grade 7 and 8 course registration, which will begin taking place in the coming weeks.

We want to thank all of our parents who turned out for the Principal's Coffee Morning yesterday. The topic of parenting students in the online world and keeping our children safe on the internet was explored and discussed by the parents in attendance. We covered a number of topics including raising children in the digital world, social networking, and cyberbullying. Having just returned from the technology conference in Mumbai, I can tell you that the topic of school and home partnering together to raise good, aware digital citizens is one that garnered a lot of discussion. It is crucial that administrators, teachers and parents work together on this. A link to a great website that helps to further educate parents so that you can have meaningful discussions with your children on this important topic is below. We encourage you to find time to read some of the articles embedded within and surf the site. There is good learning here.

<http://www.internetsafetynews.com/tag/internet-safety-articles/>

Our Community Advisory Team (CAT) also met yesterday afternoon. The approved minutes from our January meeting can be found by accessing the link below. Should you have any questions following your reading of these minutes, please feel free to contact any of our CAT team members.

<http://www.cacegypt.org/MS/PDF/CATMinutesJanuary12.pdf>

Finally, we hosted our Trimester Three Intramurals and Clubs fair this Monday during lunchtime. The final trimester of after school activities will begin on Sunday. Students may still register from activities by collecting a permission slip from Ms. Nagla in the Middle School Office. Thanks to all of the teachers who have stepped up to sponsor a club or intramural during the final trimester.

	Clubs	Sponsor	Day	Time	Venue
1	Stomp Club (begins March 11 th)	Ms. Davis	Sunday	3:15 - 4:15	Choir Room
2	Homework Club	Ms. Flora	Sun. and Wed.	3:15 - 4:15	Room 97
		Ms. Riley	Mon. and Thurs.	3:15 - 4:15	Room 95
3	Math Support (Gr. 7 & 8)	Mr. Sorrenti & Ms. Gutenkunst	Monday	3:15 - 4:15	Room 89
4	Environmental Action	Mr. Said	Monday	3:15 - 4:15	Room 94
5	Running Club	Ms. LizNoel Duncan	Monday	3:15 - 4:15	Track
6	Pottery Club	Ms. Naglaa Genidy	Wednesday	3:15 - 4:15	Room 302
7	Drama Club	Ms. Fullerton	Wednesday	3:15 - 4:15	In Room 37
8	Tae Kwon Do	Mr. Johnson	Wednesday	5:00 - 6:00	Lower Gym
9	Flag Football	Mr. Ferguson	Thursday	3:15 - 4:15	MS Field
10	Eagles For Change (Gr. 7 & 8)	Ms. Keevy	Thursday	3:15 - 4:15	Room 85
11	Electronics Club	Mr. Nabawy	Thursday	3:15 - 4:15	Room 440

We wish all of you a great weekend ahead and thank you once again for reading this week's News and Views.

Andrew Ferguson
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Global Issues Network (GIN News)

The Last One Percent -- We have almost eradicated polio. Only one percent of the population is still at risk. Only 4 countries actively have and pass the disease--Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. It is possible to wipe out polio in the next *two* years. The movie hosted on Thursday after school by GIN students Omar Wagih, Andre Wakil and Ziad El Ramlawy raised 1465 LE (\$243) to buy the vaccine for approximately 2,025 people. Thank you to all who donated to this cause. "If we all have the fortitude to see this effort through to the end, then we *will* eradicate polio." - Bill Gates. If you want to see more about this cause view the short video at <http://www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/Polio/Pages/ridefault.aspx?housead>

K-12 Parent Coffee: Focus on Homework Wednesday, March 14 th , Elementary Hall, 10:00 am

In the month of March the three divisions - Elementary, Middle, and High School - will come together to host a K-12 parent coffee in lieu of the usual separate divisional meetings. Please mark your calendars and join us on **Wednesday, March 14 th at 10:00 am** in the Elementary Hall for a K-12 coffee focusing on the issue of homework.

As you may know, this semester the faculty and staff of Cairo American College have been reading about "best practice" in the use of homework and have been reflecting on their own practice. Further, as divisions, groups have been discussing the development of a homework philosophy. This work will continue through March in the hopes of publishing a K-12 Homework Philosophy in April along with division specific guidelines.

We would like to include you in this process. To that end, March's coffee will ask you to reflect on the same topics our faculty are currently discussing. We ask that you come to the coffee having already read the article reached by this link - Rethinking Homework: Best practices that support diverse needs by Dr. Cathy Vatterott.

<http://www.cacegypt.org/HS/PDF/vatHWarticle.pdf>

The article is a synopsis of the reading we have required of our faculty and will help to give context to our time together. During the coffee we will ask parents to react to and discuss various statements of belief from the reading. Your thoughts will help us to understand the issue of homework from yet another perspective while the reading, itself, will familiarize you with the current research in homework "best practice."

We hope to see you on March 14 th !
Ms. Basnight, Mr. Ferguson, and Mr. Moniz

Community Activities

American Citizen Services

Attention US Citizens. The American Citizen Services office will be hosting an outreach session on Monday, March 5 from 2:30pm to 3:30pm at the front gate and will provide information and answer questions about Absentee Voting for the upcoming 2012 elections. If you are unable to make the session on Monday and would like more information you may contact the voting team at the US Embassy at 2797-2200 or VoteCairo@state.gov

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2012

Food, Games & Entertainment

organized by
the PTO & the Country Representatives

at CAC

**Saturday 17 March
11am- 3pm**

Entrance Fee:
Pre sale 15 L.E.
At the door 20 L.E.
Limited to
CAC Community with
ID Only



**PTO CAC International Fair 2012
Saturday, March 17 th 2012, 11am to 3pm.**

**Egypt Booth at the CAC PTO International Festival
Meeting Monday March 5 th
1:30 ES Lunch Room**

We invite the Egyptian community at CAC (parents, faculty members and others) to please come to a meeting at the ES lunch room (opposite Captan-Amr room) at 1:30pm on Monday, March 5th to discuss preparation plans for the Egypt Booth at the International Fair, which will be held on Saturday, March 17.

We will update you on on-going plans regarding the food and activities to be offered at the Booth, an Egyptian performance on stage, and the Egypt country basket.

We really need your help to make the Egypt Booth a success. Please bring your suggestions, ideas, volunteer times (to help at the Booth on March 17th), sponsors and/or donations (for the food or gifts for the Egypt basket) and above all, your enthusiasm! Looking forward to seeing a lot of you at this meeting.

Egypt Booth Coordinator
Mona Madi
01222168864 or monamadi@hotmail.com

**Book Fair Booth at the CAC PTO International Festival
on Sat. 17th March from 11am-3pm**

Don't miss the Book Fair at the International Festival, not only will you get this great chance to buy books for the upcoming holidays, you will also get a chance to purchase "The Atomic Weight of Secrets" and get your book signed by our very own CAC parent/author Eden Bowditch.

Remember to pass by and not miss this last chance at buying some great titles for ES, MS, HS & Adults.

For any queries or suggestions please contact:

Suzanne Harrison 0120 100 1007 ssamoharrison@gmail.com

Sherine Elbanhawy 0100 211 4215 sherine.elbanhawy@gmail.com

**PTO
Middle School Theme Basket
PTO International Fair 2012
Theme Basket Raffle**

The PTO will be holding an International Fair on Saturday, 17 th March, 2012.

As last year one of the attractions will be a Theme Basket Raffle.

The Middle School has been allocated two themes:

1. First Theme: CAC Sports Day
2. Second Theme: Around the World.

You may choose individually which theme you wish to donate to. Alternatively if you wish to donate a basket for displaying the donations or a monetary contribution this would be also very gratefully accepted. **Many thanks everyone.**

**A Theme Basket will be located at the Middle School office
for collecting donated items.**

**We will start collecting items starting Sunday March 4 th , 2012.
Last day of collection will be March 14 th , 2012.**

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact

Samia Wadman 0122-103-7880 samiaw@aol.com

Andrea Smithinski 0122-000-1460 andreamithinsky@yahoo.com

THREE CHEERS

Three Cheers to Ms. Davis, Ms. Pascale and all of our Middle School singers.

The Choir concert on Sunday evening was full of great energy and highly entertaining.

Three Cheers to our Middle School "Mathletes" - James Eom (Gr. 6), Ninako Murakami and Nikita Mehrotra (Gr. 7), and Ozzie Alkhatat, Arjun Bhugra, Adela Chelminski, Julie Gokhale, Jee Hyo Kim, Kyuri Kim, and Mohamed Sharaf (Gr. 8). You represented CAC exceptionally well in New Delhi.

Three Cheers to the parents who attended the Principal's Coffee.

We appreciate working in partnership with you to raise smart digital citizens.

Counselors Corner

Measures of Academic Progress

Middle school students will again be participating in CAC's standardized assessment program, the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Between March 12 and April 1, 6 th 7 th and 8 th graders will be taking Reading, Language Usage and Math assessments, with the various tests scheduled during regular core class time over several weeks. Developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) based in Oregon in the

northwestern United States, the tests are administered in a computerized format. MAP tests measure academic growth over time and are administered twice a year.

More information about the test is also available by following this link: <http://www.nwea.org/assessments/map.asp>

The MAP assessments were adopted four years ago as an alternative to the previous standardized testing program, the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. Parents have been receiving periodic results updates at parent forums and with report cards. If you have not received previous MAP test results and are interested in more information, please contact your child's counselor.

What Are Standardized Tests?

Teachers learn about students by using a variety of methods. They learn a great deal about their students by:

- * observing them in the classroom;
- * evaluating their day-to-day classwork;
- * evaluating projects;
- * meeting with their parents;
- * keeping close records of how they change or grow throughout the year; and
- * administering tests.

Tests give teachers only part of the picture of your child's strengths and weaknesses. Teachers combine the results of many methods to gain well-rounded insights into the skills, abilities, and knowledge of your child.

This digest highlights one tool that teachers use--standardized tests. It explains basic features of testing and suggests questions that you might ask your child's teacher. By understanding the role of testing, you can help your child succeed in school and can develop a better relationship among you, your child, and your child's school.

Standardized tests are designed to give a common measure of students' performance. Since the same test is given to large numbers of students throughout the United States and international schools, a common yardstick or "standard" of measure can be derived to tell evaluators whether school programs are succeeding or to give them a picture of the skills and abilities of today's students.

Why Do Schools Use Standardized Tests?

Standardized tests can help teachers and administrators make decisions. They help schools to measure how students in a given class, school, or school system perform in relation to other students who take the same test. Using the results from these tests, teachers and administrators can evaluate the school system, a school program, or a particular student.

Schools do not use standardized tests to label students as incapable of learning, to place students in a grade or class, to give report card grades, or to evaluate teachers.

How Do Schools Use Standardized Tests?

Different types of standardized tests have different purposes. Standardized achievement tests measure how much students have already learned about a school subject. The results from these tests can help teachers develop programs that suit students' achievement levels in each subject area, such as reading, math, language skills, spelling, or science.

Remember that standardized tests have limitations. They are not the perfect measure of what individual students can or cannot do. Tests cannot measure everything that students learn. Also, your child's scores on a particular test can vary from day to day and many factors can affect a particular score -- whether your child guesses, receives clear direction, follows the directions carefully, is comfortable, and so forth.

How Can You Help Your Child?

Here are a few tips to remember:

- * Don't be overly anxious about test scores, but encourage your child to take the test seriously.
- * Don't judge your child on the basis of a test score.
- * Talking to your child's teacher will give a good picture of your child's abilities
- * Ask your child's teacher to suggest regular activities that you could do to help your child.

- * Make sure your child does his or her homework.
- * Make sure your child is well rested and eats a well-rounded diet.
- * Have a variety of books and magazines at home to encourage your child's curiosity.

What Should You Ask Your Child's Counselor or Teacher?

After the test...

- * How do students in your child's school compare with students in other school systems?
- * What do the test results mean about your child's skills and abilities?
- * Are the test results consistent with your child's performance in the classroom?
- * Are any changes anticipated in your child's educational program?
- * Are there things that you can do at home to help your child strengthen particular skills?

Where Can You Go for More Information?

This digest highlights some important points about testing; it doesn't tell you all there is to know about standardized tests and test results. For more detailed information about testing, you may want to contact these organizations:

American Federation of Teachers
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20011

ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation
Catholic University of America
210 O'Boyle Hall
Washington, DC 22064-4035

National Education Association
1201 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

National Congress of Parents and Teachers
700 North Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

References

Anastasi, Anne. Psychological Testing. New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1982.
Herndon, Enid B. Your Child and Testing. Pueblo: Colorado: Consumer Information Center, October 1980.
Illinois State Board of Education. Assessment Handbook: A Guide for Assessing Illinois Students. 1988.
National School Public Relations Association. A Parent's Guide to Standardized Aptitude and Achievement Testing. Arlington, Virginia: NSPRA, 1978.
Weinstein, Claire E. et al. How to Help Your Children Achieve in School. Washington, DC: The National Institute of Education, March 1983.

Adapted from:

Talking to Your Child's Teacher About Standardized Tests

Author: Carolyn Boccella

Ms. Schulte (A-K)

Ms. Duke (L-Z)