

**Weekly Calendar**

**Middle School Spring Social**

March 5 at 7:00 to 9:30 pm in the Eagles' Nest

**Prophet's Birthday Holiday  
No Classes**

March 9

**Class of 2013  
(Present Grade 8)  
Parent Meeting**

March 11 at 6:00-7:00 pm in Room 600

**Third Quarter 3 Ends**

March 12

**Global Issues Network  
Conference in Doha**

March 13-15

**CAC Jazz Night**

March 16 8:00 - 9:00

**NESA Virtual Science Fair**

March 15-17 in Room 600

**Third Annual Grade 7 Walk in  
the Wadi**

**Report Cards Distributed**

March 18

**Student Led Conferences  
MAP Testing Forums**

March 19

**Spring Break**

March 20-28

School Resumes March 29

**Summer Program  
Registration begins**

March 29

**Schedule at a Glance**

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Sunday, 8     | 8H        |
| Monday, 9     | No School |
| Tuesday, 10   | 1A        |
| Wednesday, 11 | 2E        |
| Thursday, 12  | 3B        |

March 5, 2009

**Dear Parents,**

We are glad to host a Middle School social tonight so the students can relax, dance, eat and just have fun after another full week of learning. We are less than two weeks away from a well-deserved Spring Break. However, before that holiday, the students and teachers will need to complete their responsibilities for the third academic quarter. At the same time they are also preparing portfolios for Student Led conferences that highlight the various learning activities they have been engaged with this year in the Middle School.

We have hosted a number of High School students this week as part of a Week Without Walls experience. They have served as teacher assistants or participated in performing arts activities for visiting refugee students. We thank them for their efforts and acknowledge the Middle School faculty members who sponsored these individuals.

We salute the six Middle School students below who are representing CAC in the EMAC J.V. Academic games this weekend in Alexandria. Please look over this edition of the News and Views to fully appreciate the full range of activities taking place at CAC in the weeks ahead. We welcome you to campus to witness this diverse learning community we call the Middle School. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

**Michael Popinchalk**

Principal

[mpopinchalk@cacegypt.org](mailto:mpopinchalk@cacegypt.org)

**Andrew Ferguson**

Assistant Principal

[aferguson@cacegypt.org](mailto:aferguson@cacegypt.org)



## Middle School Activities

### NESA VIRTUAL SCIENCE FAIR

All Grade 7 students and one Grade 6 team are currently competing in the NESA Virtual Science Fair. This is an exciting, challenging, and truly international project. Students do a traditional science fair project in conjunction with on-line communication to have the support of a mentor from another location in the world.

The bulk of the scientific research should be underway now. Students have developed their questions and are hopefully on their way to collecting data and analyzing the results for the local science fair. They should be checking in at least twice a week with their mentors on-line.

There have been regular support sessions held for this project. Open lab time has been held on Wednesdays after school and some weekend open lab time has been provided as well (Saturday's from 12-2, but students are expected to sign up in advance for this time). Students will continue to have opportunities to come in for extra help, in addition to support by appointments with their teachers. Please encourage the teams to take advantage of the support and work times.

All the information on the project expectations is provided in the student manual and in the on-line copy of the manual on the student blackboard site. This gives details to each portion of the project and how the students are evaluated. Students have also been given additional details about each part of the project and had opportunities to ask questions during their science classes.

#### Due Dates and Deadlines:

By now, all experiments should be underway

The Second Interim report was due this past week.

At the end of February, students have finished their data collection. Some help on analysis of data is given in class.

**March 10th/11th** - Final Report and Abstract Due to get feedback for any final changes

**March 12th/13th** - Final Changes to Blackboard Site

**March 15th** - CAC Science Fair Set up day. Students will set up their project displays in Room 600. Classes will begin to come through to look at the experiments on display.

**March 16th** - CAC Science Fair Judging in part during the school day and in part during **the Evening Community Viewing (5-7pm)**. Students need to be present to show their projects to parents, teachers, other students and to the final team of judges.

**March 17th** - CAC Science Fair Break Down

**March 18th** - CAC winners announced

**March 18th/19th** - Final Mentor Update and Thank You Due from Students

**April 20th-27th** - Winners of the local fair compete internationally in round two by having their websites evaluated by a team of judges and answering (on-line) a series of questions about their project.

**April 29th-30th** -Winners of Round 2 announced.

**May 2nd-10th** -Champion's League round for the Top 5 international teams. Students answers to questions left by a "great scientist" through the on-line site.

**May 12th** the final results are announced.

#### Additional ways you can help support the NVSF:

1.) **Science Fair Judges are needed.** If you are available March 16th during the school day (for part or all of the school day) and interested in helping judge projects following specific guidelines and rubrics, please contact Cathy Berghahn or Carissa Melk at [cberghahn@cacegypt.org](mailto:cberghahn@cacegypt.org) or [camelk@cacegypt.org](mailto:camelk@cacegypt.org). There will be some guidance and training given to those who volunteer.

2.) Come to see the projects on March 16th from 5-7 pm, as our students show off their hard work.

3.) If you are a parent of a participant, ask questions about the research project and how they are progressing. Try to keep students making steady progress a little bit at a time to meet the final deadlines.

#### Students working on NESA Virtual Science Fair



## Global Issues Network Conference in Doha

On March 13-15 Connie McAninch and David Oswald and 13 Middle School students will be attending the Global Issues Network Conference in Doha. Ms. McAninch teaches the **Global Issues Network (GIN)** class and Mr. Oswald is the leader of the Green Team efforts here on the CAC campus. The students look forward to sharing their insights from the GIN event after the Spring break.

### Parent's Reminder

#### Prophet's Birthday – March 9

March 9 is the Prophet's Birthday, and this is a special holiday for all in Egypt. There is no school on this day.

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#### Student Led Conferences – March 19

The third academic quarter will end in March and the Middle School will host student led conferences on March 19. Parents are reminded now to plan ahead in order to participate in this important event and please look at the CAC web site link [http://www.cacegypt.org/ms/student\\_conference.html](http://www.cacegypt.org/ms/student_conference.html) to learn more. Individual letters for these conferences will be sent home through their Advisory groups and parents are asked to confirm their conference time before next Thursday, March 9th. If your child has lost their form, please contact the Middle School office to get a replacement.

The format for Student Led Conferences will consist of three separate one-hour sessions over the course of the morning: 8:00 - 9:00, 9:00-10:00 and 10:00 to 11:00 These small groups of students will meet with their individual parents and conduct their discussions in their Advisory Homerooms. There will be no classes on that day for students and students need only to attend school for their scheduled student led conference session that morning. If parents are unable to attend we ask that you designate another responsible adult to participate in the conference on your behalf.

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#### Middle School Parent Forum - MAP Student Data - March 19

The MAP testing program has been adopted at CAC as an alternative to the previous standardized testing program, the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. On March 19 three information sessions will be scheduled along with Student Led conferences. Attendance at one of the sessions is necessary to fully appreciate the results that are formatted differently from the IOWA Test of Basic Skills. Please plan to attend one of the information sessions on March 19. More information about the test is also available by following this link: <http://www.nwea.org/assessments/map.asp>

### Community Announcements

#### Booster Club Meeting Tuesday, March 17, 11:00am, Room 728 PE Building.

The CAC Booster club is a group of parents who help support High School and Middle School activity and athletic programs that require international travel whether students travel to or from Cairo, to attend events in EMAC, ISST, ISTA, MUN, or AMIS. Through organizing volunteer services and fundraising we help promote school spirit within the school. Membership is open to all CAC families. We are always interested in new ideas and new members.

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**MAADI LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL IS HERE!**



**Register for the 2009 season Now!**

|               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Where?</b> | <b>C.A.C.</b>           |
| <b>When?</b>  | <b>March 4 &amp; 11</b> |
| <b>Time?</b>  | <b>2:45 - 4:00</b>      |

*For more information see [www.CASLEgypt.com](http://www.CASLEgypt.com)*

Maadi Little League signups are planned for the following date:

- March 11 at CAC main entrance from 2:45 pm to 4 pm

Costs: \$50 USD or 280 LE. Cash preferred but US checks accepted.

MLLBA entry forms can be downloaded from [www.caslegypt.com](http://www.caslegypt.com).

Volunteers Needed:

- League Coordinators
- Team Coaches (Head & Assistants)
- Team Managers

For more information please email: [MaadiLittleLeague@hotmail.com](mailto:MaadiLittleLeague@hotmail.com).



**Weekend with Seurat**  
2-Day Acrylic Painting Workshop for Children  
taught by **Kimberly Odekirk**

Children will study the pointalism technique employed by Seurat and utilizing it, paint "The Bathers at Asnieres" with acrylic paint and Q-Tips. Work will be professionally matted and framed for your home gallery.

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Date: Fri-Sat, March 13-14 | Reservations:  |
| Time: 1:00-4:00 pm         | Kimberly 010-517-6831  |
| Place: CAC • Rm 626        | Activities Office:   |
| Age: 8-15 yrs.             | 2755-5461  |
| Fee: \$65                  | <a href="mailto:sserry@cacegypt.org">sserry@cacegypt.org</a> |

## PTO News

### **PTO International Festival Saturday, March 14, 11:00 am-3:00 p.m.,**

Try some wonderful foods from all around the world, join the fun games and watch some great entertainment by and for our CAC community! Buy your tickets early to avoid lines on the day: Tickets are 10 LE each and go on sale starting on Sunday March 8, every afternoon, at the front gate!

## THREE CHEERS

Three Cheers to everyone involved with the PTO International Fair - they need your support!  
Three Cheers to the High School student apprentices who supported the Middle School this week!  
Three Cheers for the students and teachers involved with the NESAs Virtual Science Fair!  
Three Cheers for the Middle School students involved with JV Academic Games!

## Counselors Corner

Middle school students will be preparing in the next two weeks in their Advisory Homeroom groups for the upcoming Student-Led Conferences during the morning of March 19.

### **Why Student-Led Conferences?**

Perhaps your child's middle school is offering student-led conferences. These conferences are a great educational tool for both the students and their families, so don't be put off by the fact that they are different from the type of conferences you have always known.

Student-led conferences are just that. The student is in charge of reporting his or her progress, often using a portfolio of work—a collection of tests, homework, and other papers that show how he or she has grown during the preceding weeks. The teacher (or team) is present, but the student must answer questions and talk about his or her goals for the next few weeks. Parents and guardians find out a lot about their child, and the student is pushed to realize that learning depends on him or her, not the parents or teachers.

From: *The Family Connection* 2008 • Volume 13 • Number 2 [www.nmsa.org](http://www.nmsa.org)

Please remember to be on time for your conference and make sure that your cell phone is turned off. We will begin promptly on the hour and it is disruptive to the others if you are late.

Please remember that you might not be seeing the very best work your child has done as they have been asked to choose work that allows them to discuss both their strengths and their challenges. Remember that your child has worked hard to prepare this for you and be ready to give genuine praise and encouragement when warranted. Give your child time to explain fully before you begin to ask questions.

### **Parents - Start preparing for this celebration of learning!**

#### **Questions that you can ask your child during the conference:**

What is your goal for this subject?  
What is your plan to achieve that goal?  
What is the most important thing you have learned from this work?  
What work are you most proud of and why?  
Can you tell me more about this...  
Are you satisfied with your progress in this subject?

#### **Things to remember:**

Don't forget your child may find this stressful and be nervous.  
Don't forget they are excited to share what they are learning with you.  
Don't forget your child is running this meeting.  
Don't focus on individual grades but the progress your child is making.  
Don't criticize work; focus on the positive.  
Don't be impatient.