

Weekly Calendar

August 21, 2008

Dear Parents,

Middle School CAT Meeting
August 27 at 3:30-5:00 pm in the
Counseling Center

**Student Social - Swim In
Movie**
August 28 at 7:00 - 9:30 pm in
the Pool

**New Student Orientation
Activity**
August 29 – Off Campus

Back to School Night
August 31 at 5:30-9:00 pm

Ramadan Begins
September 1

This has been a positive and productive week of classes in the Middle School. Student routines are being established and large group Homeroom meetings at each grade level have reinforced our standards and expectations for students as they begin this new academic year. We have been impressed with the good nature and responsible attitude of the students.

At the same time, we have visited various classrooms and it is clear that we have an experienced and very capable faculty who model daily to the students the core values of respect, trust, caring, diversity and safety. Next week we continue with the teaching and learning process and introduce some after-school activities. We will also be preparing to welcome you to our Back to School Night scheduled for the end of the month on Sunday, August 31st.

We enjoyed talking with a number of parents this week when hosting the new parent coffee or attending the PTO Coffee morning. We appreciate all the parents who get involved with the life of our school community since it is a easy way to support your child in the Middle School. You are all welcome to watch the Annual Grass Volleyball Tournament that takes place on campus on Friday, starting at 3:00. This event reflects our community spirit as it helps raise funds for educating local refugee children.

Next weekend we have a full schedule of social activities planned for new and returning students. Please contact us if you have any questions about these events that are so important to the students in terms of being with and making new friends. Thank you for your support of our Middle School learning community and have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Michael Popinchalk
Principal
mpopinchalk@cacegypt.org

Andrew Ferguson
Assistant Principal
aferguson@cacegypt.org

Schedule at a Glance

Sunday, 24	8H
Monday, 25	1A
Tuesday, 26	2E
Wednesday, 27	3B
Thursday, 28	4F



GOING FOR THE GOLD
Superintendent Search Update
August 20, 2008

Our wonderful Superintendent, Monica Greeley, will be returning to the USA next summer after 5 years of dedicated service to CAC, (and a total of 14 years as a Head of School), and many more years of service in international schools throughout her career. We are now in the midst of the process of hiring a new superintendent for the 2009-2010 school year, and we want to thank all of the parents, students, faculty, staff, and administrators who took the time this week to meet with Dr. Ralph Jahr of International School Services, the consultant who is helping us in this very important undertaking.

The Board of Trustees invited Dr. Jahr to come to Cairo to become better acquainted with our school, its academic program, and its facilities, but more importantly to hear firsthand from the different constituent groups within our school community what our needs and expectations are of CAC's new superintendent. All of the input he received from the many people he met with will now enable him to better evaluate the candidates for this job and to determine whether they would be a good match for our school and the challenges it faces.

If you did not get a chance to participate in one of the meetings with Dr. Jahr and would like to share your thoughts about the key issues our new superintendent will need to address, or the personal style, talents, or background he or she should possess to be successful, please contact Viveka Kumari (vivekakumari@gmail.com) or Bill Thomas (thomasesinsa@hotmail.com), the two parent representatives on the Superintendent Search Committee. Also, if you have attended other international schools and know of an outstanding administrator who would be a good match for CAC, please let the Search Committee know so that we can ask Dr. Jahr to contact them and make them aware of this opportunity. The announcement for this position can be found at http://www.iss.edu/edustaff/adminSUP_CAS.html.

The closing date for applications for the position of Superintendent is September 10th. Dr. Jahr will then select 10 to 12 candidates who are the most qualified and would be the best match for our school (based on the input he has received from his visit here), and will forward their dossiers to the Search Committee by September 15th. The Search Committee will evaluate these candidates very carefully and select 3 or 4 finalists by September 30th. These finalists (and their spouses) will be invited to CAC for a site visit and interviews sometime between October 7th and 21st.

The school community once again will be asked to assist the Search Committee in this process by meeting with these candidates and participating in one of a number of interview sessions that will be set up for our various constituent groups (parents, faculty, staff, administrators, students). Each of these groups will be asked to share their observations and comments with the Search Committee in writing, and then the Search Committee will make its recommendation to the Board of Trustees, who will make the final hiring decision.

Thank you again to those who have already helped us in this process, and we look forward to the further assistance of our school community in the next two months. If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact a member of the Search Committee:

Cindy Clarke (Board Member and Chair of the Search Committee),
Dolores Brown (Board Member),
Bob Givich (Board Member),
Mary Marlowe (Board Member),
Melanie Nelson (Board Member),
Seamus Marriott (CAC Administration),
Penny Riley (CAC Faculty),
Nagwa Farid (CAC Support Staff),
Bill Thomas (CAC Parent),
Viveka Kumari (CAC Parent)

Middle School Activities

Permission Forms

At the start of the new school year, there are numerous forms that need to be completed and returned to the Middle School. The following forms were sent home with your son or daughter last week, and by today they should have been signed and returned to their Homeroom/Advisor teacher, the Middle School Office or the Middle School Technology Assistants.

- Cairo American College Acceptance Form
- Health Office Update Form
- Annual Student Medical History Report
- PTO Volunteer Interest Form

If you have not signed these forms, please call the Middle School office and we will send another set home with your child.

Please be aware that new physical examinations and updated immunization records are required for all Middle School students in Grades 7.

Sustainability at CAC

Reuseable Water Bottles and Sun Block should be part of your child's daily preparation for school. We encourage all students to protect themselves from exposure to the UV rays of the sun by wearing sun block to school each day. Students are also encouraged to make use of the water oasis which are on campus to get their daily supply of water in reusable bottles and in the process reduce plastic waste on campus. Join the fun and live a smart and healthy life in the Middle School!

CAC Middle School Student Council Elections

Middle School election fever is underway. Although it might not involve a national convention, the officer elections for the Middle School Student Council are important in the lives of all CAC Middle School students. The elections for the four student executive officers will be held on September 4th. The grade level representatives will be elected during the following week.

Students who are running for office should meet the following requirements:

- have been at CAC for the whole of the previous school year.
- have maintained a GPA of 2.7 or above for the semester prior to the election.
- have parental permission, and thirty signatures on the petition.
- have two teacher recommendations, one from a core academic class, and one from PE or an elective class.
- only students from Grade 8 may run for president.

All officers will be able to:

- Address the entire student body in assemblies if needed to.
- Attend all functions his/her committee is responsible for, or find a suitable substitute.
- Show leadership skill and qualities in all student council meetings.
- Attend one Student Council Executive Officers' meeting a week plus the weekly lunch time Student Council meetings, regardless of other activities that may conflict during lunch.
- Chair the committee assigned to the particular office for which s/he is responsible.
- Attend and help with extra activities during the year, such as socials, the Halloween Carnival etc.
- Report to non-student bodies, such as the middle school CAT team, as needed.

Any student running for office should personify the following attributes:

Responsible, service minded, committed, hardworking, cooperative and enthusiastic.

Students running for the offices will need to give a speech to the student body on September 4th during the morning assembly.

All Middle School students will be required to register to vote the week before the election during lunchtime. They will need to have their CAC student photo ID card in order to register and in order to vote on Election Day.

We look forward to a healthy campaigning period and a great new year with this year's student council.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Pick up forms from Ms. Berghahn or Ms. Riley on Sunday 17th August.
- Petitions due by 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday August 26 (no petition - no campaigning)
- Campaigning: Sunday, August 31st – Wednesday, September 3rd.
- Speeches due to Ms. Berghahn and Ms. Riley by noon on September 3rd. Late speeches cannot be accepted under any circumstances.
- Speech approval date: Wednesday, September 3rd. Check with Ms. Berghahn and Ms. Riley in Room 92 at 3:00 that your speech has been approved.
- Speeches and elections: Thursday, September 4th.
- Grade level representative elections follow on the week of September 7th

Revalidation of CAC Student Photo ID Cards

As you know the CAC ID cards are now revalidated on an annual basis. The schedule below has been set for all Middle School students to have their cards revalidated at the beginning of the coming school year 2008-2009.

Sunday, August 24th Grade 8 students only

Monday, August 25th
Grade 7 and Grade 8 students only

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday August 26th, 27th and 28th
All Middle School Students

Middle School Swim in Movie

On Thursday, August 28, the Middle School will sponsor its first social event of the year. This is a great opportunity for new and returning students to meet and develop new friendships. We will show an outdoor movie by the pool. Students can swim, play basketball, enjoy pizza and drinks, and socialize with their friends. Students should arrive at 7:00 pm, with their CAC Photo ID card and 10 LE for admission. Pizza and drinks will be sold at the event. We are asking that parents please be at the front gate at 9:30 pm to pick up your child.

Back to School Night

Sunday, August 31, is the Middle School Back to School Night. The official program starts at 5:30 pm in the CAC theater. Please note the date has been changed due to the anticipated start of Ramadan. This will be a valuable opportunity for parents (returning and new) to meet each other and learn about the academic programs in the Middle School from our faculty. Further details will be forthcoming in the next News and Views.

Middle School Photos

Student photos are scheduled during the week of September 7-11. An order form will be sent home and the schedule will be published in the News & Views, one week prior to the event. Experience shows that these pictures will look better with a darker color shirt.

FROM THE CAC ATHLETICS OFFICE

Welcome to a new school year at Cairo American College. The Athletic Office (Room 720) is located in the Elementary Gymnasium Building (up one flight of stairs, first door on the right). You are most welcome to stop by anytime or, if it is easier for you, do not hesitate to call Pat Higgins, the Athletic Director, or Sara Youssef, the Athletic Office Secretary, at ext. 5416 and 5417 if you have any questions regarding our program. Each season we announce our various sports in the News and Views. You may check the detailed calendar on the CAC website to find exact dates of events throughout the school year. We also notify students about sign-ups for upcoming sports in the Morning Announcements.

UPCOMING FALL SPORTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

JV Volleyball Boys and Girls (Grade 8 Students Only)
Sign-up Dates Aug. 18- 20. Season Aug. 24- Oct. 26

Age Group Swimming
Sign-up Dates Sept. 21 and 22. Season starts after Ramadan

JV Soccer Boys and Girls (Grade Students Only)
Sign-up Dates Sept. 29- Oct. 1. Season Oct. 5-Nov. 23

Middle School Boys and Girls Basketball (No Cuts)
Sign-up Dates Oct. 6-8. Season Oct. 12-Nov. 29

Parental Reminders

Hats and Helmets Make Good Sense at CAC

As we start this new academic year, all parents, students and faculty at Cairo American College are being reminded and encouraged to wear hats and helmets.

Hats are an important part of your daily life in Egypt. A hat will protect you from the heat of the sun and the intense ultra-violet rays which you are exposed to daily when walking and playing outside.

At the same time, we are fortunate that many in our school community can ride a bike to campus. It is common sense to wear a protective helmet during any journey. CAC is committed by policy to promoting road and bicycle safety due to the high volume of traffic on the roads, uneven road surfaces and the reality of speeding cars in Maadi.

Make your day at CAC a safe one - don't leave home without a hat or helmet or both!



Community Announcements

Grass Volleyball Tournament

The Memorial Grass Volleyball Tournament will take place on **Friday, August 22nd on campus**. This is a fun-filled, action-packed grass volleyball festival open to all players of all abilities. All proceeds will go to a local orphanage in memory of Alex Klimentos.

CAC Library - Opening Hours During Ramadan

Sundays - Thursdays 7:30 – 4:00

Saturday hours will remain 10:00 – 2:00

The Library will be closed Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, October 1-6 for the Eid El-Fitr Holiday weekend.



THREE CHEERS

Three Cheers to all the students who took part in Middle School play auditions this week - 65 students showed their ability to perform and the drama teachers were impressed - Bravo!

Three Cheers to all the Middle School students and faculty who have completed their first full week of classes!

Three Cheers to all the parents who attended coffee mornings and supported the PTO in their efforts to unite our diverse school community!

Three Cheers to all the students who wore hats to school this week - we appreciate your common sense!

Counselors Corner

New Students' Trip

Next Friday, August 29th, all the students new to CAC and peer buddies are invited for a day of sun and fun at the Sofitel in Giza.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to connect with each other in a relaxed and safe environment. Trip permission slips should have been turned in to the Middle School counseling secretary. Students should remember to bring a hat, bathing suit, a full water bottle and sun screen. There is no cost for this outing. Parents are reminded to have their student at the CAC front gate by 9:50 AM. Please plan to pick up your student promptly at 3:00 PM at the CAC front gate.

What Young Adolescents Want and Expect From Their Parents

Popular opinion would have you believe that young adolescents want parents who aren't seen or heard; parents who dole out allowances and bonuses on demand; parents who don't expect them to do anything around the house except what they want to do. In reality, that type of parent, appealing as it may sound to 10- to 15-year-olds, is exactly what they do not want. They do want parents who act like, well ... parents. They want adults who love them unconditionally, who care for them, who protect them, and who make them toe the line. They want parents who are good role models, who admit mistakes, who share how they made it through their own rough times. Sometimes it is tempting for parents to throw up their hands in despair when a child is particularly headstrong, but that is the exact moment when young adolescents need their parents and other caring adults the most.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Five ways to support your young adolescent in the new school year:

1. Get to know the Middle School your young adolescent attends by going to the Back to School Night. What is its philosophy and mission? Is it more traditional or more progressive? How is it organized? Who are the people who can help you and your child—the Counselor, Principal, Assistant Principal, and teachers?
2. Personally introduce yourself to your young adolescent's teachers. Many Middle Schools use teaching teams. Who is the team leader? How does the teaching team work together? When is the best time to contact them with questions?
3. How can you be an active part of the school? What can you do to contribute? Every parent has some skill, talent, or knowledge to share with students or teachers. Not everyone has to make brownies for bake sales, tutor, or be a guest speaker on career day, but these and other activities are always needed.
4. Remember that the best support you can provide your young adolescent is to be there. Above all, do not fall for the stereotype that young adolescents do not want their parents involved in "their" territory—school. Be visible in the school community so your child knows that you care.
5. Help the Middle School be the best it can be. While you certainly want the best for your child, you also want a school that is responsive and responsible to all children. Learn about the experiences and practices that truly make a difference for young adolescents—engaging and interesting work, standards that hold students accountable on a realistic yet challenging level, and opportunities for students to contribute to their school and community.

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Ms. Jo Jean Schulte A-K

Mr. Patrick Kimerer L-Z