

Weekly Calendar

September 25, 2008

24 Hour Drama

September 25-26 from 7:00 pm in the Theater

Grade 6 PRIME Trip Parent Information Session

September 28 at 2:00-2:45 in Room 70

Eid El Fitr Holiday

October 1-2

CAC Holiday

October 5

Armed Forces Holiday

October 6

Professional Development Late Start Day

October 7 – Classes Begin at 11:30 am

Middle School Community Forum

October 8th from 3:15 – 5:00 pm

Middle School Planning and Design Concepts
Room 70

PRIME Trips

Grade 6 – October 14-16

Grade 7 & 8 – October 13-16

Dear Parents,

We have completed our last full week of classes before the Eid El Fitr holiday. As usual the Middle School continues to be an active and engaging place. Tonight 80 Middle School students will be involved in our 24-Hour Drama event. The students will work in ensemble groups and will participate in a series of workshops such as clowning and improv, organized by Ms. Kelly, Ms. Yendell, and High School IB and Drama students. The students will also work with outside professionals in other theater workshops. The event culminates on Friday afternoon in the theater with students presenting their ensemble group performances. Thanks to all involved with the organization and chaperoning of this event.

We have also completed our first round of MAPs (Measure of Academic Progress) testing. This is a new endeavor for CAC this year and will serve to provide students, teachers and parents with meaningful data on student achievement. Middle School teachers, Ms. Dillon and Ms. Riley, attended a weekend workshop in Abu Dhabi last weekend and shared with the Middle School faculty the ways in which the student data from the MAPs will be interpreted and used to help students continue to make progress in their grade levels. We will look forward to sharing this data with parents shortly.

Progress Reports were made available on POLAR last week for all Middle School students. Thanks once again to the MS faculty for their efforts in preparing these reports. In reviewing grades it's important for parents, students, and teachers to remember reporting on student progress is as much about the learning as it is the grade. When we look at student progress, we need to focus on what the student has learned and not what they have earned. We need to always remember that it is not an all-out quest for grades. Often when a test or assignment is returned to student, other students and parents often tend to ask, "What did you get?" We talk about grades as if they were the most important goal. Grades are meant to be indicators of student learning. There are things that student know and understand well, things that they are in the process of learning, and things they have yet to learn. Their approaches to learning will be different and our inquiries about what they've learned should focus on exactly that: what have they learned? When your child comes home with a graded paper or product it is important to remember to ask the question "What did you learn?" instead of "What did you get?"

A reminder to parents and students that the first day back following the Eid El Fitr Holiday will be a Professional Late Start Day. On October 7th, all students are expected to be back on campus and ready for classes to begin at 11:30 am. During the morning, Middle School faculty members will develop their skills in analyzing and interpreting the MAPs data as well as continue their important collaborative work on our standards-based curriculum design, mapping and planning of common assessments for students.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable upcoming Eid El Fitr holiday. To those in our community who will celebrate the end of the month of Ramadan, enjoy this festive occasion with family and friends. To the members of our community who will travel during the holiday, please do so safely. Enjoy the well deserved break everyone.

Sincerely,

Michael Popinchalk

Principal

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Andrew Ferguson

Assistant Principal

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Schedule at a Glance

Sunday, 28	1A
Monday, 29	2E
Tuesday, 30	3B
Wednesday, 1	Holiday
Thursday, 2	Holiday

Parent Meetings with Language Consultant

We are pleased to announce that a language consultant will be visiting CAC from October 7th through 9th. Christine Brown will be here to assist with the review of our French and Spanish programs for all divisions of the school. The primary purpose of the audit is to ensure school wide curricular articulation and coherence in our world language program. Some of you completed a language survey last spring which is already assisting us with our audit, and we thank you for that.

We invite you to take advantage of the opportunity to visit with Ms. Brown as follows:

- Parents of Elementary students in French and Spanish classes on Wednesday, October 8, from 1:30 to 3:00 in Room 600.
- Parents of Middle and High School student in French and Spanish classes on Wednesday, October 8, from 3:30 to 5 in Room 600.

We look forward to seeing you on October 8th as we continue our efforts to support your children through the enhancement of our CAC instructional program.

Monica N. Greeley
Superintendent

Middle School Activities

The lunchtime Grass Volleyball tournament concludes on Sunday with the semi-finals and championship matches. The atmosphere on the Middle School field during lunchtime over the past few weeks has been fantastic with many Middle School students engaged in friendly competition. Thanks to coordinators Ms. Dillon and Mr. McGuigan for their efforts with this tournament as well as to Mr. Routh and Mr. Weening for their help with officiating.



Signups for Junior Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer will be held on **Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, September 28, 29 and 30 from 11:20 to 11:50 in the shaded area of the High School Field** by the marble bleachers. This is your chance to get information about the sport season and meet coaches. If Tuesday is a holiday, then sign-ups will only be held on Sunday and Monday. **Try-outs** will start on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 7, 8 and 9** for both boys and girls. **Please note: only Grade 8 students** are to sign-up for JV Soccer. The Middle School "no cut" sports are scheduled to begin in October. (Athletic Office)

Parental Reminders

PRIME Trip Planning

Planning for the upcoming Middle School PRIME trips continue. Middle School PRIME trips will take place during the week of October 12th through 16th. At this time, all students should have received important documents related to their specific grade level trips, which were sent home with students this week. Parents and students are reminded to complete and return all required paperwork to Homeroom teachers by Tuesday, September 30th.

All 7th Grade students need to have their physical done by a physician within the last six months and on file in the Health Office. This is required for attendance on PRIME trips. If this has yet to be done, time is running out! We ask that all 7th grade students attend to this immediately if necessary.

Guardianship

We have added a Notification of Parent Absence Form to the CAC Middle School webpage. The link to this form can be found in the Student/Parent Information section. Middle School Parents are asked to print out, complete and return this form to the Middle School administration if they are not going to be in the country for an extended period of time. The following Guardianship Procedure applies to all students, Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 12:

Students admitted to CAC must live with their parents. However, there are circumstances in which guardianship will be considered as an acceptable alternative. Although not meant to be a comprehensive list, below are some examples of situations in which guardianship would be considered acceptable:

- Family emergency
- Parents are incapacitated
- Legal problems regarding child custody
- Humanitarian (e.g. war in home country)
- Brief business trips for a working single-parent

Examples of unacceptable reasons for establishing guardianship are as follows:

- Parents do not reside in Cairo
- Excessive periods of time when family is absent from Cairo (e.g. more than 26 calendar days in total during an academic year)
- A family employee (e.g. housekeeper or driver) is not acceptable to CAC as a guardian.

Guardianships fall into two types, on the basis of duration, each of which is governed by different procedures:

- **Short-term Guardianships (1 to 14 calendar days, inclusive; not to exceed 26 calendar days in any one academic year)** are to be used when both parents will be outside of Cairo for any temporary purpose such as a business trip, family emergency, medical issues, personal, etc. The guardian is responsible for the day-to-day welfare of the student. In the case of students less than 12 years of age, the guardian is required to sleep in the same house as the students.
- Prior to their departure, the parents are required to notify the Principal's Office, providing the expected duration, appointed guardian name & contact information, and parent contact information for use in emergency.
- The parent or designated guardian must inform the Principal's Office of any extensions to the guardianship arrangement or of their return to Cairo.
- **Long-term Guardianship (exceeding 14 calendar days)** are not to exceed one academic year except in extraordinary circumstances, to be considered by the school administration on a case-by-case basis.
- The designated guardian **and the parent(s)** must meet with the relevant school Principal prior to assuming the role of guardian. CAC must approve both the reason for the long-term departure of the parents and the designated guardian. The long-term guardian acts in loco parentis and assumes full responsibility for the child's school welfare and any decision associated with it.

From the Performing Arts Department

Middle School Drama Production – Flashback

Rehearsals continue for the Middle School Production "**Flashback**" which is an exuberant review by Alice Wilson. This play is an entertaining and perceptive look at some of the universal moments of childhood, which will be staged and performed in the CAC Theatre on Thursday, November 6, at 7:00pm and on Friday, November 7th at 2:00 pm. and again for an evening performance at 7:00pm. Plan to join us for this exciting Middle School production in November.

Remscheid Youth Orchestra at CAC – September 29

The Remscheid Youth Orchestra from Germany and CAC Strings will combine musical talents for an evening concert this Monday, September 29 starting at 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the theater. The 45-member Remscheid Youth Orchestra will be touring Cairo at the end of September 2008.

For tickets, please contact the box office at the CAC Auditorium at (02) 2755-5555. The concert is free of charge, but space is limited.

THREE CHEERS

Three Cheers to all of the students and faculty who were involved with the lunchtime Middle School Grass Volleyball tournament over the past few weeks.

Three Cheers to Janna Cappetti and Helen Anderson for modeling our core value, Trust, by turning in a wallet they found

Three Cheers to Ms. Schulte, Mr. Kimerer, our parent proctors, and all of the Middle School students for successfully completing the first round of MAPS testing.

Three cheers to Ms. Gutenkunst, Ms. Melk, Ms. Newmyer, Ms. Knox's and Ms. Klimentos Art Classes, and Mr. McGuigan's MUN students for their efforts and contributions to the CAC International Day of Peace.



Counselors Corner

Praise: Most professional educators and specialists in the field of child development agree that positive behaviors of children should be reinforced/rewarded so the behavior is strengthened and likely to be repeated. The most common kind of positive reinforcement is the use of verbal praise by parents and educators. However, if praise is not used correctly it can lose its power or lead to negative consequences for the child. JoAnn Deak in her book: "Girls will be Gils", reports that excessive praise can lead to the development of the following:

1. A very selfish child who wants reinforcement from everyone for everything.
2. A very needy child who can't function without constant adult feedback.
3. A very complacent child because everything is responded to in the same way.
4. A very angry child because he/she will inevitably interact with people who are not effusive about his/her every behavior or will set the bar higher for obtaining praise.
5. A very confused child because his/her outside world is not the same as his/her home world.
6. A very lazy child because the littlest effort is awarded.

Praise is important and necessary in the life of a child but it must be carefully used by adults. A child should be rewarded when their effort and achievement is real and related to the next step in achieving a goal. Parents will need to keep in mind when to reward or not depending on their knowledge of their child and current level of development. For example, it would be the right thing to do to verbally praise a 4 year old child for making scribbles on a piece of paper but not a 12 year old child that is capable of writing a paragraph.

Ms. Jo Jean Schulte A-K

Mr. Patrick Kimerer L-Z