

**Weekly Calendar**

**September 3, 2009**

**Swim In Movie**

September 3 at 7:30-9:30 pm

**Professional Development  
Early Release Day**

September 6 - Students  
Dismissed at 11:30 am

**ESL Parents Night**

September 9 – 7:30 – CAC  
Theater

**Middle School Photos**

September 6-10

**Middle School Iftar**

September 16 at sunset – Middle  
School Field

**International Day of Peace**

September 17 – All School  
Assembly at 8:15-9:00 am

**Middle School 24 Hour  
Drama**

September 24 and 25

**Schedule at a Glance**

Sunday, 6	7D
Monday, 7	8H
Tuesday, 8	1A
Wednesday, 9	2E
Thursday, 10	3B

**Dear Parents,**

The Middle School has completed another full week of classes and activities. Students and teachers are fully engaged in the teaching and learning process and this week we hosted a speaker, Jessica Huang, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who shared the challenges and opportunities when dealing with global issues. We have been impressed with how our students have responded to the challenge of keeping our school "Clean and Green", practicing sun safety and making use of reusable water bottles to reduce waste. It is a daily responsibility that we share with all of those who make use of our campus and we encourage you to join us.

The Middle School also practiced democracy this week by completing the election process for Student Council officers. We thank all the individuals who stood for office and The Model United Nations class who registered the student voters and conducted a free and fair election.

The Middle School CAT Team met this week and we ask all of you to get to know these individuals who volunteer their time to make our learning community a special place. You can read about the purpose of the CAT team and follow their discussions by going to this link on the CAC web site.

<http://www.cacegypt.org/ms/cat.html>

Our professional faculty will be involved with professional development activities on Sunday afternoon, September 6. Teachers will be looking at the learning concepts that are common throughout CAC and technology systems that support student instruction on and off campus. Please note the Early Release Day schedule and Middle School students are expected to go home by 12:00 that day.

Finally, we are going to get wet tonight in the Middle School, with the Movie Swim-In. Mr. Ferguson is an expert at organizing this event and I look forward to helping him with other faculty members so our students can enjoy a swim and a movie on a warm Egyptian night. Have a good weekend!

**Michael Popinchalk**

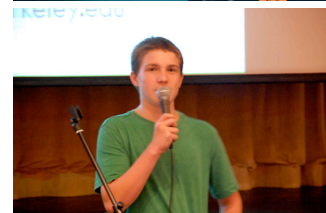
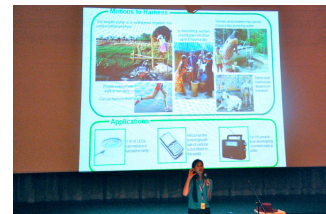
Principal

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

**Andrew Ferguson**

Assistant Principal

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



## Middle School Activities

### Middle School Swim in Movie

On Thursday, September 3, 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 7:30 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.

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### Middle School Photos

Student photos are scheduled during the week of September 6-10 in Room 70, schedule below, daily reminders will be announced in the Morning Announcement. Envelopes containing order forms were distributed during Thursday's Advisory. Please make sure you send the order form and money with your child on the day he/she is scheduled to have his/her picture taken. Students will need to hand the envelopes directly to the photographer. Below please find the schedule. Experience shows that these pictures will look better with a darker color shirt.

<http://www.cacegypt.org/ms/PDF/09PhotoSchedule.pdf>

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### Professional Development Early Release Day - Sunday, September 6

**September 6th** is a Professional Development Early Release Day. Students will be dismissed at **11:30 a.m.** and should leave campus by 12:00 Noon. The schedule is as follows:

<b>8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Period D</b>
<b>8:50 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.</b>	<b>Period A</b>
9:35 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.	Break
<b>9:55 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Period B</b>
<b>10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Period C</b>
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>
11:45 a.m.	Buses

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### Middle School 24 HOUR DRAMA Thursday September 24th and Friday September 25th!

We will have the great Middle School 24 Hour Drama experience of fun and excitement here at CAC during the month of September. Check out the poster at the main gate and found throughout the Middle School. Attached to this message is the contact letter to be returned to the Performing Arts Office or Mrs. Yendall by September 10th.

We have a wonderful programme planned with five workshops presented by Mr. Hadley's advanced actors and outside professionals coming to work with the students on stage combat, belly dancing directing and Commedia dell'Arte. All Middle School students are invited to come along and join in the fun but you must be registered by Thursday, September 10th to help in our planning. Please click on the [link](#) for the permission form and contact me with any questions.

#### Permission form:

<http://www.cacegypt.org/ms/PDF/24DramaPermission09.pdf>

Sue Yendall - Middle School Drama

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### The Middle School House System has Started!

The House system is a structure for organizing fun cross-grade level competitions and events through out the school year. The events are designed to give opportunities for leadership, chances to show school spirit, chances to work across grade levels to build friendships, problem solve and show creativity. The various activities will be sprinkled in throughout the school year. The first all house event was held last Thursday with a lunchtime dodge-ball event. Students came dressed in their house colors and showing house spirit to start off the friendly competition.

This year we are in the process of getting house color tee-shirts for students to wear to house events. A logo design contest was held with two students winning for designs on the front and back of the house shirts. The winners were Maya Rinehart in 6th grade and Ali Nagid in Grade 8. Thank you to all the students who submitted a design. We had many cool ideas to choose from.

The next house event will be held next week with a "Getting to Know Your Teachers Trivia Contest".

Thank you to everyone who helped with the positive house kick-off for the year.

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### Student Council Elections

The Student Council is getting up and running for what promises to be a great school year. This week we held voter registration, campaigning, and an election of the four student council officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). We had a wonderful selection of candidates running for office. Each of them should be congratulated for putting themselves up for office. Those who did not win the office are still eligible to be grade level representatives. The following students ran for office:

**President:** Omar Abdel-Kader, Benjamin Blackstone, Farida Radwan,

**Vice President:** Karim Abdel Wadood, Basil Baldauff, Adham El Sharkawy, Youssef el Sheik, Aminah Keevey, Noah Osgood, Lara Zaki

**Secretary:** Mariam El Magrissy, Omar Assir, Radheka Kumari

**Treasurer:** Cilaine Maurin, Hanna El Alfi, Shameer Butt, Shuvani Choudhry

The campaigning was spirited, fun, and showed some of the best of CAC students and their qualities. On Thursday morning each candidate gave a speech to the entire middle school. This alone is an accomplishment. Voting was held during lunchtime.

Special thanks to Mr. McGuigan and the Model United Nations class for running the student registration and voting. The election has officially been declared as free and fair from our team of international observers.

With so many excellent candidates the election was close. Congratulations to our new Student Council Officers:

**President:** Benjamin Blackstone

**Treasurer:**

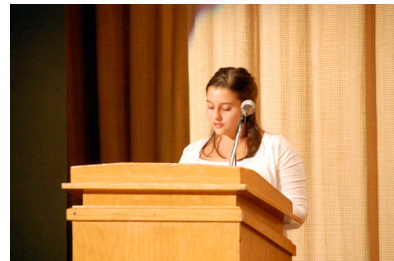
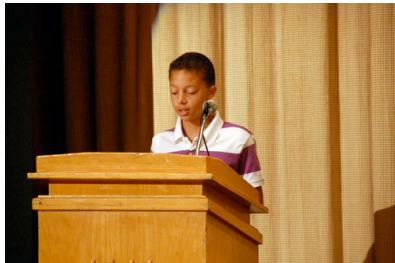
Hanna El Alfi

**Vice President:** Adham El Sharkawy

**Secretary:**

Radheka Kumari

Stay tuned for the grade level elections next week.



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### Student Physicals and Health Records

Attention all Grade 7 Students and Middle School students new to CAC! This is a reminder that you are required to pass in a medical examination and updated immunization records. If you haven't already done so, these must be passed in to the CAC Health Office and you may place these records in a sealed envelope. The deadline for submitting these health records is **Wednesday, September 16 by 3:00 p.m.** Thank you for meeting this important deadline.

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### Hat Donation Campaign

The High School Service Learning Students will be cooking, serving and sharing an Iftar meal with the children at the cancer hospital in Cairo. In the past, the young patients who lost their hair to chemotherapy have appreciated and

enjoyed our gift of hats. Please donate hats to this drive and make an ill child happy. You can drop your donation in a box at the front gate of CAC or the Middle School office. Thank you for your caring!

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### **Ramadan Kareem!**

Ramadan continues for our Moslem families at CAC and we wish them all a very Happy Ramadan. For those of you new to our host nation, Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. It is during this month that Muslims observe the fast of Ramadan. Lasting for the entire month, Muslims throughout Egypt and the world fast during the daylight hours and in the evening eat small meals and visit with friends and family. It is a time of worship and contemplation. It is a time to strengthen family and community ties. Room 70 in the Middle School will be available during the second break for our Moslem students who wish to complete the noon prayer. The Middle School will embrace the month of Ramadan by holding our annual Potluck Iftar on Wednesday, September 16, at sunset in front of the Middle School. All families who would like to participate in that event are welcome. We are working this year with the Middle School CAT team to organize a special celebration of our international school community. Plan ahead now to join us on that day to enjoy the spirit of Ramadan and experience some great Egyptian and international food.

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### **Physical Education Classes During Ramadan**

Parents learned at the Middle School Back to School Night that throughout Ramadan students would be expected to be in class, dressed out, and participating. Physical Education classes don't change what is expected but teachers do adapt activities when it is hot and particularly when there are many students who are fasting. We are modifying conditioning and fitness testing to allow for fasting students to complete the assessments after Ramadan.

Physical Education classes are also following these guidelines:

Classes in the afternoons are held outside for half the period, the other half inside an air conditioned space, breaks in the shade are given along with an opportunity to put water on their heads or faces.

Fitness activities outside are rescheduled to the morning and running is minimized to game activities and a warm up only.

Any fitness testing (particularly running or the beep test) would be optional and postponed for students who are fasting unless they wanted to do it with the rest of the class

Conditioning for sit-ups, pushups, sit and reach, pullups are done inside and when it's cool.

Teachers who are scheduled for activities inside are cooperating and sharing spaces with classes which are scheduled for outside.

Any student needing to go to the health office is allowed to go, as usual.

For any individual questions, parents should contact their student's teacher for specific information. We are compassionate and flexible, but we also want to encourage the students to hold up their responsibilities for fasting and continuing on with life as much as normal so that they will receive the blessings they are due according to their beliefs.

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### **Before and After School at the Middle School**

Students who stay on campus after school should be in a school sponsored activity, visiting a teacher or working in the library. Students who stay after school and are not in an after school activity are strongly encouraged to go home at 3:30. If they remain on campus they will be assigned a study place until they leave campus. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Please help ensure that your children are on time to school. Students are called to their first period class or Advisory period at 7:55 each morning. Punctuality helps your child with their academic responsibilities. Together in partnership we strive to ensure all students are challenged, included and successful.

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### **Reminder - Middle School Student ID Cards for 2009-2010**

This year CAC will be re-issuing all Middle School student ID Cards. If your child did not secure one this week, the CAC ID office is open from 8:00am – 3:00pm during the school week. Please return your old ID card to help with the process. Students who try to enter campus with invalid I.D. cards may be denied access in September.

### **From The CAC Library**

Calling all Middle School Parents,

The CAC Library is for parents, too! The library welcomes parents from 3 to 4 each afternoon during Ramadan, as well as Saturdays from 10 AM until 2 PM. Visit the library and enjoy current magazines and newspapers, travel guidebooks, audio books, the latest graphic novels, and terrific fiction. The library's extensive collection includes a wide range of books about Egypt and the Middle East.

Right now, hundreds of brand new books are displayed and available for check out. So visit the CAC Library and find what's right for you. If you need help using the library, be sure to ask one of the library staff for help.

CAC Librarians

## THREE CHEERS

Three Cheers for all the students who stood as candidates for office in the Middle School Student Government elections - well done!

Three Cheers for all those who registered to vote and participated in the Student Government election!

Three Cheers for the Model United Nations class for conducting a free and fair election!

Three Cheers for all the parents who serve on the Middle School CAT Team - thank you!

Three Cheers for all those who help everyday to keep CAC "Clean and Green"!

## Counselors Corner

### Measures of Academic Progress - MAP

During September all Middle School students will be participating in a standardized assessment program, the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Between September 8 and September 30, 6th 7th and 8th Graders will be taking Reading, Language Usage and Math assessments, with the various tests scheduled during regular core class time over a three week period. Grader 6 and Grade 7 students will also take a science assessment in their science class time. Developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) based in Oregon in the northwestern United States, the tests are administered in a computerized format. Unlike more traditional standardized testing formats, the school and parents will have more timely access to the results of the exams, providing accurate and relevant measures

of what a student knows and needs to learn. MAP tests measure academic growth over time and will be administered three times a year.

More information about the test is also available by following this link: [www.nwea.org/assessments](http://www.nwea.org/assessments)

CAC is involved in this testing process along with a number of leading international schools located in the Middle East and South Asia.

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### Parental Involvement in the Middle School

Just because your child is moving to next level of education, it doesn't mean you have to be left behind. Stay involved in their education in the Middle School.

Often times parents have a mind set that once a child moves from Elementary School to the Middle School, parental involvement in school activities disappears. Nothing could be farther from the truth, as this is a time when your child really needs your involvement and encouragement. Yes, they are getting more mature, but there are still many times when they need to know you accept their behaviors and approve of their choices.

#### Seeking Out Opportunities

How does parental involvement change from Elementary to Middle School? Basically, you can't expect the school to be calling you asking for help. The Middle School at CAC has formal programs for parental involvement, but it is the parents responsibility to also find ways to be involved in your child's school.

#### Being Involved in School

As opposed to elementary school, your child will likely have multiple teachers throughout the day for different subjects. The school will likely be larger and the schedules more difficult to get used to. After a short period of transition time, though, these concerns will dissipate. Tips for keeping on top of things at your child's school include:

- Getting to know more than just one teacher. Try to meet with each of your child's teachers and at least get to know what their expectations are from the class. This will help keep your child on target, and you will not be confronted with any surprises.
- Reading school policies. This will help avoid daily issues with outfits your child wears and what kinds, if any, electronics are allowed, etc.
- Keeping an eye on your child's school record every year. Parents do have the right to request to see their

child's records, though many parents do not realize that.

### **The Benefits of Volunteering**

When you take an active role in your child's school, you are boldly making the statement to your child that school is important. In fact, it is so important that you are going to spend some of your time making sure that your child's education is the best it can be by actively participating where you can.

As a result you might expect your child's grades to be higher because of a greater sense of pride in her school work. You may also expect that the school, as a whole, will run more efficiently because of parents who care enough to pick up the slack where needed and see that programs are run smoothly and timely.

### **Support on the Home Front**

Working parents do not always have the flexibility to attend school programs during regular school hours. But, this does not mean that your involvement comes to a halt because of this. There are things you can do at home, including:

- Encourage homework completion by finding the right time that is suited to your child's needs. Perhaps they do best to get it done as soon as they get home from school, while others might be more productive after dinner when things are quieted down.
- Gain information from your child about school on a daily basis. Read the Daily Announcements that are sent via e-mail and ask if there are any messages from teachers or administrators that you need to know about.
- Spend quality time with your child, listening to her concerns and worries, as well as celebrate the achievements she had made during school. You are still the most important role model in your child's life, and how you react (or don't react) to situations speaks volumes to your child.

Try not to feel upset if your child expresses to you that she doesn't want you to come to her school. She is trying to be more independent, and having a parent in school can embarrass her a bit. Oh come on, you remember feeling the same way, right? Don't let this stop you from being involved either. In the long run, the benefits of parental involvement in school is a win-win situation all the way around.

Adapted from [www.parenting.org](http://www.parenting.org)

*Ms. Jo Jean Schulte* **A-K**

*Mr. Patrick Kimerer* **L-Z**