



Highro- Glyphics

High School Weekly News

Thursday, March 29, 2012

High School Administration Announcements

Upcoming Parent Coffee – April 4th

The next HS Parent Coffee is scheduled for April 4th at 9:30 am in the Captan-Amr room. John Stavinoha will begin by highlighting the work of our photography students. The Social Studies department will then give a presentation about their program. This will include an explanation of the curricular change in grade 10 (from Western Civilization to Modern World History), the current use of technology integration, the use of fieldtrips to enhance curriculum, the skills taught as part of the curriculum and the links made between the Social Studies and current events. Finally, the administration will share a brief introduction of the high school teachers joining CAC next year.

Semester Two Exam Schedules

As we know that many of you are likely making your summer travel plans, please click on the links below to view the semester two exam schedules.

Students taking externally moderated examinations (IB/AP) are exempted from CAC exams. Semester two marks in these courses will be determined by coursework alone.

As a special privilege, seniors (grade 12) who have earned an A (93% or above) in both quarter three and four will be exempted from taking CAC exams.

Senior exams will take place on May 28th and 29th. This will allow seniors to complete their CAC exams before Prom (June 1st) and the optional senior transition festivities. Senior exams will be 90 minutes in length. Three exam blocks will run each day. Students who find they have three exams on one day should see Mr. Schuetze no later than May 17th to shift one exam to the opposite day. No student should take more than two exams in one day. May 26th and 27th will be review days for examinations. No new material or assessments will be given during this time.

Exams for grades 9 – 11 are scheduled from May 30th until June 6th. No grade 11 exams have been scheduled for the morning of June 3rd to allow them to enjoy the Prom with plenty of time to recover from the late night and revise for their remaining exams. May 28th and 29th will be review days for examinations. No new material or assessments will be given during this time. In mixed level classes that include seniors, the review period will be expanded to include May 26th and 27th.

All CAC classes will give some form of a summative semester assessment. Some courses have chosen to give practical or project based assessments before exam week begins and, as such, do not appear on the exam schedule.

While we have built the exam schedule to minimize conflicts, some students may find they have two exams scheduled for the same exam block. These students should see Mr. Schuetze no later than May 17th to resolve this scheduling conflict.

As this set of exams marks the end of the school year, we are unable to allow students to make up exams beyond June 6th. Please be sure to schedule your departure for the summer after your son/daughters last examination.

Link to Grade 12 exams: <http://www.cacegypt.org/hs/PDF/ExamSchedule12Spring12.pdf>

Link to Grade 9 – 11 exams: http://www.cacegypt.org/hs/PDF/ExamSchedule9_11Spring12.pdf

Minutes from CAT/Community Forum on March 28th

Just shy of forty parents attended yesterday's CAT/Community Forum! We are hopeful that those of you who wanted to attend but were unable to do so will get a sense of what was discussed from the minutes below and/or from speaking directly with their CAT representative.

The meeting began with a short celebration of positives. People expressed thanks for a range of things including our extracurricular programs, the community as a whole and the availability of our campus for families.

The majority of the parents in attendance felt that parent teacher conferences should remain in the current format as it allows for maximum privacy and also allows teachers to showcase work displayed in their rooms. Some parents commented that they wished they could just check in with teachers while not monopolizing a full 15 minute block of time. The suggestion was made that a hybrid system could be put in place whereby an afternoon could be set aside for "arena style" check-ins while still keeping the day long appointment format in place. **The administration will take this suggestion forward to the faculty.**

It was confirmed by a few parents that audience seating at graduation is, indeed, an issue with some families reserving 20+ seats for extended family members. It was raised that faculty members currently sit in premium seats and could be shifted to a different area to make way for more premium parent seating. Further, it was noted that some schools provide a two tiered seating system whereby graduates get a certain number of premium seats for immediate family and unlimited open seating in a different section for extended family. **The administration will work with Mark Sullivan to analyze the seating area and determine what might work best to provide all parents of graduating seniors a well placed seat at graduation.**

The administration shared that the faculty is beginning a conversation about the types of awards currently given at CAC. Essentially, many faculty members expressed concern that we currently only recognize high academic achievement while we do not recognize students excelling in other areas that fit with our mission statement. We asked for feedback from both parents and students to get an idea of where the community currently sits in terms of awards. As expected, the survey indicated that our community has a wide range of opinions regarding awards. One common belief, however, is that the winning of awards is important for college admission. We have polled universities in the UK, Canada and the US to ask this very question and have found that awards are not considered important as part of the admission process. A synopsis of the results of all three polls are linked herein:

Student Survey: <http://www.cacegypt.org/HS/PDF/StudentAwardSurveySummary.pdf>

Parent Survey: <http://www.cacegypt.org/HS/PDF/ParentSurveyAwardSummary.pdf>

University Survey: <http://www.cacegypt.org/HS/PDF/AwardsCollegeSurvey.pdf>

No major changes have been made to this year's awards ceremony. The only omission in the program is that of the "Outstanding Scholars" which is an award given to students who have received multiple awards in that same evening. It was felt that this award was unnecessary as students will have already been recognized multiple times in the ceremony. Further, next year we add a "celebration of learning" evening once per quarter in order to showcase the work of many students rather than waiting until the end of the year to acknowledge the achievement of a few. **The faculty will continue to discuss the idea of awards and the administration will keep the parent and student community informed as the conversation unfolds.**

It was reported before the meeting that a number of rumors were floating around the community about "sweeping changes" being made by the administration to graduation. The administration clarified that no changes are being made to the ceremony. It concerns us to hear that some community members are distressed over things that are simply not happening. **The administration urges community members who hear "rumors" about changes supposedly being made in the high school to contact the high school principal to check the information.**

The remaining agenda items referred to current policies and practices at CAC. The following link may be useful as a reference for the minutes:

<http://www.cacegypt.org/HS/PDF/CATAgendaMarch28Handout.pdf>

The AP/IB Study Leave was reviewed and the rationale explained. A few concerns were raised about the AP and IB Certificate leave being inadequate. The administration explained that students are able to use their absences to supplement the study leave if needed. A concern about Mock Exams was raised. It was reported that not all teachers respected the "no homework" rule and, as such, some IB/AP students found themselves balancing homework with preparing for mock exams. Further, it was reported that the fact that mocks counted for 20% of the overall quarter mark caused a great deal of stress for

the students. It was also reported that the current proctors were listening to music and that not all teacher furnished the necessary items for their mock exams. ***The administration will follow up with the IB/AP Coordinator to investigate the situation more fully.***

The absence policy was reviewed and the rationale explained. The administration shared the results of a survey done with 31 international schools regarding their leave policies. Overall, CAC is on par with many schools. Some schools, however, do not include school trips as "counting against" the minimum attendance. ***The administration will work with the Superintendent to review the attendance policy in light of results of the survey and the fact that CAC is not currently hosting events (therefore adding travel days to some tournaments).***

The rationale of the tardy policy was explained. The administration feels the policy is working well and is not considering a change. In semester one the high school saw a 70% drop in tardies. We are hopeful that this trend will continue.

The rationale for semester exams was explained. The administration feels strongly that exams must remain in place. A concern was raised that the study days were not respected last term. It was also reported that some teachers and students did not understand what they needed to do and where they needed to be. Further, it was reported that not all teachers shared the format of the exam in a timely manner. Finally, it was raised that there has been some confusion/miscommunication regarding exams both last term and this term. Specifically, seniors learned that if they could be exempted from exams if they maintained an "A" in both quarters too late in quarter three to attempt to change their mark. The administration apologized for the communication not being clearer. ***The administration will review this senior exemption with the faculty to determine if a lower mark exemption can be used for this year only. The administration will remind teachers of their duties. It is our hope that exams will run more smoothly this term as all community members have a better sense of what to expect.***

A representative of the After Prom committee was asked to share information about the event. She explained that in her understanding the After Prom was a school sponsored event until this year and is now a parent sponsored event. She said the event is going forward as planned and that the committee welcomes parents to offer to help with the event and continue with it next year. The Superintendent explained that the shift from school to parent sponsorship this year was done for liability issues. Events that are sponsored by the school must be organized and chaperoned by school personnel.

Moodle for Parents?

The Highro-Glyphics is traditionally the way we, as administrators, get information out to the community. We are interested to learn if parents would be interested in us hosting a Moodle site for their reference. As you may imagine, keeping a Moodle site up to date and useful takes time and planning. While we are happy to invest this time, we only wish to do so if the community will access the information. To that end, if you feel you would regularly visit a parent Moodle site, please click on the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ParentMoodleSite>

Upcoming Events

April 1	IB Art Show begins
April 4	Parent Coffee, 9:30 am, Captan-Amr Room
April 4	Band/Strings Concert, 7:00 pm, Theater
April 5	Parent Teacher Conference
April 6 – 16	Spring Holiday, no school

Joelle Basnight
High School Principal

Mike Schuetze
High School Assistant Principal

General Announcements

CAC PTO Book Fair

Don't miss this last chance to buy great books this year. Catch up on your reading during Spring Break. On Sunday April 1st & Monday April 2nd pass by the Eco-Eagles room on the first floor of the ES building (above the ES activities room-Ereeni's room) from 2:30-4pm. We have a wide collection for ES, MS, HS students, & for adults too.

For any comments or questions please feel free to contact:

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PTO Garage Sale

Want to get rid of the old stuff in your storeroom? Your junk is someone else's treasure! PTO is organizing a garage sale for CAC card holders and their accompanied guests on **Saturday, 21 April 2012, from 10 am - 2 pm**, in the cafeteria area.

Reserve your table now! Tables are only for CAC ID holders and alumni. Reserve now by contacting Dalia Manzoni and Ivana Quattrini via email at ivanadaliagaragesale@yahoo.it

Tables tickets will be sold at CAC from Sunday April 1 to Thursday April 5, from 2.30-4 pm. Table rental fee is 175 EL.