

GWA PARENTS WEEKLY

Week of Dec 2 – 8



Your Weekly Lower and Upper Schools Communication

What parents need to know about this week @ GWA

ALL SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS



**There will be no school on Friday, December 1
to celebrate Aid El Mouldid!**

SCHOOL NOTICES & EVENTS

Save the date

Dec 1 [Aid Al Mawlid Nabawi](#)

Dec 7 [No school for Nursery, Discovery and PreK Parent-Teacher Conferences](#)

Dec 7 [MS/HS Character Assemblies @ 8:50am in the MPR](#)

Dec 8 [Lower School Character Assembly @ 8:15am in the MPR](#)

Dec 8 [Upper School Winter Concert @ 6:30pm in the MPR](#)

Dec 14 [MS Winter Ball in the MPR @ 7:00pm](#)

Dec 16 – Jan 5 [Christmas Holidays](#)

Please visit our [Master Calendar](#) or [Facebook](#) to see more events and updates! (ctrl, click on 'Master Calendar')

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ALL SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nurse:

It is that time of year; ***flu season is coming!***

[Take 3](#) - check out this video highlighting the CDC's recommendations for flu season preparedness. There is a lot of [information available](#) to help keep your family healthy during the coming months!



Attendance at school is critical to the success of each of our students! However, in order to keep everyone at GWA healthy (including other students and staff) please keep your children home from school when they are ill!

We want students to be in class learning *when they are healthy enough to do so and are not contagious!* However, in order to keep everyone at GWA healthy (including students and staff) please keep your son or daughter home if they have any of the following symptoms (please refer to the [GWA health policy](#) for further guidance) -

1. Fever (>38 C) in the past 24 hours; *without fever-reducing medications such as doliprane or brufen*
2. Vomiting or diarrhea
3. Diagnosis of a contagious illness (chickenpox, hand foot mouth disease, etc); *we need a medical certificate to allow students to safely return on campus*
4. Excessive coughing, sneezing, runny nose with an inability to keep hands clean independently

For a healthy GWA,
Miss Hannah Hair, RN, BSN

LOWER SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we prepare for December when we will talk about caring and compassion, I want to remind us of November's character trait -- RESPECT. We have discussed many ways to demonstrate respect at GWA and beyond. Students have been involved in activities and conversations regarding respecting others, themselves, and the environment. Please continue these conversations at home as respect is a core character trait in demonstrating strong character at school, at home, and in the community.

Students have demonstrated respect by treating others the way they want to be treated, and by showing honor for the worth of someone or something. We value everyone no matter their age, skin color, or background. Specific examples include helping a classmate with a task, speaking with consideration, picking up trash in the hallway, and more. Thank you for your ongoing partnership as together we equip minds and build character.

Eid Mubarak,
Kevin Brenner
Lower School Principal



Announcements:

- **No school on December 7 for Nursery, Discovery and PreK** : Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- As a reminder, rolling backpacks are not permitted in the Lower School at GWA. Please do not buy these for your students as they are dangerous in many ways.
- As the weather turns cooler please be reminded that all 1st-5th graders should have a GWA uniform item as their outer layer. Non-GWA jackets are not permitted.
- Attendance at school is critical to the success of each of our students! However, in order to keep everyone at GWA healthy (including students and staff) please keep your son or daughter home if they have any of the following symptoms (please refer to the GWA health policy for further guidance) - Fever (>38 C) in the past 24 hours; without fever-reducing medications such as doliprane or brufen Vomiting or diarrhea Diagnosis of a contagious illness (chickenpox, hand foot mouth disease, etc); we need a medical certificate to allow students to safely return on campus Excessive coughing, sneezing, runny nose with an inability to keep hands clean independently.

Attention 5th Grade families!

Christmas is coming, and our **5th Grade** classes have been invited to play their recorders in the Middle School concert! Here's what you need to know:

Concert date: Friday, December 8, 2017
Concert time: 6:30 pm
Arrival time: 5:30 pm
Arrival place: Lower School Music Room
Dress: White tops, black bottoms (pants or skirt)



Please remind your children to practice regularly at home, and to keep their recorders in their backpacks at all times in case of extra classes or rehearsals.

UPPER SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Nzinga Ebron joined the GWA staff at the beginning of the year, and already she is having a significant impact on the way students are learning math. In one of her Pre-Algebra classes, she is co-teaching with Mrs. Chris Carlson to make sure language issues are not holding students back from learning math. Ms. Ebron and Ms. Carlson work together to make sure that the words in the math problem are not throwing students off. Ms. Carlson says, "I advise on math-related language learning issues, like suggesting substitutions for words that may be culturally irrelevant here or suggesting ways to learn vocabulary. For example, when a story problem uses 'loads of gravel in a dump truck, I might suggest simplifying the vocabulary to truck and dirt so that students are tested on their knowledge of math, not their knowledge of vocabulary for construction machinery." Co-teaching gives Ms. Ebron an opportunity to break the students into smaller groups that allow her and Ms. Carlson to differentiate instruction for the individual needs of the students.



We are really looking forward to seeing the progress Ms. Ebron's students make during the coming year!

Announcements:

Student Council Holiday Bazaar

Tuesday, Dec 12th 3:00 - 4:45pm in the Courtyard behind the LMTC. Reserve a table in the Upper School Office for 100dh, sell your goods and keep your profits! Only 30 tables are available, so act fast!



Holiday Bazaar



UPPER SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements:

Interested in studying in **Canada**?

Students and parents are encouraged to attend the Casablanca fair organized by EduCanada!

Who: Canadian University Admissions Representatives

When: December 3rd - 4th from 14:00-19:00

Where: Sheraton Casablanca Hotel and Towers

[100 Ave. Des F.A.R.](http://100.Ave.DesF.A.R.)

For more information go to www.educanadatour.ca/inscription/nord



Objective of CASA

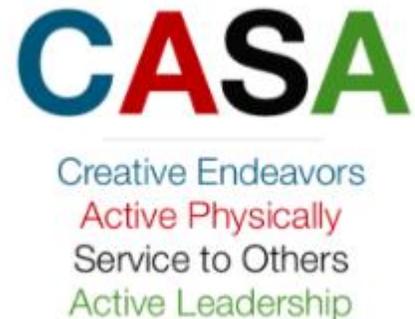
To be intentionally engaged in productive activities outside of the school day, and to serve your community effectively.

Creative Endeavors - An activity that involves the creation of something that betters/beautifies the world around you. Examples: painting a mural, performing in a play/musical, performing a musical recital or dance, learning to play a new instrument, writing and sharing a short story or poem with the public.

Active Physically - Engagement in healthy energetic pursuits. Examples: Involvement as a participant in a sports event, running for health, swimming, working out at a gym, hiking, biking distances.

Service to Others - Contributing to the larger community through giving of your time to better a situation. Examples: Volunteering at Youssef School, helping out at sporting events, holding a bake sale to raise money for a community need, helping out in the creche, tutoring others.

Active Leadership - Involvement in an activity where you are in a leadership role. Examples: Team captain of a sport, holding an office in a club, directing or co-directing a production of some sort, teaching younger children in a class, mentoring a peer, leading a group or activity.



UPPER SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Guidance Counselor

Important Dates:

Saturday, December 2nd - SAT at GWA. Students who are registered to take the SAT this Saturday should read [what to bring on test day](#).



11th Grade

College Ready Class with Ms. Casey

Lessons in the month of December will focus on researching universities and building the students' initial college lists using Naviance features. Parents should talk with their children about factors that are important in identifying a good fit university.

- **Discuss finances.** What financial resources are available? What can your family afford in terms of tuition, cost of living, housing, etc.? Remember to factor in hidden costs including flights home, dorm or apartment furnishings, and spending money.
- **Determine which geographic locations are in/out.** Often students and parents have very different views on geographic preference of universities. Now is the time to have a discussion of expectations on what region(s) of the world your student will look to for universities.
- **Majors and Academic Programs.** It is normal for students to change their mind about their majors and career path in high school and even during university. However, it is a good idea on what jobs interest your student so you can help them make informed choices about their major. Students have access to several career aptitude and personality tests on Naviance. These quizzes can provide valuable insight into what career fields and majors would be a good fit for your child. Log onto Naviance with your student and discuss the results of their assessments.
- **What type of academic and social environment will help your child succeed?** Admission to a university is only the first step. Long term success is determined by a number of factors. Ask questions such as: Does he/she need smaller class sizes so they can get individualized attention from teachers? Will they need access to academic tutoring or other student support services? Would they be more comfortable living in a dorm room on campus or an apartment off campus? Will they stay in the city or country to work after they graduate?
- **What is your student's chance at admission?** Determine what types of schools your student should aim for to have a realistic chance of admission based on their GPA, rigor of classes, and extracurriculars. Students' college lists should include several "target" schools where they fit the profile of the average admitted student. Lists should also include a couple "reach" schools where they *might have a chance at admission* and a few "safety" schools where your student has a very good chance at being accepted.

UPPER SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Guidance Counselor

Tips for Parents

Talking to your student about “Best Fit” vs. “Prestige”

For many students and parents, building the college list can be a daunting process. After all, there are more than 4,000 universities in the United States alone! It is hard to know where to begin which is why many students and parents turn to universities with “brand names” i.e. universities they have heard of from the media, from friends, or family such as Harvard, Yale, MIT, Oxford, and Cambridge. Just because a university is widely-known does not mean it is an automatically good fit for every student. In picking what colleges to apply to, parents and students should consider multiple aspects of what makes a good fit for the student. [This article from the Huffington Post](#) provides a great explanation on why students and parents should look at fit and not just at the prestige of a college when deciding where to apply.

SAT



11th grade students are strongly encouraged to register for the March 10th or May 5th SAT. Students who take the SAT at least once their junior year have a better idea of their options for universities and they can increase their chances at getting merit-based scholarships. Students should register as soon as possible since space is limited. Students may register at [CollegeBoard](#).

12th Grade Students

Seniors have started to receive acceptances from Universities!

Seniors and their parents are advised to contact Ms. Casey or Mrs. Badiaa to set up an appointment if they have questions about their applications.

Reminders for Parents of Seniors

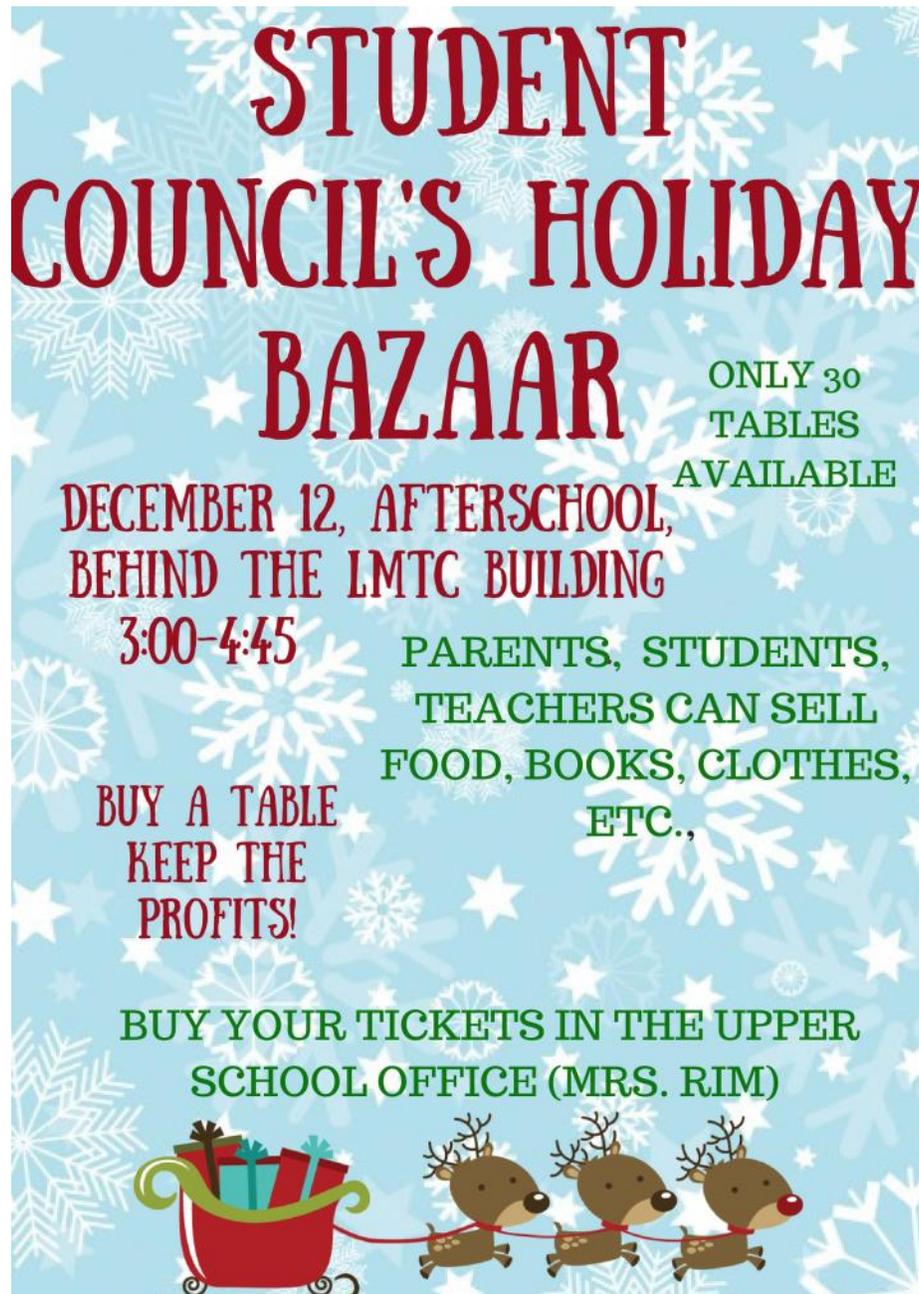
- Seniors must send Ms. Casey their TOEFL or IELTS scores.
- Seniors who have received admission decisions from universities should tell Ms. Casey and update their Naviance accordingly
- Seniors who have received scholarships or financial aid should tell Ms. Casey
- Check Naviance regularly to see your student’s college list and their application progress. You can also find a list of upcoming university admissions reps visiting GWA.
- Check in with your child’s grades regularly. Colleges will receive a mid-year transcript at the end of Q2. Students who fail a class in first semester (Q1 and Q2) will not receive credit for the first half of the class.

EVENTS

To parents, staff, and students of George Washington Academy,

Student Council is organizing a Holiday Bazaar on **Tuesday, December 12th** afterschool from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tables are available for sale at the Upper School Office with the High School coordinator, Mrs. Rim. Each table is worth 100 dirhams, but whatever profit you make, you are allowed to keep. However, there is a maximum of 30 tables, therefore it is first come, first serve.

You may sell clothes, food, artisan crafts, jewelry, accessories, books, etc. We invite all parents and staff to attend our festive Holiday Bazaar, and enjoy an afternoon of shopping, selling, and fun.



**STUDENT
COUNCIL'S HOLIDAY
BAZAAR**

**ONLY 30
TABLES
AVAILABLE**

**DECEMBER 12, AFTERSCHOOL,
BEHIND THE LMTC BUILDING**

3:00-4:45

**PARENTS, STUDENTS,
TEACHERS CAN SELL
FOOD, BOOKS, CLOTHES,
ETC.,**

**BUY A TABLE
KEEP THE
PROFITS!**

**BUY YOUR TICKETS IN THE UPPER
SCHOOL OFFICE (MRS. RIM)**

LUNCH MENU GRADES NURSERY – KINDER

Menu for Grades Nursery/Kinder DEC 2017				
MONDAY/4	TUESDAY/5	WEDNESDAY/6	THURSDAY/7	FRIDAY/8
*Caesar salad *Egg noodles w/ Julienne vegetables *Baked Vegetables *Yogurt *Seasonal fruit	*White beans soup *Chicken Mhamar *Sautéed String beans *Roasted potatoes *Brownies *Seasonal fruit	*Nicoise salad *Baked fish *Steamed vegetables *Fruit *Panna cotta	*Minestrone soup *Meatloaf *Vegetables poelee *Fruit *Profiterole	*Mixed green salad *Couscous with chicken *Squash, carrots, zucchini, and chick peas *Fruit salad *Cupcake
*Salade César *Nouilles/ julienne de légumes *Légumes cuits au four *Fruit de saison *Yaourt	*Soupe d’haricots blancs *Poulet Mhamar *Haricots vert sautés *Pommes de terre au four Brownie *Fruit de saison	*Salade Niçoise *Poisson cuits au four *Légumes à la vapeur *Fruit de saison *Panna cotta	*Soupe minestrone *Boudin de viande hachée * Poêlée de légumes *Fruit de saison *Choux à la crème	*Salade verte *Couscous de poulet *Carottes, courgettes, pois chiches et potiron *Salade de fruit *Cupcake

LUNCH MENU GRADES 1-12

Menu for Grades 1-12 DEC 2017				
MONDAY/4	TUESDAY/5	WEDNESDAY/6	THURSDAY/7	FRIDAY/8
*Caesar salad *Egg noodles w/ Julienne vegetables *Chicken Wings w/ bleu cheese sauce *Baked Vegetables *Yogurt *Seasonal fruit	*White beans soup *Grilled Steak and onions *Chicken Mhamar *Sautéed Spinach and mushrooms *Roasted potatoes *Brownies *Seasonal fruit	*Nicoise salad *Baked fish *Pizza *Steamed vegetables *Fruit *Panna cotta	*Minestrone soup *Meatloaf Garlic ranch chicken *Vegetables poelee *Fruit *Profiterole	*Mixed green salad *Couscous with chicken *Couscous with beef *Squash, carrots, zucchini, and chick peas *Fruit salad *Cupcake
*Salade césar *Nouilles/ julienne de légumes *ailettes de poulet / sauce fromage* Légumes au four *Fruit de saison *Yaourt	*Soupe d’haricots blancs *Steaks grillés *Poulet Mhamar *Epinards et champignons sauté *Pommes de terre au four Brownie *Fruit de saison	*Salade Niçoise *Poisson au four *Pizza *Légumes à la vapeur *Fruit de saison *Panna cotta	*Soupe minestrone *Boudin de viande hachée *Poulet grillé et mariné à l’ail/ sauce Ranch * Poêlée de légumes *Fruit de saison *Choux à la crème	*Salade verte *Couscous de poulet *Couscous de bœuf *Carottes, courgettes, pois chiches et potiron *Salade de fruits *Cupcake