



Hollis Brookline High School

January 17, 2011
www.hollisbrookline.org

Some thoughts from the Principal ...

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and took some time to relax, enjoy, and spend some quality time with family and loved ones.

Congratulations, especially to Coach Robinson, as he has been named Coach of the Year! The football program has grown by leaps and bounds under his leadership. Also, to the entire program for the honor of being awarded the Team Sportsmanship award. This award is voted on by other coaches and schools we competed against. Great job to all those who participate in our football program!

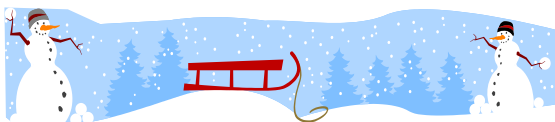
Rehearsals are underway for the spring musical, “The King and I”. Plan on getting your tickets early as these performances have been very popular. Watch the announcements for ticket sale dates. This performance will be held at the end of March.

I am sure you know midterms are right around the corner. The schedule is posted in the building and on our website. Students should come to class rested, prepared, and with something to read or study if they complete their exam before the end of the allotted time. Students will not be dismissed early from exams unless it is a true emergency. If students are absent from an exam, they must receive permission from their administrator to make up the exam with their teacher. Only students who have an excused absence will be allowed to make up their exams.

There is no school on Monday, January 17th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., a national holiday. Our second semester will begin on Monday, January 24th which is an early release day to accommodate for students who need to make up any mid-terms. Students will follow their second semester schedules and will be dismissed at 12:04 each day.

There have been three parent informational meetings held to discuss the focus of the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) here at the high school. Briefly, the proposal is for staff to meet from 7:00—8:00am every Friday morning in these PLCs, where they will be working on curriculum, instruction and assessment. The focus of this time will be spent reviewing what we want students to know, how we will know when they “get it”, what we will do when they do, and what we will do when they do not. While teachers are working in these PLCs every Friday morning, students will choose from a variety of activities during this time. *If you were unable to attend any of these meetings, the PowerPoint presentation can be found on our website at www.HollisBrookline.org. If you would like more information, please contact me and I will be happy to provide you with the information you request.*

Cindy Matte



HEALTH OFFICE SNIPPETS

The Health Office continues to be in need of the following items:

Juice Boxes **Kleenex**
Small Water Bottles **Pretzels**
Saltines **Animal Crackers**

A **BIG Thank You** to all who have donated necessary items to the HB Health Office!!

Holiday Gift Cards were presented to various families in need this holiday season; a special thank you to Traci Weaver and the Hollis Congregational Church!

Has your son/daughter had a visit to the ER or to their Primary Care Physician? Have you asked your medical provider for how to best meet their medical needs during the school day? If so, medical documentation would help us to best accommodate your student's needs, whether it be an injury or extended illness. We can support by informing staff, excusing absences, issuing elevator passes, etc., but **medical documentation is crucial.**

If medications (OTCs or prescriptions) are involved, **remember we do have a strict 'medication in school' policy.** Students are not to carry any medication in school without the proper documentation and communication to the Health office.

Visit hollisbrookline.org to access the Health Office website which has our contact information, forms, and links! Confidential Fax 603-465-2485; ***Phone 603-465-2269 x137. We wish all our HB families a Healthy 2011!

Cathy Burbee and Susan Patz.

A NOTE FROM YOUR PTSA

On January 13, 2011, we will have 5 college freshmen return to HBHS to talk to parents and students about their first semester experiences. The Guidance department will also be there to answer any questions.



Hopefully you have been able to attend one of the meetings given to parents to talk about the Professional Learning Communities and "Activity Time". We will have more information on our website soon.

Please continue to check our website, www.hbhsptsa.org, for more information on the S-team survey, Parent Ed series, and many other important topics as we start the new year. Happy New Year!

Jill Russell russell33@charter.net 620-2825

Kristen Berry Kbellep@aol.com 465-7447

PTSA Co-Presidents

Visit your PTSA at www.hbhsptsa.org, where you'll find the list of officers & committees, back issues of newsletters, and much more!

HOLLIS WOMAN'S CLUB NEWS

The Hollis Woman's Club would like to invite all interested area women to come to an Open House on Wed., January 19th, 10:30-Noon, at the home of Krissy Wuederman. Stop by and join us for some casual mingling and laughter over coffee and tea and find out more about this active organization! Whether you are new to the area or have lived here forever, we'd like to welcome you and have you join in some of our activities, opportunities for volunteering, charitable work, whatever interests you! RSVP for directions to Krissy at hwckrissy@yahoo.com or Ellen at 465-7981 or ellenvbaker@yahoo.com by January 17th.

It's not too early to start cleaning your closets and collecting 'valuables' for the Hollis Woman's Club annual Yard



Sale in April! The date this year is **Saturday, April 8th** at the Lawrence Barn from 8am to noon, with set-up time **Friday night**. Table space will be sold at \$20 per space if you bring your own 6' table, or \$25 if the club supplies one. Space is limited and this always sells out, so please call Jeanne Cleveland at 465-2097 if you are interested in participating!

HOLLIS BOY SCOUT NEWS

Boy Scouts from Hollis Troop 12 are hosting an **"Open House" on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 from 7:00-8:30pm at the Congregational Church of Hollis.** Any boy within the ages of 11-18 is cordially invited to attend and find out about Troop 12. A summer camp promotional slide show will be shown and Troop 12 leaders will be on hand to answer questions. Please visit www.hollistroop12.org to contact Troop 12 with any questions, or call Kostas at (603) 689-3438.

PARENTING EDUCATION CORNER

On February 15th, there will be a Drug Awareness program featuring keynote speaker and Brookline Police Chief Bill Quigley. Mr. Quigley is a NH Drug Evaluation and Classification Expert and will share information with parents, students and community members, emphasizing the dangers of prescription drug abuse, and also what marijuana looks like today. The presentation will be held in the HBHS auditorium and will begin at 7pm. (Snow date is February 23rd.)

April 12th there will be a "Understanding Bullying" program. Keynote speakers will be Principal Cynthia Matte, UNH Cooperative Extension Family Educator Sharon Cowen, and HBHS Student Assistance person Cathy Cray. The district's new Bully Policy will be introduced, as well as the Understanding Bullying program developed by UNH. The presentation will be held in the HBHS auditorium and will begin at 7pm. Questions? Call Monica Gallant at 672-6115.

IMPORTANT DATES AT HBHS

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| Jan. 18 | HWC "Probate of Estates" seminar
9:30-11am, Hollis Social Library |
| Jan. 25 | HWC "Elder Law" seminar, 9:30-11am
Hollis Social Library |
| Jan. 25 | Hollis Boy Scouts Open House
7-8:30pm, Congregational Church |
| Feb. 3 | Disability Awareness workshop
6:00-8:30pm, Lawrence Barn |
| Feb. 10 | College Info Night, Juniors & Parents
6:30-8:30pm (NOTE DATE CHANGE) |
| Feb. 11 | Registration deadline for 3/12 SAT |
| Feb. 15 | Drug Awareness program
7:00pm HBHS auditorium |
| Feb. 28 | START OF WINTER RECESS (1 week) |
| Mar. 4 | Registration deadline for 4/9 ACT |
| Mar. 8 | EARLY RELEASE |
| Mar. 9 | Student Athlete Night, 6:00pm
Plymouth Regional H.S. |
| Mar. 26 | NHHEAF Statewide College Convention
(Juniors and their parents, @ SNHU) |
| Mar. 29 | Student Athlete Night, 6:00pm
Keene H.S. |
| April 4 | Student Athlete Night, 6:30pm
Pinkerton Academy |
| April 8 | Registration deadline for 5/7 SAT |
| April 12 | "Understanding Bullying"
7:00pm HBHS auditorium |
| May 6 | Registration deadline for 6/11 SAT
And ACT |
| May 26 | Student Athlete Night, 6:30pm
Merrimack Valley H.S. |

From Your Guidance Department

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that only one year ago one of the hottest topics in the Guidance department was the introduction of the Parent Portal. Students and parents have quickly found this tool to be instrumental in following student academic progress. The open grade book capability of this program continues to be utilized by parents and students alike. This year we calculate that about 95% of families are utilizing the Parent Portal, with 56,840 logins. We continue to encourage this practice as it helps to resolve issues that may emerge, while the difficulties are timely, minor and solvable, and allows preventative monitoring of academic progress effortlessly.

This year the Guidance department spent countless hours developing and implementing the college and career planning software **Naviance**. Senior students adjusted quickly to this system and it has been incredibly convenient for us. We now send a majority of our applications in this paperless manner and the timeliness and efficiency is fabulous. The opening of the *scatter gram* component helps students visually identify where they have been accepted based on GPA and SAT scores (this feature will grow as the data from future graduating classes is entered). This allows students to identify colleges as reach, target or safety schools, and apply to schools that are perhaps higher risk and safe as well. It is just one more tool to help assist students in what becomes each year a more cumbersome process.

January is in actuality a kick-off to the college admission process for Junior students. This month each counselor will sit individually with their students and familiarize the students with the features of College Board and Naviance, as well as activate accounts. We have asked our students to complete two important inventories accessed in **Naviance** under the Career Tab: **Personality Type** and **Career Interest Profiler**. The PSAT results are also shared in this meeting, and students are able to look at how to review, prep, and build skills in standardized testing through the tools found at www.collegeboard.com/quickstart. We have also provided the students with written information outlining the features available. Students are now strongly encouraged to proceed with signing up for the SAT this spring.

Senior News

College Acceptances — Many students have already received college acceptances in the mail. Others are in the very anxious place of waiting to hear if the schools they have applied to will present the inviting “you are accepted” letter. Should you receive this great news, please let your counselor know – we love to rejoice with you! We also need to document this information in our Naviance data and maintain information for our school profile. Every year we hear from college admission representatives that the volume of applications is much greater than the previous year. Many schools will handle this percentage increase by deferring students so they can get a handle on this influx of applications. The goal of sending applications to target, reach and safety schools is to protect students in this very unpredictable process. If you have heard preliminarily from schools with news that is unsettling, please make an appointment with your counselor and add a few schools to your list. There are plenty of wonderful schools that you can still apply to!

College Admission (Missing) Information— Given the volume of paper and electronic information colleges are receiving at this time of year, it is important to note that colleges may misfile and/or lose information due to the amount of information that they receive. This year we add the complexity of electronic submission. If students used an alternate electronic application, information may be floating in

cyberspace and is still waiting to be downloaded and or followed up with a paper supplemental package. Colleges tend to send out cards, letters or e-mails stating they have not received the information from the high school. *Before* panic sets in, **please** be aware of the following potential explanations. If the school required paper submission on the part of Guidance, there is often a lag time in scanning in the paper components. There are instances when the high school information arrived in the admission office before the application and visa versa. When a college receives an application, they typically look to see what information has come with the application and check that off. Any other information that is not with the application will be requested –*whether it is already in the admission office or not!* This is confusing for the applicant, especially if they have requested the information to be sent to the college more than a month before. Usually the information is at the college or university and they have not matched it up with the application yet. When you receive a notice of this sort, please call the college and ask them to look for the information, telling them when it was sent from the high school. More often than not they have the information somewhere in the Admissions office. We appreciate students tracking the information online and informing us of information missing as well. Colleges historically do not disadvantage a student because information is misfiled. The worst case scenario, information that is lost can typically be rectified by us mailing or faxing the necessary information.

Midterm Reports are a part of the application process. Midterm reports are **automatically** sent to the colleges students have applied to. **Please note:** *If a student has made a decision to attend a college and does not want midterms sent to other schools, please let us know as soon as possible.* If students need specific school report forms sent, other than the common application form, they should notify and bring the form to the guidance counselor. Many schools will not make decisions until they review the midterm grades, so it is very important for seniors to labor away at their studies.

Credit checks - Seniors will be receiving letters from their counselors at the beginning of the 2nd semester that addresses any graduation requirements that might need to be attained. Please read these letters carefully and let us know if you have any questions. **Remember, all seniors must carry 6 courses each semester.**

Financial Aid Information— The Financial Aid evening was held in December and we have posted on the Guidance website the presentation for your review. We were very happy to see a fantastic turnout and thank all of our parents/guardians for attending. You may now submit the FAFSA form and should try to get this done as soon as possible. It is recommended that you submit the FAFSA online. If you have concerns regarding Financial Aid at this time, an appointment with the college financial aid office is a good way to learn about that particular college’s financial aid opportunities. All colleges require the FAFSA form from families that are considering financial aid. To fill out the FAFSA online, use the government website: www.FAFSA.gov.org. Remember that you will need your PIN number, too!

Some private colleges will require the CSS PROFILE. The PROFILE is only for private colleges and only certain schools use this form. It can only be submitted electronically and can be accessed through the College Board website at www.collegeboard.com. The PROFILE can be submitted at any time but there are deadlines. Colleges have very strict deadlines for Financial Aid applications, so it is important to be mindful of the various dates.

Senior News—cont'd

Another great source of information is the NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) in Concord. NHHEAF can be reached by e-mail at www.nhheaf.org or calling 1-800-525-2577. **NEW THIS YEAR** we will have two NHHEAF financial aid counselors present at HBHS on **February 10th** from 1:00 to 7:00 pm to help you complete and submit your FAFSA form. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call Mrs. Noel at ext 128. Fast Web is a great source for financial aid information and FAFSA concerns. The website is www.fastweb.com. Don't self-select yourself out of the Financial Aid process. You never know unless you apply!!

Scholarships - We will be approaching the busy time of the year for scholarship opportunities and applications. Scholarships will now be posted on Naviance, Family Connection, Scholarships. Applications are often available online or located in the Guidance office. Students should familiarize themselves with the specific college they plan on attending for scholarship opportunities as well, as many scholarships require transcripts and letters of recommendations. Students should fill out a scholarship notification form, which is located in the Guidance department. This procedure helps to ensure that all materials are sent correctly. Students should give counselors a few days' notice to pull the information together.

NCAA — Senior athletes interested in participating on athletic teams in college must register with the NCAA. This may be done online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. The NCAA Clearinghouse will require that SAT or ACT scores be sent directly to NCAA from the Educational Testing Service through either College Board or ACT. You must be registered with NCAA for Guidance to receive notification to send your transcript. Please make sure that you have successfully registered. Failure to do so will delay or remove an athlete's ability to compete at the collegiate level.

Junior News

Commencing January 6th, counselors will be meeting with students to distribute PSAT results. Mrs. Noel has been busy scheduling the counselor/student appointments to discuss test results and future planning. The College Board offers a fairly new service to PSAT test takers called *My College QuickStart*. This program can be accessed through the student code number located on the score report handed out to students. The website is www.collegboard.com/quickstart. This is a great resource for students to understand their score report more fully, and includes SAT study plans, college matches, and major and career matches. This is sort of a kick-off to the whole college application process. In a few weeks we will be talking about registration for future classes, giving the counselors another opportunity to discuss academic planning with our students.

Junior College Information Night — As mentioned previously, counselors have spent the majority of time with the Junior students this January reviewing PSAT results, opening accounts in Naviance and College Board as well as preliminarily discussing the college process.

On February 10th from 6:30 – 8:30pm, the Guidance Department will host a **College Information Night for Juniors and their Parents**. This evening is designed to help families start the admission process. Counselors will meet with their group of students and parents for the first half of the evening. The second half of the evening is a presentation on **'The College Essay,'** conducted by Mr. Holding. We have increasingly found this part of the application to be a stumbling block for our students. This presentation is extremely helpful in understanding the significance of the essay in the college process. Students and parents are encouraged to attend this event.

College Admission Handbook — A new college admission handbook is in the works for Juniors, but our current handbook is on the website under the 'college information' tab if you wish to start early. The new college handbook will be updated within the next month and will be available on-line for you to download on the website under the 'Guidance' tab.

Destination College — The New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) is sponsoring its annual state-wide college convention for high school Juniors and their parents. This free event will be held at Southern New Hampshire University on Saturday March 26th. Pre-registration is required and can be done online at www.destinationcollege.org. Reservations must be received in advance. This is a great program that offers a variety of workshops for students and parents, motivational speakers, a "mini" college fair, and an opportunity to enter a scholarship raffle.

SAT Information, SAT Reasoning Tests, and SAT Subject Tests — Registration for upcoming tests is ongoing through the College Board website. Deadlines are approaching quickly so be sure to attend to them. Registration for tests on:

March 12 – deadline February 11

May 7 - deadline April 8

June 4 – deadline May 6

SATs are not administered at HBHS but are available at Milford, Nashua, Amherst and other local schools. It is important to plan testing around busy sports and activity schedules in the spring. Check with coaches and club advisors as to what weekend dates games, meets and activities may be scheduled. Students should plan to take the SATs at least twice during the college admission process. Student can also take the ACT. Colleges look at the ACT and the SAT interchangeably, so there is no disadvantage to taking either or both. Some students find they do better on the ACT than the SAT, so it is worth investigating or asking your counselor about this test. Registration and general ACT information can be found on www.ACT.org

It is helpful when registering for standardized exams to fill in the requested Hollis Brookline High School **CEEB Code, 300275**. By using this code a copy of your results will be sent to this high school, and is often necessary for scholarship applications.

SAT Prep courses are offered here at Hollis Brookline High School and at other local agencies. Registration for the Hollis Brookline SAT prep course will start soon and paperwork will be available at www.hollisbrookline.org under 'Guidance'.

ACT Information— In recent years the ACT has become increasingly popular with New England students. It differs in many respects from the SAT, but primarily it offers a Science component. In addition, some colleges will accept the ACT in lieu of SAT subject tests, which has also enhanced its popularity. The website for the ACT is www.act.org.

Test Date

April 9

June 11

Registration Deadline

March 4

May 6

Sophomore News

As with the Junior PSAT takers, counselors will be meeting with any Sophomore students who participated in the fall testing and all Sophomore students individually to introduce Naviance and open student accounts. We will be requesting that each Sophomore complete a Career Interest Profile located in Naviance. The results of this profile will help us in placement for the spring Career Symposium. It is a great segway into course selection which is just around the corner.

Freshman News

Career Planning — The entire Freshman class completed Personality Interest Inventories during the first semester, coordinated by Mrs. Sullivan, our School-to-Career Counselor. The Interest Inventories were accessed through Naviance and are a tool we use to help our students learn about themselves. We will continue to build upon this and explore post-high school options and develop an education plan to achieve their goals. We hope they found this activity to be both helpful and interesting.

For All Students:

Midterm exams — Midterm exams are around the corner, and we are certainly aware of the pressures students are feeling at this time. Most students feel they need more time, sleep and energy to get through this hectic and anxious time. It is helpful to allow them to express these feelings and understand that these are very real emotions. The opportunity to process emotions and events and move through difficult times affirms that they possess the skills and abilities necessary to move through many types of demanding situations. Check in to let them know you are thinking of them and that you are there if they need you. Students need to feel that they are supported and that midterms and finals are not insurmountable. This type of testing is a typical college activity and is good preparation for the future. With the help of the various department chairs, the counselors have put together a Study Tip Guide for 9th grade students as they embark on their first experience with midterm exams. We are happy to make this available to our Freshmen students.

Drop/Add Period — The drop/add period will begin two days after the first day of second semester, so it will begin on January 26th and run for only two days. Students must see their counselor in order to drop or add a course. Students are not allowed to drop full-year courses. All students must carry 6 courses each semester. Drop/Add can be a difficult venture for Seniors. In the college application process, students have informed colleges of their intended yearlong courses. Any changes considered should be cleared through the Admissions office of the schools the student has submitted applications to.

Many students see the change of the semester as an opportunity to rearrange their schedule, transfer into classes with friends and or scout a new teacher. Please know that these reasons for changes are not considered and we ask that you help us educate the students so they utilize drop/add in an appropriate manner.

Career Services News

Attention Parents! Spring Career Symposium — HBHS is preparing for our annual **Career Symposium** held for our Sophomore students. We recognize that we have a wonderful resource in our parents who are career experts in a fascinating variety of careers.

The morning event will include panel discussions with representation from five career clusters. Career clusters offer a context for learning by linking what students learn in school with the knowledge they need for future success. Your career expertise is needed as panel members.

Please contact Julie Sullivan, School-to-Career Counselor, at 465-2269, ext. 129, or julie.sullivan@sau41.org, if you are interested in sharing your professional experience with our students in a relaxed, conversational environment at our 2011 Career Symposium.

Save the date! Share the news! Make your plans!

WHY: Connect schools and communities through Career Exploration.
WHEN: Tuesday, April 12, 2011
WHERE: Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord
TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m (students only)
12pm to 2:30pm for the public

The goal is to help businesses connect with high school students, educate them about everything that makes their business unique, give them an opportunity to recruit the next generation and talk with them about career opportunities within their industry.

Businesses will be looking for qualified applicants to fill summer job openings as well as the right person to meet a critical need within their company.

The target audience includes but is not limited to individuals with disabilities, local high school students, NHTI Concord Community College students, single parents, veterans, dislocated workers, under-employed NH residents, and unemployed NH residents.

Please be sure to check the Guidance Department website and read the daily notices for all new information!

<http://sites.google.com/a/sau41.org/hbhs>

Selective Service Registration.

The Selective Service System is an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. The mission of the Selective Service System is to provide the number of men needed by the Armed Forces, within the time required, should Congress and the President decide to return to a draft, in the event of a national emergency. Registration is the process of providing the Selective Service with name, address, phone number, and other related information about one's self. It is a civic and legal responsibility for every young man to register with the Selective Service within the time period starting 30 days before, and ending 30 days after, their 18th birthday. Register online at www.sss.gov or pick up a registration card at any post office.



The Cavalier Chronicle

The Cavalier Chronicle, the HBHS student newspaper, is published the third Friday of every month. Be sure to ask your kids to bring their copy home to share with you. We welcome parent input for story ideas by the first of every month (perhaps your teen is doing something newsworthy outside of school but is too shy to let us know). Additionally, business owners are encouraged to advertise with us. Please email your mailing address, and we'll send you a packet with pricing, sizes, and publication schedule. Contact Lin Illingworth at lin.illingworth@sau41.org or call 465-2269 for more information



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