



Hollis Brookline High School

March 11, 2011
www.hollisbrookline.org

Some thoughts from the Principal ...

I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable winter break. Our students returned and seemed rested and ready to go! As always, the year is flying by and we are already enjoying longer days of sunlight and warmer temperatures. I have even seen some daffodils peeking up through the dirt – a sure sign that Spring is right around the corner!

National Merit Finalists – Hollis Brookline High School is very pleased to announce the names of five seniors who have qualified as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. They are: Jonathan Bower, Steven Griffin, Sarah McDaniel, Daniel Pallies, and Lasya Thilagar. This select group of students is chosen from among the 1.5 million juniors who entered this program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT in 2010. Of those, students less than one percent advance to the level of Finalist. These students are now among the select group who will be considered by the National Merit program for scholarships to be awarded this spring. There are only 68 finalists in the state of New Hampshire. Congratulations to these five young men and women!

PLC in Phoenix – Just prior to the winter break, four teachers from the high school, Dot Ball, Gina Bergskaug, Tim Girzone, and Mike Tenters accompanied me along with several other members of the district and Dr. Betsey Cox-Buteau, Associate Superintendent, to a wonderful conference in Phoenix, Arizona. This was a conference on Professional Learning Communities and we all came back energized and enthusiastic about the direction we are taking as a district and as a school. The presenters included Richard DuFour, Rebecca DuFour, Robert Eaker, Robert Marzano, and Doug Reeves who are world-renowned experts in the field of PLCs, 21st Century Learning/Teaching/Leadership and Supervision/Evaluation. We are working together to further develop our plan to bring the information we learned to the entire staff.

PLC Work – Teachers are working diligently in their Professional Learning Communities during early release and teacher workshop days, as well as for one hour every Friday morning. The structured time spent working in PLCs is focused on increasing student achievement through curriculum work, identifying core essential learnings, developing common assessments, and effectively analyzing student assessment data. Teachers then utilize the data analysis to inform their instruction in a manner which will increase student achievement. I am very pleased to report that students are making great use of their time on Friday mornings, using study halls, computer labs, making up quizzes and tests, as well as playing intramural sports and meeting in clubs and groups. I will be reporting out on the progress made during this time devoted to working in PLC teams to the Cooperative School Board on a regular basis.

SaLT – On Valentine's Day, over 140 seniors traveled to the Hampshire Dome for a day of team and leadership building activities with Project Adventure trainers. This was a terrific day and students and staff were pleased with the objectives and the results. This is part of an ongoing initiative called SaLT (Seniors as Leaders Together), which we are hoping to continue as a yearly activity and expand it to include shortened activities for underclassmen as well.

Spirit Week – The week prior to February vacation was our annual HBHS Spirit Week. The focus is on community and school spirit as well as friendly class competition. This year's week was a wonderful success – students raised \$2000 for Gateways Fuel Assistance and collected over 1500 books for the New Hampshire Book Drive and over 500 cans for a local food pantry. Can sculptures, a pasta dinner and the pep rally skits were highlights of the week!!

Homework Input – Are you interested in having a say on how and why homework is assigned at Hollis Brookline High School? If so, please log on to the school website and take the homework survey. Your responses will be reviewed by a committee that is looking at how homework is being utilized in the building. We need your input! Log onto www.hollisbrookline.org today.

Lunch Accounts – Just a reminder that you can put money into student's lunch accounts by going to <https://www.mylunchmoney.com/> and following the instructions. You can view the balance of the account and add more money as needed. Students will not be allowed to charge lunch if they owe more than \$5.00. If they do owe more than \$5.00 they will be given a peanut butter sandwich; if there is a nut allergy, a cheese sandwich will be provided.

Bullying Presentation – On Tuesday, April 12th at 6:30pm in the high school auditorium there will be a Parent Series presentation by a UNH Cooperative Extension Educator on Understanding Bullying. Please check the PTSA website for more information. This is important information and an issue we are all working hard to eradicate.

Course Selection – Students have now made their choices and enrolled in classes for next year. We will be meeting with 8th grade parents and students at the end of this month and expect to move forward in the scheduling process. We have scheduled the 8th Grade Parent Information evening for March 29th at 6:30 pm in the auditorium along with an 8th grade parent breakfast on the morning of March 31st.

Truancy Letters – In an effort to comply with the recently revised truancy laws, letters are being mailed home to any student who has 5 or more unexcused absences and 10 or more cumulative absences. We are sending home letters regarding excused absences as well, in an effort to keep parents updated regarding their student's attendance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either your son/daughter's assistant principal or guidance counselor.

The King and I – You won't want to miss this performance put on by our Visual and Performing Arts Department! The show will run for two weekends – March 25th and 26th and April 1st and 2nd. Our high school students and many of our younger students from the community have been working hard for weeks on this wonderful performance. See our website at <http://hollisbrookline.org/> for more information and to order tickets.

District Meeting – March is a very important month for the towns of Hollis and Brookline, with voting, town meetings and district meetings. All voters are encouraged to make your voices heard by attending and voting at all these important meetings.

New Date for Quarter 4 – Due to the five snow days we have had, quarter 3 will end on Thursday, April 7th and Quarter 4 will begin on Friday, April 8th. Report cards will be sent home with students on Thursday, April 14th. Hopefully that is it for snow days!

Cindy Matte

HEALTH OFFICE SNIPPETS

Save the Date: April 5th at 7pm at Milford High School Lecture Hall. Come learn how to recognize the signs of Lyme Disease and learn ways to protect yourself and your family. For those of you who have teenage children with Lyme disease, Lyme literate David Hunter is trying to put together a teen support group. Lyme can be a very lonely and isolating disease, and so the intent would be for teens to meet once a month with other teens facing many of the same issues. If you are interested in more information, email David Hunter at dhunter31@gmail.com or contact the Health office.

Student Allergies. Please be mindful of our student population with anaphylactic allergies to nuts and latex products. HBHS is not allergen free but we strive to create a safe environment for all our students.

Visit www.hollisbrookline.org to access the Health office website which has our contact information, forms, and links. Confidential fax: 603-465-4285; Phone 465-2269, x137.

A NOTE FROM YOUR PTSA

The PTSA S-Team Post-Graduation party survey is now done and the results are being reviewed. There are many events coming up in the next few months that will require volunteers. So please stay tuned to see if you are interested and able to help out. We also need new officers for the 2011-2012 school year. Are you up for a challenge? Please think about donating your time and efforts to the PTSA!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 16th at 6:15pm in the back lobby outside of the gym prior to the annual school district meeting. Please join us.

Happy Spring!

Jill Russell russell33@charter.net 620-2825
Kristen Berry Kbellep@aol.com 465-7447

BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

Winter Sports Awards Night is set for Tuesday, March 15th at 6pm! We are looking forward to celebrating with all our student athletes. Announcements were sent out to Coaches for distribution via email. Please contact me if you did not receive one and we will make sure that one is sent to you. Good luck to all our athletes involved in the spring season. Spring tryouts are beginning March 21st.

We are looking for a volunteer to head up the Balloon fundraiser that we sponsor every year for graduation. Please consider helping out. Our members that have done it in the past have seniors this year.

The Booster Club is accepting nominations for officers for the 2011-12 school year. If you are interested, please attend our next meeting on Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. or contact me at the email address below. We are very much in need of people to step up to volunteer in order to continue our efforts in supporting the student athletes in HBHS. Please consider giving some of your time.

Go Cavs!! Cindy VanCoughnett, President
cwvanc@gmail.com

PARENTING ED CORNER

You're Invited: Understanding Bullying. The HBHS PTSA, in conjunction with the high school, is sponsoring an evening presentation on the topic of bullying. As you may be aware, the State of New Hampshire passed bullying legislation and the H-B Cooperative School Board has passed its Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Policy. This new policy will be presented by the HBHS administration and you will be informed as to the variety of ways the issue of bullying is being addressed with the students.

Please join us for a presentation by HBHS administration

and Sharon Cowen from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Outreach on "Understanding Bullying". This meeting is designed to provide you with a greater understanding of bullying and the strategies used with students at the high school. You will also learn about the important role that parents play in working with the school on this important issue.

Date: Tuesday, April 12

Time: 7pm-9pm

Place: HBHS Auditorium

You are encouraged to download and review the "Understanding Bullying" pamphlet available at:

<http://extension.unh.edu/Family/documents/BullyBro.pdf>

We hope you can attend this informative session. If you have any questions, please call Monica Gallant at 672-6115.

HOLLIS WOMAN'S CLUB NEWS

Got some 'junk' to get rid of? Want to browse amongst some 'valuable treasures'? Then mark your calendar for Saturday, April 9th and come to the Lawrence Barn for the Hollis Woman's Club Annual Yard Sale. Open from 8am—1pm, table space is still available; contact Jeanne Cleveland at 465-2097 if you want to clean out your own home and make some money! Otherwise, come by and see what "one of a kind" items you can find! Household, kids stuff, jewelry — something for everyone!

The spring New York City day trip is Saturday, June 11th. Open to all, this luxury coach bus ride to the Big Apple is still only \$60 per seat, and includes a map, guidebook, and 'surprises'. We leave at 6 a.m. and return by midnight. The day is your own, but you'll have plenty of time to sightsee, see a Broadway matinee, shop, or just people watch! Seats go fast so reserve yours today by calling Susan Benz at 465-3607 or susan.benz@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT DATES AT HBHS

Mar. 14	Hollis District Mtg.—HBMS
Mar. 15	Winter Sports Awards—6pm, HS Gym
Mar. 16	Course Registration ends
Mar. 16	Co-Op District Mtg.—HS Gym
Mar. 16	PTSA Mtg., 6:15pm HBHS gym lobby
Mar.25&26	"The King & I" (school play)
& Apr. 1&2	
Mar. 26	NHHEAF Statewide College Convention (Juniors and their parents, @ SNHU
Mar. 28	AP Testing registration form due
Mar. 29	8th Grade Registration Information Presentation, 6:30pm, HBHS Aud.
Mar. 29-	8th Grade Online Course Registration
Apr. 3	
Mar. 31	8th Grade Parent Breakfast 7:30am, HBHS Cafeteria
April 5	"Lyme Disease" prstn., 7pm Milford HS
April 8	Registration deadline for 5/7 SAT
April 12	"Understanding Bullying" 7:00pm HBHS auditorium
April 13	Booster Club mtg., 7pm, HBHS
April 14	3rd quarter report cards distributed
April 15	Deadline for Fall internship apptmts.
April 22	Career Symposium (sophomores)
May 1	College acceptance deposits due
May 2-13	AP testing
May 6	Registration deadline for 6/11 SAT And ACT

From Your Guidance Department

Course Selection and Registration. Spring is designated as course selection time in the Guidance Office. By the time you receive this newsletter, the counselors will have met with all current HBHS students and explained the online registration process, reviewed the Program of Studies, discussed graduation requirements and emphasized the importance of careful planning for future courses. It is our goal to place all students in classes that are challenging and where they will meet with success. We encourage students to find the balance that will bring them both academic and social/emotional health. Detailed instructions are as follows:

Course Registration Process for incoming Grades 10, 11, 12. The registration process began on February 22nd and will close on March 16, 2011. Student presentations were held on February 22nd and 23rd. Parent Informational Evening was held on February 23rd. Students will receive a color-coded copy of the course selection sheet on March 11th. Students will add 2 alternative course selections (or 2 credits) to the paper verification course selection sheet. Core academic teachers will sign off on course selection sheets and **parents must review and sign** the course selection sheet. All forms must be returned to the 3rd period class on March 16.

All students should review the Program of Studies prior to submitting courses. All students must register for a minimum of 6 credits and a maximum of 7 credits. On March 11th when students receive a paper printout of their intended course selections, we encourage all students to finalize their conversations with their teachers about the courses they have chosen and obtain the teachers' recommendations and signatures. This is an important component of course selection. It may even be wise for students to share with teachers all courses they are intending to enroll in. Sometimes the teachers will address the overall rigor in the students schedule and often conversations regarding outside time commitments will also be a factor in the course selection process. Students will then bring their signed form home to parents for parent's signature and will return it on March 16th to 3rd period teachers. This is a lengthy and time-consuming process; however, with your help it will ensure that students have appropriate schedules for the fall.

Counselors advised students to be thoughtful and careful about their course selection because the master schedule is built from their requests. If they change their minds or opt for other courses after they submit their selections, we run the risk of not having an accurate count of what students are requesting. We try our best to balance students' schedules and give everyone a fair opportunity, but it is really up to the student's seriousness and concern in this process that makes building the master schedule successful.

Senior News

College Acceptance Letters. As April 1st draws near so do college admission decisions. Understandably, this can present disappointing moments for some students, while for others it may be the ultimate reward for four years of hard work and effort. As the parents struggle with all that this decision entails so do the students. There is a great deal of *change* involved, and patience and understanding can help. If you have any concerns or questions, call the colleges but also contact the Guidance Office and we will try to help in any way possible.

Advanced Placement Testing. Advanced Placement Testing will start May 2nd and will run through May 13th. All the Advanced Placement students have been given the registration forms and booklets. Students should review the AP

Bulletin carefully as they must indicate they are familiar with the rules prior to taking the exam. Students need to return the registration form with the registration fee to Guidance by March 28th.

Scholarships. Please check the scholarship section on the Naviance website for updated scholarships. Many of the local scholarships have April and May deadlines. These applications are either located in guidance or can be completed online.

Please remember to fill out a Scholarship Request form if you need supporting documents for your scholarship applications. Many scholarships include letters of recommendation, transcripts, test scores, etc. If you would like the application packet to be sent with the materials from guidance, please attach your completed applications. If not, we will mail our supporting information separately.

NCAA. Students planning on participating in Division I or II college athletics MUST register online and notify their counselor. Students and families should be familiar with all NCAA requirements. Regional athletic evening presentations are available – consult NHHEAF calendar

www.NCAA.org – general information

www.eligibilitycenter.org – registration, etc.

Accepted Student Open Houses. Colleges will be hosting Accepted Student days on their campus' in the spring. This is a great time to see the college through the lens of an accepted student not a potential admission candidate. If you have any questions regarding Financial Aid it is important to make an appointment to visit with the Financial Aid office when you are on campus.

Deposit Date. The national deposit date is May 1st. This is a non-negotiable deadline for schools. If you miss this deadline without contacting the college, it may jeopardize your acceptance. To ensure your spot in the Freshman class, send a written confirmation and a deposit to one college. Seniors should inform colleges they do not plan on attending by either e-mail or a phone call so that these colleges may offer admission to other students that may be on their waitlist. This does not hurt colleges' feelings but helps them offer other students an opportunity.

Waitlist. Many schools use a waitlist in the admission decision process. Although the college of your choice may be the one you are on the waitlist for, be sure to deposit at another school as there is no guarantee the college will use the Waitlist.

Financial Aid. If you are struggling to understand your financial aid award, a great resource is the NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) in Concord. NHHEAF can be reached by e-mail at www.nhheaf.org or by calling 1-800-525-2577. HBHS will be holding an informational meeting with NHHEAF presenting to assist parents in understanding their financial award letters. This evening presentation will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 6:30 pm.

Junior News

The College Information Evening was held in February and was well attended. For those parents and students unable to attend, you will find the Powerpoint presentation on the guidance website. Small group presentations with the students will be held March 14th and 18th. We encourage juniors and their parents to make appointments to meet with their counselor to continue the college admission conversation.

With the April vacation on the horizon, it is a great time to start scheduling college visits. All appointments to visit college campuses can be made through the admission office of the college or through the colleges' websites. By notifying the admission office, families can be assured a tour and an interview if they so choose. April vacation is a perfect time to visit

Junior News—Cont'd

College Admission Handbook. The College Admission Handbook is now available online – Guidance – College Information. This handbook is a wonderful source of information. The handbook allows students and parents the opportunity to learn more about what colleges are looking for, college entrance exams, essay writing, interviews, college visits, NCAA guidelines, financial aid and more. We strongly encourage junior students to use the handbook.

Military Academies. Students interested in applying to any of the Military Academies for fall of 2012, please be sure to see your counselor as soon as possible. The admission process is more complicated than applying to most colleges; you will need more documentation and there are strict deadlines. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the student to have the conversation with your counselor early in the process.

SAT Information. Colleges like to see a junior SAT and a senior SAT score and typically will take the highest scores of each section. Students should plan to take the SAT's at least twice during the college admission process. Spring dates are listed below. **Registration deadline is six weeks prior to test date.**

SAT Test Dates 2011

Saturday, May 7, 2011

Saturday, June 4, 2011

Please note: SAT Subject Tests are required by a small percentage of schools but always by more competitive colleges. Students may want to think about taking these tests at the end of the year they finish the class (i.e., Accelerated Biology or Pre-calculus students may want to take the SAT Subject Test in Biology or Math 2).

Any student interested in taking the subject test in **Biology** can participate in a six-week prep class offered by Mr. Clark. Classes are held on April 21, May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2 from 2:30 – 4:00 pm. Sign-ups are in the main office, see Mrs. Wilkins. Students may take three subject tests on one test date as they are each only one hour in length. Score Choice is also available for Subject tests.

ACT. Students 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.

ACT Test Dates 2011

April 9, 2011

June 11, 2011

An Optional Writing Test for the ACT is highly recommended.

SAT Prep Opportunities. Many students feel overwhelmed by the testing process. There are many test prep programs out there that can help a student feel more comfortable about testing. HBHS offers a wonderful prep course both in the spring and fall however for those students who have missed the spring opportunity, here are some programs that may be helpful:

St. Anselm College SAT Prep:

AcademicResourceCenter@anselm.edu. 603-641-7017

NH Virtual Learning Academy: www.vlacs.org

Sophomore News

Career Symposium. Once again, this spring the Guidance Department will hold a career symposium for all sophomore students. To best prepare our students and to assist them in making informed career and life choices, we continue to expand the services in the school-to-career arena. Last year, every freshman completed a career interest inventory. We are aware of the talents that our parents hold in interesting and popular professions. Our symposium consists of introducing students to two career panels of their interest. Each panel will consist of a number of professionals who will speak briefly (less than 10 minutes) about their occupation, the education required, the average day-to-day activities, and the highlights and drawbacks of the profession. If you would like to assist us by volunteering to be on a panel, please call Julie Sullivan in the guidance department. The commitment on your part would require no more than a few hours in the morning and would help personalize careers in a way that data cannot substitute for. The details of the event are as follows:

The HBHS annual **Career Symposium** will be held on **Friday, April 22nd**. All sophomore students will have the opportunity to attend two panels of professionals representing five career clusters. Career exploration in high school helps students set long term goals, provides direction, and demonstrates the relevance of current coursework. Our students are more likely to challenge themselves and engage in academics if they understand the purpose.

Freshman News

Counselors will be visiting Freshman Wellness classes in March to review communication skills and assertiveness skills. Counselors will return in May to explain grades and transcripts, and will hold a fun activity to help bring relevancy to their academics and plans for the future.

Eighth Grade Students – Rising Freshman

The high school guidance department is busy working on your 8th grade son's or daughter's transition to the high school. We know this is both an exciting and anxious time and it is our hope that you find the following information helpful until we are able to meet with you in March.

Our Registration Information Night for 8th Grade Students and Parents will be held March 29 at 6:30 at the high school. This night gives you a chance to hear about the registration process, graduation requirements, timeline, and pertinent information from each department chair. Following the presentation, you have an opportunity to meet with individual department heads. On March 30, the guidance department will introduce the registration process to the eighth graders at the middle school. The online registration begins March 29th, and students will be able to choose their freshmen classes through April 3rd.

Your son's or daughter's **current** English, Math, Science, and Foreign Language teachers will recommend and approve their course selections. Over the years we have learned how much we trust your child's middle school teacher recommendations. There are ongoing conversations that happen behind the scenes between the high school and middle school departments to ensure correct placement. We are confident that the middle school teachers know your child's abilities and the high school curriculum to best give input on their placement. Course verification sheets (listing what classes your son or daughter registered for online) will be distributed on April 5th

Eighth Grade Students – Rising Freshman (cont'd)



and will be due back to ROCK with teacher and parent signatures on April 11th. Please contact teachers directly with any questions regarding placement.

Following our evening presentation, parents are invited to attend a Parent Breakfast at the high school to meet with administration and guidance to ask any follow-up questions they may have. This breakfast will be held at 7:30 am on Thursday, March 31 in the high school cafeteria.

The first day of high school, Orientation Day, is attended only by freshmen and transfer students. This allows your child to find their classes, meet their teachers, try their locker combinations, and attend a club and activity fair. Attendance at all transition events has proven to be a positive experience for students and families.

Career Services News

Fall Internship – Students interested in exploring a fall internship must schedule an appointment with Mrs. Sullivan by April 15th to review the internship process.

Information Sessions and Tours

We are delighted that so many families find Hollis Brookline High School a potential option for their children and we are happy to answer any questions new members to our community have regarding the high school; however, due to the overwhelming amount of requests to talk with a counselor and tour the school, the Guidance department offers two time slots during the week for Information Sessions and Tours. Please call the Guidance Office (465-2269 x128) to schedule a time to come.

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 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 Ilingworth at lin.illingworth@sau41.org or call 465-2269 for more information

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