



Hollis Brookline High School

April 8, 2011

www.hollisbrookline.org

Some thoughts from the Principal ...

Spring is finally here and we are all pleased to see the snow rapidly disappear! As we move into the final months of the school year, we have many events to highlight and many events coming up, so be ready to mark your calendars.

First the highlights! Congratulations go to several groups for their recent accomplishments! Congratulations to all the students (of all ages), staff, parents and volunteers who contributed to the wonderful performances of "The King and I". It was a magnificent display of talent and creativity by all and another fabulous musical presented by the Visual and Performing Arts Department. Congratulations also to the First Robotics Team who won 2nd place out of 58 teams at the recent Connecticut Regional in Hartford, CT. Additionally, they won the Excellence in Engineering Award for their software development of a robot simulator, autonomous functions and touch panel robot controls as well as the overall designed robot. We wish them luck in their off season events. Our students also volunteered to help out three other teams who were having technical difficulties with their robots. This was so typical of our students...helping the opponent.

Our HBHS freshmen Destination Imagination Team, including: Naom Eshed, Mandy Graves, Emily Choate, and Melissa Oitinen won 3rd place at the April 2nd NH State DI Tournament at Nashua High School North. Kudos to these four young women! Congratulations also to the HBHS Debate Team for an award-winning performance on April 2nd at the Youth & Government program at the State House in Concord. Freshman Kate Cherian was awarded "Best Supreme Court Justice" and "Best Bill". Junior Lauren Pratt also won "Best Bill", and freshman Matt Mailloux won the award for "Best Lobbyist." The team will compete again at Plymouth State at the NH State Model UN Tournament on April 9th and 10th. Good Luck!

Also on April 2nd, five chemistry students, Emily Benz, Brad Farnham, Jake Kobylarz, Matt Siebert and Greg Partridge, competed against first- and second-year chemistry students from all over New England. Greg Partridge came in 9th place and qualified to sit for the United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO)! He is among the top 950 students nationwide. Cheer him on as he competes to earn a sport on the national team which will compete in Turkey! A special thanks to Mrs. Bergskaug for leading this group of students.

And finally, congratulations also go out to the HBHS Math Team under the direction of Stacey Plummer and Susan Mooers. In just the past couple weeks, this team brought home, for the third year in a row, the New Hampshire State Championship and finished their season for the 6th year in a row as League Champions! The team includes: Emily Benz, Devin Fauteux, Steve Griffin, Ryan Heden, Greg Partridge, Ansel Renner, Stephen Rossetti, Anish Thilagar, Lasya Thilagar, Brooks Willis and Cecille Yang. Anish Thilagar finished the State meet as the highest scoring freshman and won the 1st place freshman award at the league meet. Also winning awards at the league meet were: Greg Partridge, who won the 3rd place junior award, and Lasya Thilagar who won the 1st place senior award and a \$250 scholarship.

I am so proud of all of our students and how well they make our school shine!!

Scheduling for 2011-2012 is well underway. An informational evening for incoming freshmen parents was held on March 29th followed by a parent breakfast on March 31st. The incoming freshmen course registrations are wrapping up and formulation of the master schedule for next year is on target. Tentative student schedules should be completed and out to students by the end of May.

Bullying and Harassment - Hopefully, you all had a chance to read the message sent on March 30th outlining the assemblies held March 29th regarding the new legislation on bullying and harassment. We take bullying and harassment very seriously at HBHS and all students were given a presentation by grade level on the new laws and what they mean to them. The recently adopted policy by the Cooperative School Board on bullying may be viewed at: <http://policy.ctpublish.com/hollis-brookline-nhsba> (see policy JICK), and the presentation that your students saw may be viewed at <http://hollisbrookline.org> (click on the link to the Bullying Power Point). As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughter's administrator or guidance counselor. There is also an informational parent presentation to be held on Tuesday, April 12th in the high school auditorium.

End of Quarter has been changed due to the last hurrah of winter and a no school day on Friday, April 1st. The last day of the quarter will now be April 8th, pushing the distribution of report cards out one more day to April 15th. The final exam schedule will be published shortly.

VLAN is coming to HBHS!! I hope you had an opportunity to read the detailed explanation sent via Alert Now on April 7th. During April Vacation, our IT department will be installing VLAN at the high school. The new wi-fi hardware will continue to allow access as it currently does, and the Guest VLAN will allow wi-fi access to guests. Once up and operational, anyone accessing the Guest VLAN will be following the outlined HBHS guidelines and will have anti-virus software on their personal electronic devices. No technical support will be provided by the high school for personal devices. We are excited about this opportunity for our students and staff and will keep you informed of the timelines as access becomes available.

Travel Opportunities at HBHS - During February vacation, the World Language Department lead by Alex Basbas, Kristen Roy, and Luis Castro traveled with students to Spain and had a marvelous experience learning about the culture and seeing the sights. From April 15th to 17th, the Music Department under the leadership of David Umstead and Jennifer Bissonnette will be taking two groups of students (one Choral and one Jazz) to New York City to experience opportunities to meet with other musicians and see some outstanding performances.

Mark Your Calendars - The Graduation Date has been set! Commencement for the Class of 2011 will be held at the high school come rain or shine on Saturday, June 18th at 10:00am. The schedule for senior exams and senior week, as well as information regarding the senior trip, will be sent home before the end of April.

The annual Mr. HBHS Pageant will be held on Thursday, April 14th at 7:00pm in the high school auditorium. Don't miss this wonderfully entertaining evening. Our ten male contestants are, Seniors: Sam Mangano, Kurt Ferrell, Justin Spitz and Kendal Van Schoick; Juniors: Shakunt Rajbhandari, Max Hengeveld, Kyle Gervais; Sophomores: Ludwig Ahgren, Connor Walsh; and Freshman, Ryan Buckley. Come cheer for your favorite contestant.

(Continued on page 2)

Guitar Night 2011 is another fabulous event that you won't want to miss! It is being held this weekend, April 8th and 9th, at 7:00pm in the high school auditorium. Enjoy two different evenings of music performed by HBHS students and staff. Don't miss this great musical extravaganza!

Our HBHS Staff continues to go above and beyond what is expected of them to provide the best education and co-curricular activities for our students. Many of the accolades our students and school receive are a direct result of the hard work, dedication, and positive influence our staff has on our students. I am so proud of each of them and what they contribute to HBHS. Hollis Brookline High School is a school of excellence in so many ways because of our staff.

Finally, even with all the wonderful things happening at HBHS, we are struggling to determine what changes are necessary to meet the constraints of the new budget for 2011-2012. At this time I am working with staff, SAU Administration, and the Cooperative School Board to determine how we can best meet the needs of all students in light of the significant budget cuts we face. I assure you that although this is a daunting task, what is in the best interest of students is always the question we come back to when we need to make these difficult decisions. I will keep you updated with information as this all unfolds.

Happy Spring!! Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Matte

HBHS LIBRARY NEWS

The library has purchased 3 new Amazon Kindles for use by students and staff. If they are popular and easy to use, we hope to add more next year.

A NOTE FROM YOUR PTSA

A reminder that we are sponsoring a Parent Ed series on "Understanding Bullying" on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 in the HBHS Auditorium from 7-9pm.

Field Day will be on Tuesday, May 17, 2011. We are looking for volunteers to help anytime from 9-12am to help set up and serve all of the students.

We will be sponsoring a Lyme Disease Documentary, "Under Our Skin" on Tuesday May 10, 2011 at HBHS from 6:30-10pm. It is a thrilling and intense documentary about this serious epidemic and will be followed by a Q&A session with NH Lyme Disease Expert David Hunter.

It is that time of year again....Spring! We are looking for volunteers to tend to our Patio Garden in the back of the school. If you have a green thumb please let us know!

We will honor the entire Staff at HBHS on Tuesday, May 3rd during National Teacher Appreciation Week with a luncheon. We would love donations of innovative salads, sandwiches, wraps, desserts, and water bottles. We will be serving 125 staff members to say "Thank you"!

We will have many vacancies on our PTSA Board for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year and are in need of volunteers to give of your time and talents. Please consider signing on to help or letting others know of this opportunity. We would appreciate it!

As you can see we have many wonderful opportunities for you to enjoy in the month to come as well as some opportunities to serve. Please take the time to enjoy both! Please call or email us with any questions you may have or would like to help!

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

BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

Winter Sports Awards Night was held on Tuesday, March 15th. It was a great evening ... Congratulations to all our award recipients!!!

Thank you to all who helped with our Awards evenings, we appreciate each and every one of you. A special thank you to Jeff and his staff for their efforts; the use of the gym

makes the evening a special event for the athletes.

Spring Sports have begun and our best wishes to all of the student athletes and coaches. We look forward to celebrating with all of you at our final Sports Night in June!!

Would you like to brighten the day of an upcoming Hollis Brookline graduate? Have you been wondering how to recognize your student's friends on graduation day? Send them a Graduation Balloon! The HBHS Athletic Booster Club is sponsoring a Graduation Balloon Fundraiser. It's easy...Just fill in your message for each graduate you would like to recognize, and we'll deliver a mylar Graduation Balloon signed with your personal message immediately after graduation at the school on Saturday, June 18th! Watch for more information on the forms and deadline date. The cost is \$5 for each student balloon order.

We are still looking for active members to participate in the Booster Club. There will be board positions opening up next year and we would love to have some new members. Please consider joining us at our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school conference room. Our next meeting is **April 13th**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

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

PARENTING ED CORNER

GOT DRUGS? Turn in your unused or expired medications for safe disposal. The DEA is hosting the 2nd annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 30 from 10am until 2pm. Visit www.dea.gov to find a location near you. As of this notice, Groton, Pepperell, Nashua and Merrimack have drop-off sites. Questions? Call Monica Gallant at 672-6115.

HOLLIS WOMAN'S CLUB NEWS

Don't forget the HWC Annual Yard Sale THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 9, from 8-1pm at the Lawrence Barn!

How about some spring and summer shopping in the Big Apple? There are still seats available for the New York City day trip aboard a luxury coach on Saturday, June 11th. Seats are \$60 and this trip is open to everyone. We leave at 6:30am and return by 11:30pm. Call Susan Benz at 465-3607 if interested.

IMPORTANT DATES AT HBHS

April 8/9	Guitar Night, 7pm, Auditorium
April 12	"Understanding Bullying" 7:00pm HBHS auditorium
April 13	Booster Club mtg., 7pm, HBHS
April 14	Mr. HBHS contest, Auditorium
April 15	3rd quarter report cards distributed
April 15	Deadline for Fall internship apptmts.
April 22	Career Symposium (sophomores)
May 1	College acceptance deposits due
May 3	HBHS Staff Appreciation Day
May 2-11	AP testing/HBHS
May 6	Registration deadline for 6/4 & 6/11 SAT and ACT
May 7	SAT Testing
May 10	"Lyme Disease" documentary— 6:30-10pm HBHS
May 17	HBHS Field Day
May 17/18	NECAP Testing
May 25	College Informational Mtg. (current Sophomores)
June 4	SAT Testing
June 11	ACT Testing
June 18	HBHS Graduation Day

From Your Guidance Department

Bullying Presentations

The topic of bullying has been center stage in the guidance department this month. There are experts who say that “we are raising the meanest generation of children and providing them with more opportunity than ever to hurt people.” Statistics state that across the country, 189,000 students stay home every day from school due to fear. Here at HBHS, administration scheduled 8 presentations to speak to all of our students about this problem. The students listened respectfully and asked questions. They were provided information about the various forms of bullying and also the consequences. Most importantly, our students identified who they would report instances of bullying to and were challenged to find the ‘Courage to Care’ for each other and themselves. In the year 2011, bullying can no longer be seen as a rite of passage or a normal adolescent problem. We all have the responsibility to intervene and support victims and teach the bully more responsible conduct. In this vein, we ask parents to sit down and continue this conversation. It is helpful to remind our children that kindness counts, and that respect, fairness and empathy are important. Topics such as citizenship, social expectations, and how to deal with cliques and stereotypes can be profound moments in the life of an adolescent. In this community we have some of the best and kindest students in the world, but we should not believe that the problems experienced throughout the country are never found here. The counselors and all of the HBHS faculty and staff work hard to not only raise the academic intelligence of our children but their emotional intelligence as well. We ask you, as we have asked your children, to please let us know of incidents of bullying so we can come together to ensure that every child here at HBHS is safe and secure as they move through the school day.

Course Registration – (Grade 9, 10, 11) We have completed the course selection process for the 2011-12 school year. Counselors will now begin reviewing the course selection sheets and hope that students gathered teacher recommendations and had conversations about the correct placement for next year. We are confident that these conversations will be very helpful to students as they begin next year in the most appropriate rigorous course that they will be successful in. Should you have new or lingering concerns, please feel free to continue these communications even though the process of selecting the courses is over. It is an important part of each student’s progress at HBHS.

Over April vacation, the master schedule will be developed and we hope to have tentative schedules distributed in late May. It is important to note that counselors are not able to select specific teachers, sequence of courses, etc. Much of a student’s schedule will depend on the courses selected and the master schedule.

Senior News

Spring is *decision-making time* for students, especially seniors who are pouring over acceptance letters, reviewing financial aid packages, visiting schools one last time, and developing a list of pros and cons that will enable them to make their final decision. Please don’t forget to attend our last evening presentation: **Financial Award Letter Presentation**, which will be held on **April, 13th at 6:30 in room 221**. NHHEAF will speak to parents about the various **award packages** you have received from colleges and provide information to assist you in understanding and making the best financial decision possible. We are impressed with our senior students and the staggering list of schools that they have

been accepted to (all of which will be listed in the HBHS profile for next year!). With patience, careful consideration, and perhaps some difficulty, ‘the decision’ will happen and the senior class will be in that wonderful place of saying farewell to a place they have come to know so well, to quickly longing for a new experience, one that will be decidedly different and filled with great new opportunities.

Update Naviance - Important Information: Naviance and College Notifications! All seniors must update their Naviance account and record acceptances, denials, waitlist and withdrawal status as soon as that information is known. This feature will hopefully replace the paper system utilized in prior years and updates must be completed prior to graduation.

Accepted Student Open Houses - Colleges are typically hosting *Accepted Student days* on their campus’ in the spring. This is a great time to see the college through the lens of a potential student. Open Houses can provide one more opportunity for students to gather information and visualize their two feet on the campus to assist them in this final college decision process. Many colleges welcome potential students to visit classes and experience the life of a student on their campus. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions regarding Financial Aid, it is important to visit the Financial Aid office as well when you are on the 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 will jeopardize your acceptance. To ensure your spot in the class, send a written confirmation and a deposit to one college. Seniors should inform colleges they do not plan on attending by email 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 send a deposit to another school as there is no guarantee the college will remove you from the waitlist on to the admitted student list.

Financial Aid. If you are struggling to understand your financial aid award, the best resource is the NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) in Concord. NHHEAF can be reached by e-mail www.nhheaf.org or calling 800-525-2577.

Scholarships. A list of scholarships and applications can be accessed on Naviance and in the Guidance Department. The deadlines are quickly approaching and often there is corresponding paperwork that must be submitted with the applications, such as transcripts, SAT scores, teacher and counselor letters of recommendation. There is a scholarship request form located in guidance that should be filled out for each scholarship application that will allow you to note the corresponding paperwork required. This purple scholarship request form should be given to the counselor several days in advance of the scholarship deadline. Remember recommendations are confidential and need to be sent through the guidance office. We are fortunate to have such generous local sponsors; please make sure you visit the website.

NCAA. Senior athletes interested in participating on athletic teams in college must register with the NCAA. To register, go to www.eligibilitycenter.org. The NCAA (Clearinghouse) Eligibility Center requires an official high school transcript that can be submitted electronically if you provide us with your NCAA student ID. SAT scores must also be sent from the educational testing service. Failure to register will delay an athlete’s ability to compete at the collegiate level, so it is important to get these to Guidance as soon as possible.

Junior News

A college informational evening and small groups were held with junior students reviewing the entire college process. Emphasis was placed on Naviance, the college application timeline, SAT tests, and the college search. However, lots of information was shared regarding the Common Application (which they will encounter down the road) and college deadlines. With the April vacation on the horizon, it is helpful to start scheduling college visits. All appointments to visit college campuses can be made through the Admissions office of the college. By notifying the Admissions office, students can be assured a tour and can inquire as to the possibility of an interview if they so choose.

College Admission Handbook. The College Admission Handbook has been updated and is available online. This handbook is a wonderful source of information and has all the forms needed to get through the maze of paperwork students face in their senior year. It also has a list of helpful websites. The handbook allows students and parents an 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, located at www.hollisbrookline.org under the Guidance section – College Information.

Military Academies. Students interested in applying to any of the Military Academies for fall of 2012 please see your counselor as soon as possible. The admission process is more complicated than applying to most colleges, needs more documentation and has more deadlines to meet. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the student to have the conversation with his or her counselor early in the process.

SAT Information. The college admission handbook includes a lot of information on testing, SAT Reasoning Tests, and SAT Subject Tests. Registration for upcoming tests is ongoing through the College Board website www.collegeboard.com. SATs are not administered at HBHS but are available at Milford, Nashua, Souhegan High School and other local schools.

Colleges like to see a junior SAT and a senior SAT score. Students should plan to take the SAT's at least twice during the college admission process. 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

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 of the year they finish the class (i.e.: Accelerated Biology or Pre-Calculus students may want to take the SAT in biology or math at the end of 9th/10th grade).

It is important to plan testing around busy sports and activity schedules in the spring. Check with coaches and club advisors as to your availability to avoid potential conflict.

SAT Reasoning Test/Subject Tests

Saturday, May 7, 2011

Saturday, June 4, 2011

Anticipated Test Dates for Fall/Spring 2011-12

Saturday, October 1, 2011

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Saturday, December 3, 2011

Saturday, January 28, 2012

Saturday, March 10, 2012*

Saturday, May 5, 2012

ACT Assessment

June 11, 2011

Test Dates for ACT Fall/ Spring 2011-12

September 10, 2011

October 22, 2011

December 10, 2011

February 11, 2012

April 14, 2012

June 9, 2012

Advanced Placement Testing. Advanced Placement Testing will be offered during the first two weeks of May. Students will receive a detailed letter about the exams, room assignments, exam time, supplies and expectations. This letter will be sent home the week before April vacation. Please be sure to look for this mailing.

Mon., May 2	7:15 a.m.	Chemistry
	11:30 a.m.	Psychology
Tues., May 3	7:15 a.m.	Computer Science A
	7:15 a.m.	Spanish Language
Wed., May 4	7:15 a.m.	Calculus AB/BC
Thurs., May 5	7:15 a.m.	English Literature & Comp
Fri., May 6	7:15 a.m.	US History
	11:30 a.m.	Art portfolios due
Mon., May 9	7:15 a.m.	Biology
	11:30 a.m.	Physics B
Tues., May 10	7:15 a.m.	U.S. Gov't & Politics
	11:30 a.m.	French Language
Wed., May 11	7:15 a.m.	English Lang. & Comp
	11:30 a.m.	Statistics

Sophomore News

The emphasis this spring, for the sophomore class, is career focused. Mrs. Sullivan, School-to-Career Counselor, has begun the process of preparing the Career Symposium which is scheduled for Friday, April 22, 2011. Students will participate in the symposium and have the opportunity to hear from speakers who represent their potential career path. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the education required, financial benefits, individual journeys and day-to-day lives of various interesting careers.

School counselors will be scheduling, for the first time, a **College Informational Evening** presentation for 10th grade students and their parents. We have received feedback that the college informational evening in junior year is overwhelming and too late. This evening is tentatively scheduled for May 25th and we will notify parents and students prior to this event.

Freshman News

Counselors recently completed a unit on communication/assertiveness training. The students were introduced to the different types of communication and role-played scenarios using an assertiveness model. The students were fabulous and engaged. This is a spirited group of students who embrace learning. We will be visiting freshmen classes again in Wellness classes in May, with the intent of reviewing their freshman year, acquainting students with their transcript and providing an exercise that links the relevance of their school work to their future goals.

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.

Career Services News

Sophomore Career Symposium

The HBHS annual **Career Symposium** will be held on **Friday, April 22**. All sophomore students will have the opportunity to attend a panel discussion with members of our community who will be representing more than twenty professions. This career exploration event generates ideas, provides direction, and demonstrates the relationship between current coursework and future goals. Our students are more likely to challenge themselves and engage in academics when they understand the purpose.

Community Partnerships

The HBHS school-to-career office is always looking for ways to partner with businesses and organizations in our community. There are many ways to get involved. Would you like to present at future symposiums? Do you want to post a job or need volunteers for a community project? Are you willing to provide a job shadow or internship for one of our students? Please contact Julie Sullivan in the guidance office with questions, ideas, or suggestions.

Julie Sullivan
School Counselor/School to Career Counselor
julie.sullivan@sau41.org
(603) 465-2269 X129

Hospital Volunteer Opportunity

St. Joseph's Hospital is accepting student volunteers in their Junior Volunteer Program. Students should go to the hospital website: www.stjosephhospital.com and click on the volunteer tab. Applications and recommendation forms should be sent to: Michele Canto, Manager of Volunteer Service & SAGE. Students will be contacted for an interview.

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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