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November 5, 2012



Some thoughts from the Principal ...

Déjà vu Anyone?? October is quickly becoming the most difficult month for weather. I hope by the time this newsletter reaches you, everyone will have power restored.

Quarter One. Just a reminder, quarter one ended on October 30th. Report card grades will be visible in Power School by November 9th. We have added a few days to releasing report cards due to two unexpected days off!

Class Rank. On Wednesday, October 17, the Cooperative School Board unanimously voted to eliminate class rank. For this year only, we will allow students to have their rank reported if requested and we will name the top ten numerically. In the future, class rank will not be reported; we will name the valedictorian, salutatorian, and numbers 3 – 10 alphabetically. **Thanks for all the hard work that our Guidance Department has done on this very important topic!** It was their work and the presentation of the data that allowed students and parents to realize how important this issue is.

Veteran's Day Assembly. Back by popular demand! Many students have expressed concern via a petition regarding changing from an assembly to an alternative method of honoring veterans on Veterans Day. In light of this interest in preserving our tradition, we will be having our traditional Veteran's Day Assembly this year on Friday, November 9th at 12:30pm.

Parent/Teacher Conferences. Reminder, conferences will be held on Thursday, November 15 and Monday, November 19 from 3 – 7:30. Please contact your child's teachers to set up a convenient time to meet with them.

All Seven Periods for the Week. Due to several disruptions in daily schedules during the week of November 5th, we will be having all 7 periods every day that week. Monday will be a regular Monday schedule, Wednesday will be a Friday schedule with no PLC's, Thursday will be a Monday schedule, and Friday will be a regular Friday schedule WITH PLC's. Reminder – there is no school for students on Tuesday, November 6th – Election Day.

Forum Updates: Community Information and Education. I was very pleased with the number of parents and students who attended the **Prescription Drug Forum** that was held on Thursday, September 27th. The diverse panel provided important and timely information. We will also be holding two very important additional forums for the community in November. The first will discuss **Suicide Prevention**, to be held on November 7th at 6:30, and the other will be to discuss **Drug Dogs**, which will be held on November 29th at 6:30. Both of these forums will be held in the HBHS auditorium. I encourage parents and students to attend these important and informative presentations

Security Update. Contractors have been in the building rewiring for our new security system. Walls will be added inside the front and back lobbies similar to the middle school. Visitors will be required to enter through the front and will enter the building through security doors in the main office. Construction of the doors will likely take place over Thanksgiving Break.

NECAP Testing was done on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, October 3rd through 5th. The students worked harder than ever and showed more effort and attention. We are hoping for terrific results. PSAT's were taken by all juniors and approximately 60 sophomores on Wednesday, October 17th. We are glad to have the testing dates behind us and are pleased with the efforts our students showed on these dates.

RTI (Response to Intervention) and Scheduling. A committee to review and discuss RTI and our schedule continues to meet on a regular basis. Our hope is to be able to make a recommendation on any revised schedule changes to the Cooperative School Board in January.

We have quite a few achievements to recognize this month: First, we are proud to announce Michael Hu has been named a National Merit Semifinalist, and we are also pleased to announce HBHS has seven students who were named

National Merit Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Program. They are: Matthew Carr, Devin Fauteux, Amelia Flanery, Audrey Johnson, Alyssa Marsan, Colleen Plesac, and Samuel Vannoy. **Way to go Math Team:** Congratulations to the HBHS Math Team on their big win in the first meet of the 2012-13 season! They traveled to Keene and trounced their competition in the Intermediate Schools division. The high scorer of the team was Ambika Gupta with a perfect score!

Congratulations Musicians: Congratulations to fourteen HBHS musicians. These students were selected for the All New England Band and Choral Festivals to be held at Plymouth State University. They are: Emma MacDonald, Melanie Nelson, Melissa Oittinen, Alyssa Marsan, Adam Ouellette, Tyler Ellis, Julia Sherwood, Amanda Kabel, Ben Michon, Samuel Whitaker, Barrett Clark, Jacob Solon, Michael Ross, and Charles Rogers. **NH Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award:** Volleyball coach, Becky Balfour, proudly announced that the Girls Varsity Volleyball team received the New Hampshire Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award for the 12th year in a row. The team must collectively maintain a 3.0 for the entire 2011-2012 academic year. This team's GPA for 2011-12 was a whopping 3.57! Team members included: Kaitlyn Atkinson, Amanda Balsamo, Kelsey Berry, Kim Bubello, Kelly Banks, Maddy Cambray, Ari Creighton, Kayley Costa, Rachel Duprez, Sarah Fox, Ellie Flaum, Kristyn Glover, Kellie Messer, Savannah Werne, and Kenzie Woodrow. Congratulations to Coach Balfour and all of these talented young ladies!

And finally, the fall sports season is quickly coming to a close. Spirit Squad: The spirit squad has had a fantastic season cheering on the football teams at both their home and away games. They will compete in the Division II State Championships on Sunday, November 4th at Southern New Hampshire University. **Golf:** The boys golf team completed their season with a 10-9 record and finished 12th place in the Division II State Championships. Brian Thibodeau represented HB in the State Individual Championships. **Field Hockey:** The field hockey team qualified for the playoffs for the 2nd year in a row after finishing the season with a 6-6-2 record. After winning their preliminary game in the playoffs against Plymouth, they fell to a strong St. Thomas team by a score of 3-0. **Cross Country:** The boys cross country team finished the season with an 11th place finish in the Division II State meet. The girls cross country team finished 3rd in the Division II State meet, qualifying the team for the Meet of Champions this Saturday at Nashua South. Emma Newton finished 2nd in the state, with Megan Philpot finishing 15th and Emily Benz in 18th. **Football:** The football team holds a 3-4 record with a big win in their annual home night game against Goffstown on October 26th. They will wrap up their season on Saturday against playoff bound Milford at 2:00 PM. **Girls Volleyball:** The defending Division I State Champion Girls Volleyball team finished the season at 11-7 and as the #9 seed in the NHIAA Tournament. They lost in the 1st round of the playoffs in a very close 3-2 match against #8 seeded Bishop Guertin. **Girls Soccer:** The girls soccer team made the Division II Tournament as a #7 seed with a season record of 10-5-1. They defeated Coe Brown in the 1st round of the tournament before falling to #2 seeded Souhegan. **Boys Soccer:** The boys varsity soccer team entered the Division II State tournament as the #1 seed with a 12-1-3 record. They won the semifinals on Nov. 1 but lost in the finals on Sunday to Windham, after 2 overtimes and the shoot-out. **Congratulations to all of these talented students.**

Fabulous Fall Concerts: Congratulations also go to Dave Umstead, Julie Carbone and company for two great performances in October. The Fall Concert was wonderful and was attended by many. It was followed by a Saturday of hard work spent in rehearsal with several other schools at the Concert Band Festival, culminating in a lovely performance in the afternoon.

Kudos to John Gray for the Hollis Brookline High School's Energy Star Rating – this took a great deal of time, commitment and dedication from our Custodial Supervisor, John Gray, and we are the beneficiaries of his work. HBHS is now a national leader in energy efficiency. There are only a select few schools in New Hampshire with this rating. John has saved the district a great deal of money with his efforts and we commend him for it.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia L. Matte**

Upcoming Events at HBHS

Please mark your calendars:

Nov. 6th – No School for students, Election Day

Nov. 6th – 12th – New Orleans Field Trip for the Memoirs and Biographies Class with Ms. Melim

Nov. 9th – Veteran’s Day Assembly at 12:30

Nov. 13th – “Teenology” seminar, 7pm, Rm. 220 HBHS

Nov. 14th – Fall Sports Awards Night – 6:30pm Main Gym

Nov. 15th and 19th – Parent /Teacher Conferences

Nov. 19th – All-State Band Festival at Plymouth State University

Nov. 21-23 – Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 6 – College Financial Night (seniors), 6:30pm, HBHS Auditorium

HBHS PTSA

In honor of our teachers and staff, the HBHS PTSA sponsors a dinner each year during the parent-teacher conferences. The dinner is a much-loved event and very anticipated by the staff. They appreciate a hot-cooked meal and do not have to eat a second bag-lunch or leave the building during the evening. We need your help by either cooking an entrée, tossing a salad, or making a dessert. As a parent and contributor to the PTSA, we would love to have your support. If you are unable to cook or provide a salad or dessert, we would appreciate any monetary donations. Please email Kimber Harmon at Ferreehil@aol.com for more information. She can be reached at 801-4552 (cell) or 465-2742 (home). Thanks for your continued support!

With budget season beginning, please consider attending (if only for the public input) the upcoming Coop Board Meetings, 3rd Wednesday of the month, except this month it’s the 4th because of Thanksgiving, and Budget Committee meetings (1st Tuesday of the month) Coop Board meets at 6pm at the MPR at HBMS. BudCom meets at 6:15pm and alternates between Hollis and Brookline. Their December meeting will be in Hollis. Agendas and draft minutes, for the Hollis and Brookline Boards as well, can be found at the www.sau41.org site. If you cannot attend, members can be reached by email. We’ve elected them to do the difficult job of balancing many competing factors, so if you have a strong opinion about one of those factors, or perhaps an insight or an elegant solution, let them know.

Maryanne Sango Shanley, President HBHS PTSA

HBHS Athletic Booster Club

The HBABC is continuing to sell **Cavalier Crunch** and the contest for the iPad and other prizes is creating a lot of excitement. We need your help to sell all 5,000 boxes. All students are eligible for the prizes. See our website for details.

We are hosting the Fall Sports Awards Night on Wednesday, November 14th at 6:30pm in the gymnasium. Coaches will be handing out awards like they’re Halloween candy and we have a lot of athletic successes to celebrate. It has been a very exciting fall sports season.

Look for the Booster Club members at each of the Winter Sports pre-season meetings to talk about opportunities to support the teams and for parents to participate. Contact Debi Davis or any of the Board members if you have questions about fundraising or the team parent roles in the Booster Club.

Our next meetings are November 7th and December 12th from 7-8pm in the Front Office conference room at HBHS. Visit us online at: www.hbhsboosterclub.com, or contact Tom Whalen at hbcavsgolf@gmail.com for more information.

Hollis Woman’s Club/ Community News

Mark your calendars to attend the Congregational Church of Hollis’ Christmas Fair on Saturday, November 17th from 11-4pm at the church at 3 Monument Square. Something for everyone of all ages: Custom arts and crafts for sale, a pet boutique, holiday greens sale, used books, our “angel loft” offering inexpensive gift items for the children to buy, homemade baked goods, raffle baskets, and our popular soup and bread luncheon! Talented musicians and carolers will provide a lively holiday atmosphere. This event is open to the public. For more information, contact Julie Kopser at 325-5745 or Julie@kopser.net.

Parent Education Series

Teenology: Helping your teen succeed without additional stress.

Do you worry about your teen's grades, either getting them up or keeping them up? Come participate in an interactive workshop targeted for parents to help students break down school work and goals into small manageable steps and reduce stress while you are at it. Parents will come away with an understanding of the problems, with goals and how to avoid those pitfalls

with your teens. Finally, you will be able to help your teen to manage day-to-day work as well as longer term papers and projects using an easy tool that can be used every day by both of you.

Where: Hollis Brookline High School

When: November 13th, 2012, 7:00pm, Room 220

The Presenter is Alison Batey, M.Ed., Certified Academic Life Coach. This program is sponsored by the Hollis/Brookline High School PTSA. It is free and open to the public; however, pre-registration is requested. Please contact Monica Gallant at mgallant4@aol.com or call 672-6115 to reserve your seat.

Coop Board News

Hello from the Coop Board. This promises to be a busy year as we move into the budget season and have begun contract negotiations with both Professional and Support staffs. With all that is going on, it can be tough to keep abreast of topics and events. As with everything else, it seems your School Board is inextricably linked to the web. But I can say with new-found confidence that we can be found!

If you have not yet had reasons to do so, please check out the new SAU41 website, www.sau41.org. It has a new look and enhanced functionality. It has links to each school board and budget committee where you will find agendas, minutes, access to policies, and current information. On the "School Boards, Budget, and Finance Committees" tab, you will also find the link to "Live Stream" (www.sau41.org/school-boards/live-stream) giving you the ability to watch the proceedings live anywhere you have an internet connection. A big thanks goes out to the team, led by Iris Realmuto, for the new site.

We continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month in the Middle School multipurpose room, but our November meeting will be postponed one week, to the 28th. In the coming months, in addition to the regular meetings, there will be budget workshops and hearings for the individual districts and SAU41 central administration. Dates and locations for these events will all be posted on the website. Keep checking back for the latest information.

News from your Guidance Department

This fall, HBHS counselors experienced Mother Nature's untimely October storm for the second year in a row, impacting college deadlines. In fact, counselors hovered over their laptops, iPads, and iPhones to

ensure that November 1 college application deadlines were met. We heard there were teacher sightings in local cafes and at Panera, uploading and sending their recommendations as well. We are grateful that we work with such a conscientious staff that, despite power outages and non-school days, will work to ensure we advance and lift the goals of our students.

As announced in our first newsletter, the guidance department will be prioritizing education in two areas of prevention: substance abuse and anxiety, depression and suicide prevention. A new club was formed this year called the Prevention Coalition. These students will be organizing activities to help foster positive health. On November 7th, HBHS will be holding an evening community presentation in the auditorium on how to recognize the warning signs of anxiety, depression and suicide. Although we are all aware of this national problem, it frequently rears its head within our own community, whether it is a family member, friend, colleague and/or child's friend. The best prevention is to equip everyone with knowledge. We welcome all to attend this presentation to learn about the signs and symptoms, as well as resources available in our area.

This year, HBHS will fully participate in the NH Risk Assessment Survey. Participation will allow us to gather current and exact data from our own students and we will be better able to address the concerns that face our students.

Senior News

College admission deadlines have already arrived! The first application deadline was November 1st and is quickly followed by November 15th. Due to Hurricane Sandy, some colleges will extend their deadlines. The following schools have informed us of extensions: James Madison (11/9), BU (11/5), JMS (11/9), U of Penn (11/6). Parents should similarly check on the deadlines for the CSS Profile in the college financial aid office. Although there are exceptions to every rule, seniors planning to go on to four-year colleges will be in a much better position if they get their applications completed by December 15th. Keep in mind, in order for the supporting documentation to be sent, students must list their colleges in Naviance and submit the *Supporting Documentation Request Form* to their counselor three weeks prior to the application deadline. **NOTE: The UNH regular decision application deadline date is February 1st.** The deadlines for Plymouth and Keene is April 1st, but they report they will likely stop accepting applications around February 1, 2012, so leaving applications to the last minute is not advised.

College Application Packages sent from the Guidance Office contain the school profile, teacher(s) and counselor recommendations, school report forms, and student transcript. SAT scores and ACT scores must be sent from the ETS (Educational Testing Service). Students can access their scores from the following websites and have them sent to their selected colleges: www.collegeboard.com for SAT and www.act.org for ACT.

Report Cards and First Quarter Grades First quarter grades were closed for all students on October 30th. Seniors who have applied to colleges prior to November 15th will have their 1st Quarter grades sent to the colleges to which they have applied. Colleges often wait for these grades before making a commitment to accept Early Action or Early Decision students. College admission representatives continue to emphasize the importance of a student’s academic trend. Please assist us in reminding seniors that colleges will review their entire academic year (first quarter, mid-year and end-of-year grades) in the admission process.

Important Reminder. HBHS is no longer distributing paper copies of report cards. A Power Announcement email will be sent to all HBHS parents indicating when grades have closed, and where to view Q1 grades in the PowerSchool Parent portal.

Attendance Policy. It is also important to note that HBHS has policies around attendance. Students who have more than 8 absences in a quarter will receive a grade of NG. This is certainly not helpful information for colleges when determining whether or not the student can handle the particular rigor of their institution. We encourage students to pay close attention to this policy.

Financial Aid Information. Please mark your calendars - Financial Aid Night will be held on December 6th at 6:30pm (snow date 12/11) in the HBHS auditorium. It is very important for parents to attend this meeting as it will break down the financial aid process and provide helpful information regarding financial aid policies and criteria. If you have concerns regarding financial aid at a particular school, make an appointment with the financial aid office when visiting a college. Another great source of information is the NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) in Concord. NHHEAF can be reached at www.nhheaf.org or by calling 800-525-2577. Financial aid materials are available in Guidance and the HBHS library. Please check the Guidance website for more scholarship and financial aid information as it is updated weekly. **Note:** The FAFSA form cannot be submitted before January 1, 2013 but should be submitted as close to that date as

possible. All colleges require the FAFSA from families that are considering any type of financial aid, including work study. Families are encouraged to fill out the FAFSA online at www.FAFSA.gov.org. Some private colleges require families to complete the CSS PROFILE in addition to the FAFSA. The PROFILE is only for private colleges and only certain schools use this form. It must be submitted electronically and can be accessed through the College Board website at www.collegeboard.com. Please refer to each college’s Financial Aid Office for CSS Profile deadlines, which are very strict.

Scholarships Scholarship information and applications are located in Naviance. Log in to the Family Connection, and click on the Colleges tab for a list of scholarships and pertinent information. We update scholarship opportunities on a weekly basis. There are some scholarships available at this time but the scholarship process peaks from mid-winter through spring. Please familiarize yourself with this feature and check it regularly.

SAT Information. Registration for upcoming tests can be done through the College Board website, www.collegeboard.com. Deadlines are approaching quickly so be sure to register in time to secure the test location you desire. SATs are not administered at HBHS but local high schools such as Nashua High North, and other neighboring high schools are utilized.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
December 1	November 1
January 26	December 28
March 9	February 8
May 4	April 5
June 1	May 2

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.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
December 8	November 2
February 9	January 11
April 13	March 8
June 8	May 3

SAT Services for Students with Disabilities. A student with a documented disability may be eligible to

take PSAT/SAT tests with testing accommodations that support their disability. The student's case manager should be contacted for further details. These accommodations need to be applied for well in advance of the testing date, and the deadline is typically in August for the PSAT and a 7-week minimum advance notice for SAT testing.

NCAA. Senior athletes interested in participating in college athletics must register with the NCAA. This may be done online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net The NCAA Clearinghouse will require that transcripts be sent from HBHS. Students should advise their counselor of their registration. Students also need to send their SAT or ACT scores to the Clearinghouse. Typically, transcripts are sent twice, one at the end of junior year and again at the conclusion of senior year.

Junior News

College Information Night for juniors and their parents will be held February 7th at 6:30 (snow date 2/14). This presentation gives students and families tools to start researching colleges and planning visits to various college campuses. Students are encouraged to attend this event with their parents so they can learn about the many components of the application process. Juniors are also encouraged to continue meeting with college admission representatives that are visiting HBHS. Juniors also can take the opportunity to meet with HBHS School-to-Career Counselor, Julie Sullivan, to discuss job shadow and internship opportunities for their senior year.

PSAT. We are very excited to have offered all our junior students the opportunity to take the PSAT on October 17th. Results of the PSAT will be shared individually with students when we return from vacation in early January. Counselors will discuss how students can use these results as a stepping stone to the SAT/ACT and the college search process.

Sophomore News

Approximately 60 sophomore students signed up and took the PSAT. The results will be shared with students upon return from the December vacation.

School Counselors met with all sophomores this fall. Students participated in the GPA game, which introduces students to the college admission process, provides relevance to the course work they are

completing in high school, and reviews their transcript to date, as well as demonstrating how extracurricular activities play a role in high school and college.

Freshman News

School counselors have been visiting with freshmen in their Wellness classes. Topics such as decision making, goal setting, safety and respect were addressed. The students were fabulous and we were surprised at how many students have joined in a school activity or club.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments with their student's teachers during our parent/teacher conferences on Nov. 15th and 19th. If there is anything the counselors can do to support your child, please feel free to contact us. The guidance department contact information is as follows:

Sandra Bent	School Counselor
sandra.bent@sau41.org	ext 123
Kerry Dod	School Counselor
kerry.dod@sau41.org	ext 121
KC Maynard	Guidance Director
kathleen.maynard@sau41.org	ext 125
Julie Sullivan	School and Career Counselor
julie.sullivan@sau41.org	ext 129
Richard Winslow	School Counselor
richard.winslow@sau41.org	ext 124
Cathy Cray	Student Assistance Person
cathy.cray@sau41.org	ext 122
Teresa Noel	Guidance Receptionist
teresa.noel@sau41.org	ext 128
Carol Tyler	Student Svcs Database Spec.
carol.tyler@sau41.org	ext 126

Communication

In addition to reading this newsletter, please be sure to check out our website and read the daily notices at (www.hollisbrookline.org). For complete information, click on the Guidance tab. We are continuously updating our information. As always we are here to support all the students and families of the Hollis Brookline community. Please feel free to email or call us with good news and/or concerns.

REMAINING COLLEGE VISITS AT HBHS

Bay State College	11/02/12	9:00 AM
Pace University, Pleasantville Campus	11/05/12	8:00 AM
Bay Path College	11/05/12	9:00 AM
Johnson & Wales University	11/05/12	10:00 AM
Fitchburg State University	11/05/12	10:45 AM
Lyndon State College	11/05/12	11:30 AM
Saint Leo University	11/05/12	12:30 PM
Manhattanville College	11/05/12	1:30 PM
Emmanuel College	11/07/12	8:30 AM
Saint Joseph's College-ME	11/07/12	11:30 AM
University of New England	11/07/12	1:00 PM
Elmira College	11/08/12	8:00 AM
Polytechnic Institute of NYU	11/09/12	9:00 AM
New Hampshire Technical Institute	11/13/12	10:00 AM
University of New Hampshire at Manchester	11/16/12	10:00 AM
The University of Alabama	11/16/12	11:00 AM