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February 18, 2013

Some thoughts from the Principal ...

Wonderful Winter Weather: I hope you all were safe and warm during the last few days of heavy wintry weather. Thus far, we have had four days of school canceled due to weather. Let's hope that Mother Nature treats us kindly for the remainder of the winter. According to the Ground Hog, we should be seeing an early Spring!

Course Registration: Our Guidance department has been very busy meeting with all underclassmen and working through the course registration process for next year. On Tuesday, February 19th, they will hold an informational session for the parents of incoming 9th graders in our auditorium beginning at 6:30 PM. Also, on Thursday morning, February 21st there will be a brief information session in the cafeteria for incoming 9th grade parents to ask questions regarding course registration. Coffee and pastries will be served and the meeting will begin at 7:30 AM.

National Assessment of Educational Progress: HBHS has been selected to represent schools across the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. Results of NAEP are reported in *The Nation's Report Card*. On Tuesday, February 19, our seniors will be participating in this 90-minute assessment. Anyone wishing more information regarding this assessment may go to: <http://nationsreportcard.gov/parents.asp>.

District Meeting: I encourage everyone to stay informed and come out to vote at the March District Meeting on March 5th at 7:00 PM in the high school gymnasium. As you know, this is a very important meeting to vote on the operating budget for the district and the outcome will have a significant impact on the education of all students at Hollis-Brookline Middle and High Schools.

National Honor Society: The NHS application process for current sophomores and juniors will begin at the end of August 2013, rather than the end of April, as has been in the past. The GPA for students is calculated in July and that GPA is used in determining eligibility into NHS.

Security: By now, I am sure you are aware of the new security measures implemented at the high school. All outside doors are locked and alarmed. Students may leave through the main doors, by dismissal or signing out. Students leaving through any other door during the regular school day will set off the alarms and we can track their departure. All personnel and visitors coming into the building after 7:15 and before 2:24 must come through the secure main (front) door. Staff and students who have irregular hours, options or special circumstances will be given a security "fob" which will allow them to scan at the main doors and enter the building. These "fobs" are preprogrammed with specific times for use. Students with options periods one and two will receive a contract which must be signed by both student and parent before a "fob" is assigned. We have begun a series of Lock Down drills. There is no way to plan for every emergency that might occur, but we would like to assure you that we are doing our very best to provide the safest environment we can for your children.

Penny War and Spirit Week: These annual events are eagerly anticipated by students and staff alike. The Penny War will run the week prior to Spirit Week. Classes compete to see who can raise the most money. Pennies are positive points and all other monetary denominations are negative points. All proceeds are going to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. Another outreach program during Spirit Week is the Coaches vs. Cancer drive spearheaded by the Boys Basketball Team. All funds raised will go towards cancer research. Spirit Week will kick off on Monday, February 18th and end with the final Pep Rally on Friday, February 22nd. During the week students will dress according to themes for each day. After school they will work on posters and skits for their classes, and canned food sculptures (items will then be donated to the NH Food Bank), all will culminate with their skit competitions at Friday's Pep Rally.

Other Highlights: The senior class has voted and is now signing up for the Senior Trip to Jackman, Maine to go White Water Rafting in June. US First Team 1073 is working overtime to complete their robot in preparation for the annual US First Competition at the Verizon Center in Manchester from February 28th through March 2nd. The challenge this year is "Ultimate Ascent". We are very proud to announce that the HBHS Math Team has scored their 8th consecutive first place league victory! Congratulations on their outstanding season and to Anish Thilagar who brought home the trophy for the top scoring junior in the entire league. Congratulations also to our Math Team Coaches Stacey Plummer and Sue Mooers!

Valentine Treats: A special thank you to all the parents who baked and contributed to the special Sweet Treat bonanza presented for the staff on Valentine's Day sponsored by the PTSA. It was truly appreciated by all!

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia L. Matte

Upcoming Events at HBHS

Please mark your calendars:

Feb. 1-Mar. 1	FAFSA Applications due
Feb. 18-22	Spirit Week
Feb. 19	Info Session for incoming 9 th graders, 6:30pm in HBHS Auditorium
Feb. 21	Info Session for incoming 9 th grader parents, 7:30am HBHS Cafeteria
Feb. 25 - Mar. 1	WINTER RECESS
Feb. 28 – March 2	USFirst Competition at Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester
March 5	School District Mtg., 7:00pm HBHS Gymnasium
March 12	NO SCHOOL
March 16	NHHEAF College Convention Southern NH University
March 18 – April 5	Registration for AP Testing
April 11	EARLY RELEASE DAY
April 13	Hollis Woman’s Club Yard Sale 8-1pm, Lawrence Barn
April 18	Scholarship Applications due to Hollis Woman’s Club
April 19	Spring Career Symposium @ HBHS
May 8	“College 101” presentation for Sophomores/parents, 6:30pm, HBHS Auditorium

Health Office Snippets

When your child requires prescription medications at school, whether short- or long-term, the following is required: 1) The original prescription bottle. (Ask the pharmacy for 2 bottles when filling the prescription.) 2) A written order from the doctor: The prescription bottle does not count as the M.D. order.

Please let us know if your child is seen at an Urgent Care facility or Emergency Room as soon as possible. These conversations with parents are very helpful, especially if the student comes to the Health Office for something related to the visit. Keeping us informed only helps us take better care of your child. *Be assured that confidentiality is always kept with the utmost respect in the Health Office.*

The Health Office has a need again for the following items:

Kleenex
Animal crackers/Pretzels/Saltines
Small water bottles

Juice boxes

Thank you to those of you who have donated! We greatly appreciate it!

Please be mindful of our student population with *anaphylactic allergies to nuts and latex products*. H-B is not allergen free, but we strive to create a safe environment for all our students.

Visit hollisbrookline.org to access the Health Office website to find health office forms and information, fast facts, physical exam requirements, various links.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with us at any time. Confidential Fax 603-465-2485. Phone 603-465-2269, x137. Thank you.

Cathy Burbee, Full Time RN and
Susan Patz, Part Time RN

HBHS PTSA

The PTSA received an email about finding a host family for a 16-year-old German girl for the next school year, 2013-2014. Dasha will come with her own spending money and medical insurance. Please contact Linda Coffey at linda_coffey@hotmail.com or call her at 778-4765 if you are interested or for more information. Maryanne Sango Shanley, President, HBHS PTSA

Sports Summary

Indoor track: The 4x800 meter relay team of Emma Newton, Megan Philpot, Colleen Plesac, and Sarah Cramton won the Division II State title in their event. Emma Newton was also 2nd in the 1000-meter race to lead the Girls team to a 5th place overall finish. The boys’ 4x200 meter relay team finished as the State runner-ups. Members of the team were Ben Poisson, Erik Chazin, Joe Flaherty, and Christian Parenteau.

Swimming: The Boys Swim Team finished 5th in the Division II State Championships, with school records being set by Josh Rines in the 100-yd freestyle, and by the 200-yd medley relay team, consisting of Austin McCalmont, Matt Falcone, Tom Reagan, and Josh Rines.

Wrestling: The wrestling team finished the regular season as the Dual Meet Champions with a 9-0 record in Division II. They will host the Division II State Wrestling meet on Saturday, February 16th, starting at 9:00 AM.

Skiing: Evan Cooke took 3rd place in the slalom event at the Division II Ski State Championships, which led his team to an overall 6th place finish in the State. This qualifies Evan for the Meet of Champions.

All other sports are still competing during the regular season and are preparing for their respective State tournaments.

NHIAA Scholar Athletes: In order to be recognized as a NHIAA Scholar Athlete, students must maintain a B+ average throughout their high school career, be lettered in and currently active in two NHIAA recognized sports, and be a positive role model who participates in community service. We are proud to announce that the following students are recognized as NHIAA Student Athletes: Erin Ackerly, Ryan Ahlquist, Haley Barbour, Emily Benz, Lydia Brown, Danielle Cambray, Andrew Cappetta, Matthew Carr, Erik Chazin, Jonah Chazin, Evan Cooke, Joe Flaherty, Max Friedman, Lauren Guetling, Hisham Hafez, Jeremy Heard, Will Holmes, Megan Ide, Karlie Kobylarz, Katherine Kroeger, Lori Lavey, Eve Lingaitis, Zach McPherson, Kellie Messer, Sam Musson, Nick Noval, Taylor Owens, Colleen Plesac, Erin Ramirez, Tim Rencken, Emily Rezzarday, Brian Thibodeau, Megan Tighe, Erin Turner, Sam VanNoy, Connor Walsh, Brad Whitaker, Morgan Williamson, Cortney Zack, and Monica Zack. These students will be recognized during a ceremony which will be held on March 18th in Concord. Congratulations to these students – we are very proud that they represent HBHS!

21st Annual Student Athletes Leadership Conference: Each year some of our outstanding student athletes are invited to participate in this Leadership Conference held in Concord March 14th – March 15th and it is hosted by the NHIAA and the New Hampshire Athletic Director's Association. Our Athletic Director, Rhon Rupp, asks coaches to nominate Student Athletes to attend this Leadership Conference. It is always a difficult decision as we have so many student athletes who are so deserving of this opportunity. This year HBHS is proud to send: Lindsey Beauregard, Austin Bumpus, Emily Choate, Gigi Eliopolous, Matt Mailloux, Emma Newton, Ryan Papineau, Jacob Solon and Savannah Werne to the Leadership Conference. Congratulations to these students!

HBHS Athletic Booster Club

The HBABC is hosting the **Winter 2012-13 Sports Awards Night on Friday, March 15th** in the HBHS Gym. Coaches will be handing out awards for individuals and teams. Contact Cindy VanCoughnett with any questions regarding this event.

Parent Education Series

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled another **National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day** which will take place on **Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted,

unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications. Drop-off locations will be announced shortly.

GET INVOLVED! Community Action for Safe Teens (CAST) provides many opportunities for teens, parents, and concerned community members to be involved! Help us support and strengthen families, reduce the use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and encourage healthy choices by teens through increasing community awareness and action. Visit www.castnh.org for more information, call Monica Gallant @ 672-6115 or email cast@svbgc.org. *CAST (Community Action for Safe Teens) is a committee of the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley. Visit castnh.org for more information.*

Hollis Woman's Club News

The Hollis Woman's Club's annual **college scholarship award applications** are now available for submission. Open to any senior in Hollis or Brookline, there are two \$1,000 scholarships that will be awarded this spring. One will be given to a student entering a traditional 4- year college or university, and the other scholarship will be awarded to a student entering a community college or vocational school. Applications can be found at www.holliswomansclub.org or contact Linda Kemper atrivprof@gmail.com for more information. Both applications must be submitted by April 18, 2013.

Do you need an excuse to do some spring cleaning? The Hollis Woman's Club is announcing its **Annual Community Yard Sale** which will be held from 8am-1pm on **Saturday, April 13th** at the Lawrence Barn on Depot Road in Hollis. Table space is available for \$20 if you bring your own standard size (6') table or \$25 if you want a table provided. If you are looking for some treasures, mark your calendar and come shop on that day. Household items, children's toys, decorative items, and jewelry will be for sale – something for all treasure seekers! For more information on tables or the sale, contact Jeanne Cleveland at jeanne3584@yahoo.com or call 465-2097.

News from Your Co-Op School Board

Brookline and Hollis have their own version of March Madness – town and district meetings and elections. Tuesday, March 5th is the Co-Op School District Annual Meeting, where registered voters will make decisions about our budget and contracts. This year, in addition to the usual budgets, voters will be presented with new contract proposals for both the professional staff and the support staff.

There will be some warrant articles with which the public might not be familiar. For the second year, voters at each school district meeting will vote on the SAU budget, and the votes will be combined to determine the outcome. This is the result of the vote in 2011 to present the SAU budget as a stand-alone budget rather than rolling it into each individual school district's budget. It covers the Central Office's expenses, including salary and benefits for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Administrator, Director of Student Services, Network Administrator, and many other critical positions that serve all three school districts. This is a yes or no vote only, since it will not be decided in a single location or time.

At last year's District meeting, creation of an expendable trust was approved to manage the expenditure of money collected through participation fees. At this year's meeting, voters will be asked to approve transfer of fees that have been collected this year into the trust to enable expenditures in the coming year. This does not have a tax impact other than offsetting some athletic expenses which would otherwise be paid from the general fund.

There will also be a warrant article related to a new State law that permits school districts to retain a portion of any unspent money at the end of the year for emergencies or to stabilize tax impact. This has been permissible for municipalities but not for school districts before this year. If approved, the School Board would decide how much (if any) to retain (though the total balance is capped by RSA at 2.5% of the budget), but expenditure requires approval by the School Board, Budget Committee, and Department of Education. There will be an explanation and discussion on this warrant article that will answer questions you may have, if you are present to ask them.

Typically, expenses related to our schools account for about 80% of our taxes. The Annual District Meeting is a great opportunity to directly impact the direction taken. With attendance at often 200 to 300 voters, and extensive time allotted for public discussion on each item, your voice and your votes count. **Please join us on March 5th at 7pm at the high school gymnasium.** If you are not able to attend, the meeting should be broadcast on local cable and through the "live stream" link on the SAU website (www.sau41.org).

News from your Guidance Department

We would like to thank the families and students who participated in the Student Stress Survey through the Naviance *Family Connection*. Administration is

reviewing the data and will provide a report on the findings for your review.

Course Registration: The *2013-2014 Program of Studies* is complete and can be found on the HBHS website. This handbook is designed to assist students in outlining their courses for the next academic year, as well as map out a multiple-year plan. Information on curriculum, course offerings, prerequisites, policies, and grading are all included in the handbook. We encourage you to spend some time reviewing it.

The *HBHS College Handbook* is also available on the Guidance website. This document includes references to preferred courses for various college majors that parents and students may wish to consider as you review your course requests.

Report card grades were released to students and families on February 8th. The PowerSchool parent portal will reflect Q1, Q2, Exam 1 and S1 grades (for half-year classes) under the "Grade History" icon.

Advanced Placement Testing. AP testing will be held from May 6th through May 17th. Counselors will be visiting the AP classes during the week of March 18th to discuss the tests. The *Bulletin for AP Students and Parents* will be distributed to the students along with the registration forms. Registration will remain open from March 18th through April 5th. Exam fees are \$89 per exam. Students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch should meet with their counselor to discuss fee waivers. HBHS will be proctoring exams for the courses taught at HBHS. Other inquiries should be brought to KC Maynard or Sandra Bent in the Guidance office. Information will be placed on the website as well.

Senior News

College Admissions. Admission decisions are coming out periodically but there are many colleges notifying students at the end of March and early April. Congratulations to all students receiving acceptances to colleges! Please update your Naviance account so we can stay current on college decisions. We love hearing good news about students' successes and, of course, the bell ringing is fun, too! Any student who still wishes to send additional applications should meet with their counselor as there are many schools with open deadlines and may offer wonderful opportunities.

Accepted Student Open Houses. Colleges will be hosting Accepted Student days on their campuses in the spring. This is a great time to see the college through the lens of an accepted student and not as a potential admissions candidate. These visits often help students make their final college decision. If the college does not host such an event, it is very helpful to make some time

to see the campus again to get a clear idea about your choice. 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.

Financial Aid Information. Financial aid deadlines are here. Be sure to get financial aid information in as soon as possible. Any delay in this process can disadvantage a family from receiving aid. 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 a particular college's financial aid opportunities. All colleges require the FAFSA form from families that are considering financial aid. To fill out the FAFSA, use the government website, www.FAFSA.gov.org. Again, for most colleges, the FAFSA must be submitted between February 1 and March 1. Financial aid materials are available online either through the government website or College Board. Please check the Guidance website for more scholarship and financial aid information. Don't self-select yourself out of the financial aid process. You never know unless you apply!

Some private colleges also require the CSS Profile. The Profile is used 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.org. The Profile can be submitted at any time, but should be submitted by the school's deadline and/or before March 15th. Check with your college for specific deadlines.

Another great source of information is the NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) in Concord. NHHEAF can be reached by email through www.nhheaf.org or calling 800-525-2577. Financial aid materials are also available in both the Guidance office and the HBHS library.

Scholarships. Scholarship season is here and new scholarship opportunities are arriving daily in Guidance. A list of scholarships is located in the Naviance Family Connection and is updated frequently. Applications can be accessed electronically or found in the scholarship files in Guidance. Please make sure to fill out the purple Scholarship Request Form that lists the name of the scholarship and what is needed to complete the scholarship packet. These forms are found in Guidance near the appointment slips. Students are asked to give counselors at least 48 hours prior to the postmarked deadline for processing scholarship applications. Remember to click on the **Scholarship** tab in Naviance to access all of the latest scholarship information.

Senior Credit Letters. The counselors are sending home credit check letters to all seniors. These letters specifically review courses that students are required to pass to meet the remaining graduation requirements. If there are any questions or concerns, please be sure to contact your child's counselor as soon as possible.

NCAA. Senior athletes interested in participating on athletic teams in college must register with the NCAA. This must be done online at www.NCAA.org for general information and www.eligibilitycenter.org for registration.

Junior News

It is time for Juniors to enter into the college admission journey. Recently, counselors held an informational evening with students and parents. The PowerPoint presentation from this informational evening is available on the website under *College Information – Presentations*. February and April vacations are a great time to start scheduling college visits. Appointments to visit college campuses can be made online through the school's Admission's Office webpage. Most colleges offer a tour and information session, and an interview if the school conducts them. It is very helpful for high school students to visit a college when students are on campus. Sometimes the hustle and bustle of the campus, or lack thereof, has a big impact on the decision to apply.

College Admission Handbook. The *College Admission Handbook* is posted on the HBHS website, under *Guidance – College Information*. If you do not have access to a computer, feel free to stop by the Guidance office for a printed copy. This handbook offers an enormous amount of information about the college admission process and is best used as a resource tool. It also has a sample of forms used in the application process.

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 Plymouth State University on Saturday, March 16th from 8am to 2:30pm. Preregistration is required and can be done online at www.destinationcollege.org. Reservations must be made 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 Test Dates:

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
May 4	April 5
June 1	May 2

ACT Assessment Dates:

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
April 13	March 8
June 8	May 3

Note: *The Optional Writing Test for the ACT is highly recommended.*

SAT and ACT tests are not administered at HBHS but are available at Milford, Nashua, Souhegan 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.

Sophomore News

College 101 is an evening presentation on May 8th at 6:30pm in the HBHS Auditorium. This information session is designed for parents and students to get a jump start on the college application process and become familiar with all the intricacies of the college process. We look forward to meeting with our sophomore students and families.

Communication

Please be sure to check our website and read the daily notices (www.hollisbrookline.org) for new information. Our Guidance section of the website has lots of information including evening presentations, financial aid, college admissions, testing, along with counselor contact information. For up-to-date HBHS Guidance information and reminders, please “like” us on Facebook at *HBHS Guidance*.