



APRIL
2007

Hollis Brookline High School

► **Some Thoughts from the Principal**

Though the calendar says spring, it appears that Mother Nature is not on board. In a repeat of last spring, the weather is creating problems with our spring sports season with many events being rescheduled later in the season when, hopefully, the weather is more favorable and while school is still in session. The time between winter and spring break marks the end of third quarter when we encourage all of our students, including the seniors, to finish the year strong academically. Underclassmen have completed their course selections and seniors are in the process of finalizing plans for next year.

Most are aware there were a few incidents of threatening graffiti that appeared around our building at the beginning of March. As was made clear at the time, the safety of everyone in the building is of utmost concern to us and it was through the atmosphere of trust that exists within our school community that allowed us to resolve this situation quickly. There was concern expressed that we waited until Monday March 19th to send a letter home when the situation was brought to the attention of the students on Friday March 16th. I take full responsibility for lapse in communication and can only offer that our involvement in resolving the situation on Friday afternoon, which went into the evening, and finishing up until Monday morning prohibited us from earlier notification and falling on a weekend did not help. When faced with a decision of reaching resolution or communication I went with the former even though I consistently stress the importance of the latter. Finally, as was said in the letter that was sent home; we continuously strive to create a caring and safe environment at HBHS and we are optimistic that in our discussions with many students, each and every one was able to identify an adult in the building that they feel comfortable talking to and a number of these students were freshmen, who have been with us for less than a year.

Congratulations and thanks go out to Pat Marquette for another fine season providing speakers addressing topics of interest to parents of teenagers. This year's program ended this past week with a presentation on How to Choose a College/Alternative Career Development. Other programs presented throughout the year included, How to Motivate Your Teen to Become Financially Responsible and Letting Go; Teen Relationships; Stress Management and 504's/ IEPs/ Special Education.

We are very proud of some of the recent accomplishments of our students and staff. Congratulations to the Music Department for their successful road trip and performance at the National Freedom Festival in New York

(Continued on page 2)

► **A Message from the PTSA**

Is it Spring or is it Winter? The PTSA is planning like it is Spring. First of all, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the

S-Team fund. Graduation is set for June 9th and plans are in the works for the annual Graduation Cruise for the evening of graduation. This is just one of the ways your S-Team contributions are distributed. If you have not yet sent in your donation, please consider doing so.

The PTSA would also like to announce that the S-Team Scholarship for 2007 will be in the amount of \$400. Applications and eligibility requirements are in Guidance.

Election of PTSA Officers will take place at our May meeting on May 10th. If anyone is interested for running for office please contact Donna Cormier at 465-2726.

Our Staff Appreciation committee is getting ready for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon next month. The theme for the luncheon is ????. Please contact Lisa Schmalz (lschmalz@charter.net) or Kristen Berry (Kbelle@aol.com) if you are willing to contribute or help out with the luncheon.

We are beginning to plan the garden for the Garden Spot in the back of the school. Please contact Jill Russell at 672-0409 if you are able to help. We want to have the area looking nice for graduation. Of course, that could be very difficult if the snow does not stop falling.

Our next PTSA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May, 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School cafeteria

Co-Presidents:

Lex Bundschuh UNOFAM@aol.com 465-3142

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► Some Thoughts from the Principal *(continued from page 1)*

City March 31st through April 1st. The Honors Choir took 1st place with a Gold Superior rating and the Jazz Band also received a Gold Superior rating and overall participation award. Chemistry Teacher Gina Bergskaug has been elected to the Aula Laudis Society of the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society. This is the “Hall of Fame” for high school chemistry teachers who have been selected by their peers in recognition of excellence in teaching of chemistry at the secondary level and for their distinguished contributions to chemistry education. Gina has been invited to attend the May 10th meeting of the Northeastern Section where she will be formally inducted into the Aula Laudis Society and presented with a plaque commemorating this honor. Finally, senior Dara Fisher has been selected as a semifinalist advancing to the final round of the Presidential Scholars competition. From 2.8 million high school seniors, 2700 were identified as candidates and only 550 semifinalists have been selected. These students form a pool from which the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, in April, will choose up to 121 Academic Presidential Scholars for 2007 who will be honored in Washington D.C. in June.

During the month of May we will be administering the NECAP Science state test for juniors and Advanced Placement subject testing. Course selection is complete and we are in the process of building the master schedule. We still hope to have student schedules available by the beginning of June. The social calendar is jammed packed with the Spring Fling Dance on Friday May 11th, followed by the Spring Play “Noises Off” on May 18th and 19th and the Senior Prom on May 25th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua. Additional plans are under way for our second annual Incoming Freshman Open House on the evening of Wednesday May 31st. There is no school for students on Friday May 25th, a teacher workshop day and graduation is set for June 9th at 10:00am. A senior packet of information will be mailed home and posted on the website soon. This is a very busy time of year and we are attempting to keep an updated school event calendar as part of our web site.

Finally, as I settled into my seat awaiting the opening of our wonderful spring musical “Working”, someone seated nearby, looking over the program commented “half the student body must be in this production”. While not totally accurate, what he was probably not aware of was that those involved with this production, including actors, stage crew and musicians, are in many other activities throughout the school from student government to clubs to athletics. These young people still find the time to perform in a first rate production and maintain their grades. These students embody the Cavalier Spirit and make Hollis Brookline High School a special place for all of us.

Timothy Kelley, Principal

H/B Athletic Booster Club News

The H/B Athletic Booster Club would like to invite you all to our “Dating Game” event that will take place on May 5th at 7:00p.m. in the auditorium, \$5 entry fee. The bachelors and batchelorettes will be our own students and there will be prizes for participants. Come join a family fun night with your kids and help support the booster club along the way!

Don’t forget to join our regular meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the principals conference room on the first floor. Our objective for next year is to have a parent representative from each sport participate and bring in new and fun ideas for the group!

Happy Spring!

Joyce O’Connor - President

joc4936@yahoo.com

Foreign Language Night

The World Language Department has decided not to hold the annual World Language Night, which typically takes place each May. We know many people look forward to this event and although we will not be having an official ceremony, we value the achievements of our students and continuously strive to recognize their efforts. We will therefore continue to offer scholarships to seniors and award our students, although this will now be done at class day and within our own classrooms as is done in all other departments at our school. We hope to investigate the possibility of starting our own chapters of the national honor societies so that we may in the future induct members that meet the guidelines set forth by the national chapters and who are ready to promote the study of language through service to our community.

The Cavalier
Chronicle

The Cavalier Chronicle, the HBHS student newspaper, is published the third Friday of

every month. Be sure to ask your kids to bring their copy home to share with you. We welcome parent input for story ideas by the first of every month (perhaps your teen is doing something newsworthy outside of school but is too shy to let us know). Additionally, business owners are encouraged to advertise with us. Please e-mail your mailing address, and we’ll send you a packet with pricing, sizes, and publication schedule. Contact Lin Illingworth at illingworthl@sau41.k12.nh.us or Linda Marquis at marquisl@sau41.k12.nh.us or call 465-2269 for more information.

Guidance News



Note from the Director

Spring is here (or is it?) and so is the fourth quarter of this academic school year. It is hard to believe how fast the school year has gone by leaving us with only 8 weeks left to the academic year! With this time of year come some exciting events and decisions and most importantly graduation. The class of 2007 has done a great job and has been a pleasure to work with. As we bid farewell and good luck to our students, the guidance department is excited to see so many students moving on to some wonderful colleges, universities, careers and life experiences

As many of you know it is a stressful and anxious time for seniors as they try to decide where they should attend in the fall or if they will get off the ever elusive college waitlist. Although difficult, try to be patient as this is a big decision with many unknowns attached to it. Students may appear undecided, uninterested and unpleasant. This is a normal reaction. Many of us feel the same way when a pending issue is hanging over our heads and everyone seems to know the right answer and we are getting bombarded with input from everyone we know including the aunts and uncles! It will happen – the decision of what to do next will be made and all will be well. It would help if we had a crystal ball to show students it will be o.k. but we don't, so please know the counselors are here if needed to help during this stressful time.

For the juniors it is their time to start the college admission process and visiting colleges during April vacation is a great way to start. Admission offices typically have tours throughout the day and families can take advantage of this by calling ahead and reserving a spot. Counselors have already visited all of the junior English classes discussing the College Admission process offering students ideas, timelines and information about the process. Junior students should all have their College Admission Handbooks at this time. If they don't please send them to the guidance office.

We appreciate your patience while we have been acclimating to our new course registration system. With a few tweaks for next year we feel it is a great way to have the students register and provide the necessary information for the master schedule to be done efficiently. Registration was a busy time and we appreciate all your support in getting the registration forms in to us in a timely fashion. The master schedule will be worked on in the next few weeks and we will be looking at balancing schedules and ensuring students have the right courses for a positive year ahead. Preliminary schedules will be out to the students by early June.

As we move toward May the counselors will be proctoring Advance Placement exams, continuing to meet with juniors and their families as well as visiting sophomore classes and individually with freshman, as well as continuing conversations with students and parents regarding next years course selections. On May 5th from 8:30 to 11:30 am. We will again offer the program "College Admission 101" an inside view of the college admission process for parents. This program is designed to help parents navigate the confusing college admission process.

Please be sure to check our website and read the daily notices (www.hbhs.k12.nh.us) for all new information. We try to update both these sources of information on a weekly and sometimes daily basis.

As always, guidance is a busy place but always feel free to contact counselors as needs arise.

Have a great vacation!

Advanced Placement Testing

Advanced Placement Testing is scheduled for the May 7th through 16th. During these weeks the counselors will be proctoring the tests. Registration for the tests was due March 28th. If a student is interested in taking the test but has not yet registered there is a \$50 late fee in addition to the \$85 cost of the test. Please see Guidance if you have any questions. Students who have registered for the tests will receive a letter at home stating what test they registered for, what time to be at the test, room number and what they can bring to the test. It is very important students abide by the guidelines of Advanced Placement testing.

Schedules

Preliminary course schedules will be distributed to students in early June.

College Admissions 101

Mrs. Poznanski will be offering a detailed session on College Admissions to parents who would like to learn more about this overwhelming and sometimes confusing process. Mrs. Poznanski will review the college admission process from the search phase to the application and admission stage. Among other aspects of the college admission process this session will look at how to craft an appropriate list of colleges to explore, how to put a good application packet together and how admissions decisions are made.

When: May 5th, 8:30 – 11:30

Where: HBHS

Cost: free

There are 30 spots available. Parents and students can register through the guidance office. Please contact Mrs. Noel at 465-2269 x128 or via e-mail at noelt@sau41.k12.nh.us. There is no charge for this program.



Summer Enrichment Programs

The Guidance Office has information regarding summer courses, enrichment and experiential programs available to all students. Please check our expanding file of opportunities for students.

Job Book

Many employers contact the guidance office with job possibilities for our students. Please feel free to browse through this book and or meet with Mrs. Demarest our Career Counselor to discuss career, employment and internship opportunities. Job shadowing can also be arranged.

Information Sessions and Tours

For new members of our community, we are delighted to offer two Information Sessions and tour of HBHS each week when counselors will be available to provide information on programs offered at the high school and respond to individual questions. The times and days are Mondays at 7:45 – 8:30 am. and Fridays at 12:30 – 1:15 pm. Please call the Guidance Office (465-2269 x128) to schedule a time to come.

Communication

Please be sure to check our website and read the daily notices (www.hbhs.k12.nh.us) for all new information. We try to update both these sources of information on a weekly and sometimes daily basis.

Senior News

In a about a week a letter from Mr. Kelley will be sent home to senior students who may be in danger of not graduating. This letter is to inform students and parents what students need to do to complete graduation requirements. If students are missing a graduation requirement or are in danger of failing a required course it is vitally important that they see their counselor immediately.

College Admissions

Congratulations to all students receiving acceptances to colleges. Please share with your counselor where you have been accepted and where you have not. Please let us know where you plan to attend. This helps us prepare for the end of the year report and forwarding final transcripts to colleges. We will automatically send final transcripts to the colleges the seniors tell us they are attending after the close of fourth quarter. To ensure the colleges get the final transcript it is very important we know what colleges students are going to attend. .

Colleges are hosting Accepted Student days on their campuses throughout April. This is a great time to see the college through the lens of an accepted student, not a potential admission candidate. Attending these programs or visiting colleges again often help students make their final decision. If the college does

not host such an event, make some time to see the campus again on your own to help make the final decision.

The national date for submitting a non-refundable tuition deposit to your selected college is May 1st. This is a non-negotiable deadline for most colleges and universities. If you miss this deadline without contacting the college it may jeopardize your acceptance. To ensure your spot in the class, send a written confirmation and the required 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.

Many schools use a wait list in the admission decision process. If you are placed on the wait list by your first-choice college, be sure to deposit at your second choice school as there is no guarantee the college will take students from the wait list. In fact, in recent years colleges have been using the waitlist less and less.

Financial Aid Information

For most families financial aid information is confusing. NHHEAF has sent the guidance office a wonderful brochure that explains the financial aid award letters sent out by the colleges. Please stop by guidance if you are interested in this brochure.

NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) in Concord is a great source of information for financial assistance and can be reached by e-mail www.nhheaf.org or calling 1-800-525-2577. NHHEAF is also a great source for scholarship information.

Deadlines for local scholarships are coming quickly. Please be aware of deadlines and stop by often to see what is available. Some scholarships actually go unawarded because students do not fill out the applications. Check the website weekly for scholarship postings.

NCAA

Remember if a senior is interested in participating in athletics at a college he/she must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse. This may be done online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. The NCAA Clearinghouse will require that transcript be sent through the mail. Guidance is happy to send the transcript to the Clearinghouse if you provide us with the NCAA forms (downloaded from the website) that need to accompany the transcripts. One form must be sent when you submit your initial eligibility form and another must accompany your final transcript when you graduate. If these forms are not submitted to NCAA it will delay the athlete's ability to compete at the collegiate level so it is important to get these to Guidance as soon as possible.



Junior News

This is the time for juniors to start the college admission process. The guidance counselors encourage juniors and their parents to meet with them to discuss college options and the admission process. Counselors have already been in junior English classes to discuss the admission process. With April vacation upon us it is a perfect time to start visiting colleges. All appointments to visit college campuses can be made through the admission office of the college. By notifying the admission office, families can be assured a tour and an interview if the school offers them. If you can't make it to campuses during **April vacation plan to visit local colleges** after school during the week. Many admission offices are offering tours until 4pm. daily.

College Admission Handbook

A very comprehensive handbook explaining aspects of college admission was distributed at the Information Night on February 23rd. If you were unable to attend and your son or daughter has not received a copy encourage them to stop by the Guidance Office to pick up their labeled copy. We have one copy available per family. The handbook allows students and parents the opportunity to learn more about what colleges are looking for, college entrance exams, essay writing, questions to ask on tours and at college interviews, college visits, NCAA guidelines and financial aid and more. We strongly encourage junior students to have a handbook. The handbook can also be found on our website.

SAT Information

SAT Reasoning Tests and SAT Subject Tests: Registration for upcoming tests is ongoing through the College Board website. If students are having trouble accessing their account through the College Board please stop by Guidance to pick up a paper copy of the registration information. Deadlines are approaching quickly so be sure to attend to them.

Registration for tests on: June 2nd – deadline April 27th

SAT's are not administered at HBHS but are available at Milford Nashua, Souhegan and other local schools. Specific locations are online or in the registration booklet in Guidance.

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.

Colleges like to see a junior SAT and a senior SAT score and will take the highest scores of each section. Students should plan to take the SAT's at least twice during the college admission process. Student can also take the ACT. Colleges look at the ACT and the SAT interchangeably so there is no disadvantage to taking either or both. Some students find they do better on the ACT than the SAT so it is worth investigating or asking your counselor about this test. Registration and general ACT information can be found on www.ACT.org

ACT tests are not offered as often as the SAT tests but will be offered at Alvirne High School in June.

June 10th test – registration deadline May 5th

Students that need special services to take the SAT or ACT need to be sure to see their case managers as soon as possible to fill out the appropriate forms for testing.

St. Anslem's College offers a test prep course over the summer. Registration for this course can be made by calling the Academic Resource Center at 641-7017 or visiting their website at <http://www.anslem.edu/administration/arc>.

College Fairs

New England Association for College Admission Counseling College fair will be held at Franklin Pierce College on Friday May 18th from 9 – 11:30am. This fair will host 250 colleges from mostly New England but from other areas as well. The list of attendees for all these fairs can be found in Guidance.

It is a good idea to bring a bag of some sort to carry college brochures and printed mailing labels to put on cards that college representatives will ask students to fill out. This is a great opportunity to explore several colleges at once site.

Unfortunately due to the weather we were unable to have our college fair on April 12th. Busy college representative schedules are prohibiting us from rescheduling for this school year. We are very sad this opportunity was missed for our students. We will try to do something for the fall in addition to our regular college visitation program. As always please check our website for new college and career information.

Sophomore News

During the last week in May counselors will be visiting sophomore classes to talk with 10th grade students about future plans and where they are so far in their high school experience. This is a way for the students and the counselors to connect and learn more about the needs of the students and for the students to be informed of the opportunities available to them.

PSAT

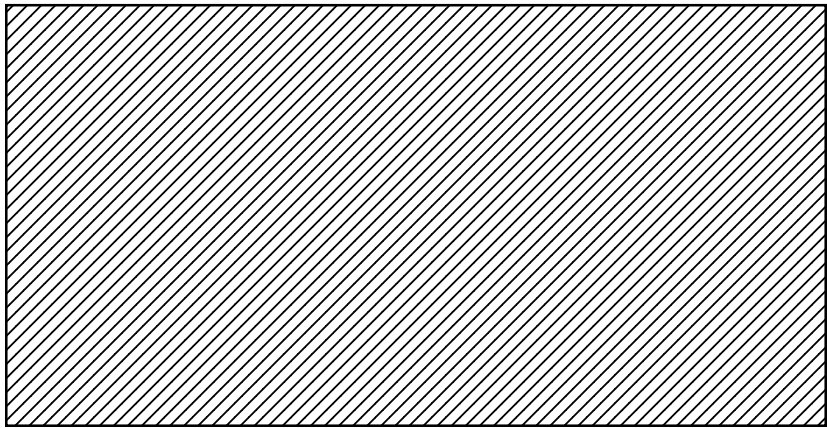
In October juniors will have the opportunity to take the practice SAT (PSAT). This is a great opportunity for students to get an idea of what the SAT will be like. More information about the tests and when they are administered will be on the Web site and in future newsletters at the end of the summer.

Students requiring special accommodations for testing should see their case managers as soon as possible for the necessary paperwork needed by the College Board.

Freshman News

Counselors will be meeting individually with 9th grade students in the upcoming weeks to discuss their course selections and how to plan for the next three years.

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Visit the PTSA at www.hbhs.k12.nh.us/ptsa where you'll find a list of officers & committees Back issues of newsletters PTSA meeting minutes and so more!



Mr. Quinn wants your used ink cartridges. Through the magic of technology, he's able to turn them into money which works towards improving the technology in the building. Just leave them in the office and he'll take care of the rest!



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 on-line at www.sss.gov or pick up a registration card at any post office. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Winslow in Guidance.

▶Attention please!



The HBHS library would like to thank Mr. Don Alusic for donating a subscription to the Christian Science Monitor to our library.
Winner of the Women's History Month contest were Hannah Post and Kevin Waugaman. This month's contest celebrates National Poetry Month.

▶Library News

▶Selective Service Registration