



DECEMBER  
2006

# Hollis Brookline High School

## ► **Some Thoughts from the Principal**

On behalf of a very appreciative staff I would like to thank the PTSA for their wonderful luncheon that they provided the staff last month. This gesture of support means a lot to the people in this building. Hopefully you have had an opportunity to view the new patio and walkway in the rear of the building, adjacent to the auditorium. This was all made possible by the PTSA and primarily Marie Degulis and a crew of volunteers. If you have not already done so, please check out their work before it is covered in snow for the winter. I am not sure when families receive this newsletter but my hope is that everyone in our school community enjoys a restful holiday break with their families. At this time of year it is wonderful to see our students and staff reaching out to help those less fortunate than themselves with such activities as "The Giving Tree", the winter coat drive and the adoption of families by the National Honor Society and Interact. On the topic of giving, the Penguin Plunge Cavalier team is gearing up for another Hampton Beach dip on Super Bowl Sunday in February. These teachers of questionable intellect will be raising funds to support their efforts all for the benefit of Special Olympics. Last year over \$5,000.00 was raised. There will be more information posted on the school web page as the date approaches.

The talents of our students continue to amaze all of us. Our fall play, **The Metamorphoses**, was a huge success. **Ms. Tomlinson and her crew outdid themselves with this wonderful production which included a pool in front of the stage. Earlier this year we recognized four of our seniors who received a perfect 800 score on one of their SAT tests. This is an unusual event for any school to have ONE such student, not to mention that they took the test while still juniors. The October and November SAT results are in and I am pleased to announce that three more of our students have achieved a perfect score on one of these tests. The students are: KC Lombard 800 in writing, Kali DelSignore 800 in math and Susie Grossman 800 in critical reading. Congratulations to these three young women and to all of our students who continue to reach academic heights each day.**

Our Guidance Department has been very busy getting out all of the college applications for our students I would like to ask for everyone's patience as we work our way through our new student information system and establish accurate calculation of GPA and class rank. The look of the transcript has changed due to our new software and we have also begun, with the 2005-06 school year, printing the quarter grades along with the final grades. Best practices have found that this can present our students in a better light when applying to college. Some of our seniors who have applied early have already received acceptances and substantial financial aid awards. To date, the schools that have accepted our students include: University of Pennsylvania, University of Hartford, Elmira College, University of Michigan, University of Vermont and Auburn University. In the middle of this busy time of year Guidance also presented a Financial Aid night on December 13<sup>th</sup> for families of seniors.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ► **A Message from the PTSA**

At the New Hampshire State PTA Annual Meeting, we were recognized with an award that was given for the first time. The HBHS PTSA received accolades for our Parent Education Series. We were chosen for persevering in our quest to educate parents and the community without allowing external pressures from special interest groups to silence us. Thanks go out to Pat Marquette for organizing this program.

When you enter the building from the back parking lot, take a moment to admire the brick walkway. Marie Degulis led this wonderful addition to our school. She applied for, and received, a grant from Loews for use in schools. Many dedicated volunteers, including parents and members of the Green Group, assisted Marie. We are now in need of someone to take the helm for the planting phase. We would like to do planting this spring, in time to have the area beautiful by graduation. If you are interested in leading this effort, please contact Marie (673-3855 or [mariedegulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mariedegulis@yahoo.com)) or Lex or Trish (see below)

As you are probably aware, there has been much discussion regarding the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District - the need for more space for our students and staff at HBHS - the topic of apportionment and the question as to whether there is a future for Brookline and Hollis together in a Cooperative School District. Our community has faced these challenges in the past, and we are likely to face them again in the future. It is critical that every citizen of Hollis and Brookline be educated regarding the issues. As a well-informed and responsible adult, each of us needs to participate in the government of the Cooperative School District and to vote at the March meetings. Over the last several years, our high school has added many Advanced Placement courses. Football has become a school sport. We have excellent Theater and Music Departments. More Engineering and technical courses are available. These wonderful opportunities for our students would not be possible if we did not have our two communities working together. Neither community would be able to offer our students the plethora of classes or activities that they currently enjoy at Hollis Brookline High School, if each were to go it alone. Our children and the staff of HBHS deserve a school facility in which there are an adequate number of classrooms available for classes and a cafeteria that can accommodate students for lunch. We do not have the leisure to continue to ignore the over-crowding at HBHS. As concerned parents, we ask you to be informed and vote. You really can make a difference.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 11, in the small cafeteria. We plan to have returning college freshmen to enlighten us on their experiences. Please join us and bring a friend.

Lex Bundschuh UNOFAM@aol.com 465-3142

Trish MacDonald trish\_macdonald@charter.net 465-2898

**www.hbhs.k12.nh.us**

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

Our mid term exam period is tentatively scheduled for January 16 – 19, 2007. January 16<sup>th</sup> will begin with a two hour exam period for period 1 classes, followed by shorten periods 2 – 7 ending at 2:24 pm. Two 2-hour exams are scheduled for Wednesday through Friday followed by lunch and bus dismissal at approximately 12:15 pm. Teachers will be available for make up and/or extra help until 2:30 pm and students may take their bus from the Middle School if they stay until that time.

Once second semester begins, we will begin the process of course selection for next year. This will begin with the publication and distribution of the Course of Studies. Please pay close attention to this document once it is released, it contains very important information concerning this process. We will have it available on our web site as well. We also hope to offer online course selection this year which we hope will allow us to gather data, build the master schedule and distribute student schedules in a more timely fashion.

We are in the process of gathering input concerning our first Parent Conference Day(s), held on the evening of November 21<sup>st</sup> and the morning of November 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will evaluate the program and report to the superintendent and the board and make a recommendation for next year. If you have any suggestions or input concerning the Parent Conference Day(s) please contact the main office.

With winter comes mud season, it is also the time of year when school budgets will be the topic of conversation. As part of our preparation of the high school budget we looked at the New Hampshire Department of Education website, which collects financial data from around the state, to see how we compare with other districts with respect to the average cost per high school student. We found three interesting points:

1. Since 2001 the Hollis Brookline Coop District has spent less than the state average, per pupil, in educating our high school students.
2. When we compared what we spend to similar sized (Class I) public schools we have ranked in the lower quarter of this group since 2001 and according to the most recent data (2005) we ranked 18<sup>th</sup> out of 20 Class I schools, behind Milford, Souhegan, Pelham and Con-Val.
3. Compared to the schools that consistently challenge us for the top test scores in the state (Hanover, Hopkinton and Oyster River) we found that these schools are spending from 20% to 40% more to educate their high school students.

This may be viewed as those before me efficiently allocating the resources given by our communities and that we have talented teachers and hard working students. One important ingredient for maintaining the high quality education that our children receive is to maintain the reasonable class sizes that have been in place for many years at Hollis Brookline. This does not mean that we offer classes that are undersubscribed but that we do not allow high enrollments lesson quality instruction. As we move forward with the budget you will hear the message that reasonable class sizes combined with quality teaching will maintain the level of education that people in our communities are accustomed to.

Timothy Kelley, Principal

## ► **Parent Educational Series 2006-2007**

Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> (snowdate Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>) – **Stress Management**

Ben Garber

Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – **504's/ IEPs/ Special Education**

Mariellen MacKay, NH Connections

Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> – **How to Choose a College / Alternative Career Development**

Scott Power, NH Education Assistance Foundation

## **Teens...Stressed Out**

School, part-time jobs, family, friends, grades, life changes, growing up and making decisions are just a few of the many stressors that our teens face. How do we help them manage it all and still be healthy and productive? As parents and educators, we play a significant role in the lives of children.



Dr. Benjamin Garber will conduct a workshop providing information and skills for parents and educators concerning how to help our teens handle the many stressors they face. Dr. Garber is a psychologist practicing in Merrimack, a nationally received speaker, a writer, and a Hollis/Brookline parent.

Hollis Brookline PTSA S-Team will sponsor this entertaining and educational workshop, free and open to anyone in the community, on Wednesday, **January 17th**, at 7 p.m., at the Hollis Brookline High School. A snow date has been set for January 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information you may contact Pat Marquette at 673-1957

**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](mailto:illingworthl@sau41.k12.nh.us) or Linda Marquis at [marquisl@sau41.k12.nh.us](mailto:marquisl@sau41.k12.nh.us) or call 465-2269 for more information.

# Guidance News



## Note from the Director

As we draw near to the last week before our holiday vacation we are faced with the craziness of the season as well as the results of early applications to colleges. We are so proud of all our students who have been accepted so far and know they will do great in the future. Although we are elated for the accepted students we are aware that there has been quite a bit of disappointment around the halls of Hollis Brookline High School this week as students hear of deferments to their first choice colleges they applied to under early programs. The thing is this – deferment can be a good thing! It means the student was not denied but put in the regular applicant pool to be reviewed again. More information such as second quarter grades and additional testing can be added to enhance the application. Students are encouraged to see their counselor to discuss the situation and form a plan. Deferment does not necessarily mean rejection it means the wait is prolonged. We will do our best to help the students realize that although they are disappointed and may feel bad about their ability, their future and themselves this is in no way a personal judgment on who they are. The fact is numbers drive this process. Colleges are more competitive than ever because demographically there are more high school students than ten years ago (more in the classes of 2007 and 2008 than ever before) and there are more students applying to more colleges than ever before. Therefore it becomes more about the numbers and less about the actual person applying. Please know that in no way does this diminish the frustration surrounding a deferral or rejection letter but it may help to put the whole admission process in perspective. I know this may sound trite but it will all work out and again we are here to help.

The Guidance staff hopes you all find time to enjoy and celebrate the season, be with family and friends and take personal time to regenerate as the New Year begins.

## Communication

As always please be sure to check our website and read the daily notices ([www.hbhs.k12.nh.us](http://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

Mid terms will be upon us soon after we return from the holiday break. Seniors will be receiving letters regarding their graduation requirements. Seniors should be sure to see their counselors regarding second semester classes. Remember each student must have 6 classes.

## Receipts for Information Sent

When information has been sent to a college each student will receive a receipt stating what was sent to a college and the date it was mailed. Students should stop by the Guidance Office to pick

up their receipts so that they know exactly what was sent to colleges and when.

Please keep these for your records. Receipts can be picked up in the Guidance Office but will only be given to the student if they have paid the \$3.00 per school postage fee.

## Other College Admission Information

Many of you have applied to a number of colleges all requesting different materials. Be sure to make copies of everything you send to colleges!!! Given the volume of paper and electronic information colleges are receiving at this time of year it is very important to have either electronically or paper copies of all the information you have sent. Colleges often misfile and/or lose information due to the amount of information that they receive.

As stated in the last newsletter, colleges tend to send out cards, letters or e-mails stating they have not received the information from the high school. *Before* panic sets in please be aware of the following explanation. Because students send their applications directly to colleges and universities, there is often a lag time between the arrival of the high school information and the application. There are instances when the high school information arrives in the admission office before the application. When a college receives an application they typically look to see what information has come with the application and check that off. Any other information that is not with the application will be requested – *whether it is already in the admission office or not!* This is confusing for the applicant especially if they have requested the information to be sent to the college more than a month before. Again, do not panic – usually the information is in a file at the college or university and they have not matched it up with the application yet.

If you receive a notice requesting information that was already requested to be sent from HBHS please call the college and ask them to look for the information telling them when it was sent from the high school (based on the receipt – that is why it is so important for students to pick up their receipts). More often than not they have the information somewhere in the admission office. We very rarely get information sent back to us so there is a good chance it is at the college. This year we have been sending out cards along with the transcript that requires the colleges to sign off on receiving the admission packet we send from HBHS. We have been getting them back fast and furiously so if there is a question after checking with the college admission office please check with your counselor.

This situation can be very unnerving and can cause a high degree of anxiety but is easily rectified by calling the college. Colleges will not disadvantage a student because information is misfiled. This is why copies can come in very handy when information is lost.

Seniors, keep in mind deadlines are coming and going rapidly. Many colleges including UNH have February 1<sup>st</sup> deadlines for

admission; therefore your pink *Supporting Documentation Form* needs to be to your counselor by January 8<sup>th</sup>. Many other schools operate under rolling admission and are still accepting applications through the winter and early spring. Be aware that the earlier you get your application in the better chance you have to receive financial aid and campus housing.

Early Decision and Early Action notifications have already started to come in. Congratulations to those students who have been accepted to colleges already! If students have been deferred through the early programs they still have an opportunity to be accepted to the college and should see their counselor to determine what information they may want to send to enhance their application. Deferral is not a bad thing. It allows students to send in more information to support their application.

## **Midterm Reports**

Midterm Reports are a part of the application process and many college applications, especially the Common Application, have a specific form that must accompany midterm grades and be completed by the counselor. This year the counselors are sending a standard Mid Year Report form to all the colleges students have applied to. Mr. Winslow and Mrs. Futrell have designed a form that mirrors the information needed through the Common Application form. It is important to note: Midterm grades will automatically go out to all the colleges student have listed on their pink sheets. If students have been accepted to a college and they do not want mid term grades to go to other schools on their list please make sure the counselor is informed.

It is very important and helpful to us to know where students have been accepted. We keep records of these decisions so we would appreciate students letting us know the admission decisions. We also get very excited!!!

## **Financial Aid Information**

January 1<sup>st</sup> is the first date that families can submit the FAFSA form. Although it can be done on a paper copy and mailed, the government and financial aid experts encourage families to submit the FAFSA on line. Over 90% of filers from last year submitted on line. If you have concerns regarding Financial Aid at this time, an appointment with college financial aid offices is a good way to learn about that particular college's financial aid opportunities. All colleges require the FAFSA form from families that are considering financial aid. To fill out the FAFSA on-line, use the government website [www.FAFSA.gov.org](http://www.FAFSA.gov.org). Again the FAFSA can not be submitted before January 1, 2007.

Some private colleges will require the CSS PROFILE. The PROFILE is only for private colleges and only certain schools use this form. It can only be submitted electronically and can be accessed through the College Board website at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). The PROFILE can be submitted at any time. Colleges have very strict deadlines for Financial Aid applications so it is important to adhere to the deadlines.

Another great source of information is the NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) in Concord. NHHEAF can be reached by e-mail [www.nhheaf.org](http://www.nhheaf.org) or calling 1-800-525-2577. Financial Aid materials are available in both Guidance and the

library at HBHS. 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!!

Please note: our financial aid Night was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The PowerPoint presentation shown by the presenter will be available on our website after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Scholarships**

Scholarship season is here. We are happy to say we have many scholarship opportunities for students. Local scholarships will be available by the end of January. Applications will be available in Guidance. Please check our website for the listing of available scholarships. This list is updated every Friday. So check often!

## **NCAA**

Senior Athletes interested in participating on athletic teams in college must register with the NCAA. This may be done online at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://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**

Counselors will be meeting with groups of juniors to discuss their PSAT test results starting January 4<sup>th</sup>. Counselors will be sending out notices with a time and date for juniors to meet with their counselor the first day back from vacation. Counselors will go over the score report in detail so students will get the most out of this practice test and know how to prepare for the upcoming SAT. We thank you for your patience with this activity as we feel it is very important for students to understand the PSAT results so they will know what to expect when they take the SAT. Keep in mind that these scores are confidential and that colleges do not see them.

## **Junior College Information Night**

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7 pm – 8:30 pm the Guidance Department will host an information night for juniors and their parents. This evening is designed to help families start the admission process. More information will be on the website and in the January Newsletter. Students are encouraged to attend this event with their parents.

---

## **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: March 10<sup>th</sup> – deadline February 2<sup>nd</sup> (No Subject Tests are administered in March)

May 5<sup>th</sup> - deadline March 29<sup>th</sup>

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – deadline April 27<sup>th</sup>

SAT's are not administered at HBHS. 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.

## **SAT Prep**

SAT Prep courses are offered here at Hollis Brookline High School and at other agencies. St. Anselm's College offers a program that students have found both affordable and helpful. Registration information is in guidance or can be accessed through the St. A's website at:

<http://www.anselm.edu/administration/arc/Programs/>

Please contact the counselor if you have questions. The Hollis Brookline course sign up will be the first week in February, listen for the announcement and check the website.

## **Destination College**

The New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) is sponsoring its annual statewide college convention for high school juniors and their parents. This free event will be held at Plymouth State University on Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 2:30 pm. Pre-registration is required and can be done on-line at [www.destinationcollege.org](http://www.destinationcollege.org). Reservations must be received by March 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a great program that offers a variety of workshops for students and parents, motivational speakers, mini college fair and an opportunity to enter a scholarship raffle.

## **Sophomore News**

As with the junior PSAT takers counselors will be meeting with any sophomore student who participated in the fall testing. Sophomores who took the PSAT tests should come to Guidance starting the week of January 9<sup>th</sup> to sign up for a time to meet with their counselor.

Counselors will be meeting with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students during

the winter to discuss their academic and plans as we prepare for the registration process.

## **Freshman News**

As with the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students counselors will be going over the academic requirements for graduation as we start to head into the registration season (early March). The meetings are designed to help students plan what they want and need to do to graduate and get the most out of their high school education.



---

## **Selective Service Registration**

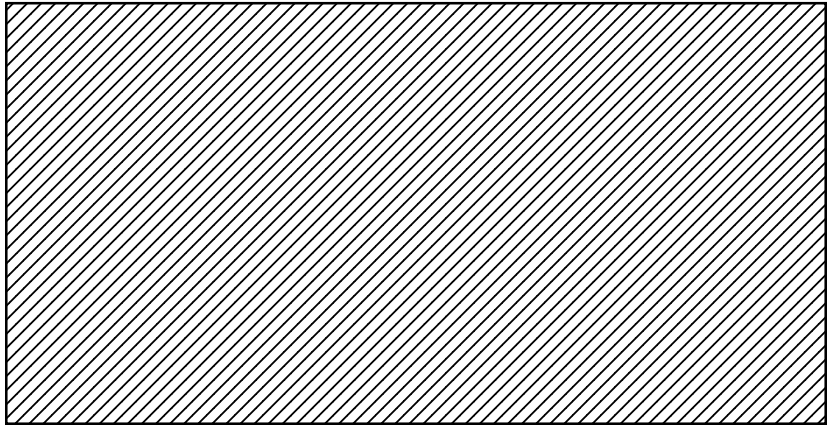
The Selective Service System is an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. The mission of the Selective Service System is to provide the number of men needed by the Armed Forces, within the time required, should Congress and the President decide to return to a draft, 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 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Register on-line at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov) or pick up a registration card at any post office. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Winslow in Guidance.



Hollis Brookline High School  
24 Cavalier Court  
Hollis, NH 03049

DECEMBER 2006

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
HOLLIS, NH  
PERMIT #92



Visit the PTSA at  
[www.hbhs.k12.nh.us/ptsa](http://www.hbhs.k12.nh.us/ptsa)  
where you'll find the list of officers &  
committees, back issues of newsletters, PTSA  
meeting minutes and more!

Joyce O'Connor, President  
H/B Athletic Booster Club



Attention parents, teachers, counselors, admin workers,  
coaches, any adult who is looking for something fun and  
special to do during the dreary month of February.... The  
Athletic Booster Club is going to be holding a social dinner  
dance on February 3rd at the Alpine Grove! We will have  
entertainment, dancing fine food and surprises throughout  
the night! Please pencil the date in and plan on a fun stress  
free night! For more information on tickets check the public  
channel for Hollis or Brookline and watch for flyers.  
The Booster Club would like to take this opportunity to say  
thank you for your support over the past year! We look  
ahead to a wonderful 2007! Best wishes to you and your  
families!

Chocolate Chunk, Peanut Butter, Snicker Doodle, Oatmeal  
Raisin, or Sugar - \$13.00/box  
Mint Chocolate Chip, Double Chocolate Brownie, White  
Chunk Macadamia Nut, or Heath Crunch - \$15.00/box  
For Sale by Ski Team Members or call 465-6515

**Gourmet Cookie Dough - Boxes**  
3 lb. Box of Place-N-Bake cookie  
dough  
48 pre-formed cookies per box



**Perfect Idea for Holiday Parties!**

**▶ Booster Club News**