

Some Thoughts from the Principal

I would like to wish all a healthy and happy new year. As the first semester comes to a close, many of our students are busy preparing for mid year assessments held January $16^{th} - 19^{th}$. There have been a few changes that were put into place at the beginning of this year with respect to reporting the results on the mid year assessment. In the past, the exam grade was factored into either the second or fourth quarter average. Last year, faculty requested that the exam grades be listed on the report card and included in the calculation of the final grade. This request made sense for a number of reasons; the mid term and final assessment are cumulative tests, which we allocate a significant amount of school time and as a measure of course competency they deserve to be highlighted on a student's yearly academic report. The student's official high school transcript will list the quarter and final grades but the semester exams will not be included.

Our counselors report that they have experienced an increase in anxiety on the part of a few students as the semester comes to a close. It is not unusual for students to experience these feelings at this time of year and we work with them as to how best to address these feelings. One item that seems to enter into the equation is the issue of time management. As you know, many of our students participate in extracurricular activities, clubs, athletics as well as work at part time jobs. Some are involved in all of these activities, leaving little time to attend to their studies. From experience gained as an educator and parent, I know that while some kids manage their time better when they are involved in a variety of activities, as parents we need to monitor things to make sure that they are not approaching a "tipping point" where their health is beginning to break down or their academics suffer. As we constantly guide young people in making healthy decisions, guidance may also be necessary when they are spending an inordinate amount of time during exam week at a job or involved with an extracurricular activity. A discussion on time management can help the oldest of teenagers and is worthwhile in preparing them for the future.

On January 10th we held a senior meeting prior to mid term assessments. The theme of the meeting was to address the importance of finishing strong academically and how businesses and colleges assess their academic record. The director of admissions from Southern New Hampshire University and a project manager from BAE were guest speakers at the meeting.

(Continued on page 2)

► A Message from the PTSA

Happy New Year! The PTSA started off 2007 with a visit from a few of our alumni. Charlie Askenaizer, Tony Zore, Brian Saari, Jon Flynn, and Paul Ullrich joined us at the monthly PTSA meeting to talk about their experiences during the first semester of their freshman year in college. These young men shared us the ups and downs of roommates, the essentials for living apart from their families, and how Hollis Brookline High School prepared them academically. It was a very informative and lively discussion enjoyed by those who attended. Our thanks to Charlie, Tony, Brian, Jon, and Paul for joining us and best wishes as they finish up their freshman year.

It was refreshing to hear from these graduates of Hollis Brookline High School just how prepared they were academically for college. The colleges that these young men are currently attending vary in type and location, but each of them expressed the incredible job that the HBHS staff did in getting them academically prepared for their college experience. All of them felt that they were head and shoulders above their college classmates in Writing. They talked about how well they are doing not only in their college English classes, but in their other classes that require them to write. Writing is a required course taken by all sophomores at HBHS. The staff is able to such wonderful work due to the student to teacher ratio currently held in these writing classes. This ratio is in jeopardy for future classes as the Coop Budget for next year stands. You may have seen the article of January 17th in the Telegraph regarding the cuts to the High School JV sports teams, the Cavalier Chronicle, and the FIRST robotics team as well as the incredibly drastic cuts to all Middle School afterschool programs including all sports, drama, music, and art. Our administrations are being asked to cut to the bare bones and still educate our children to the current standards. This task has become extremely difficult for the administration and the cuts they are making take priority. The two most important things our schools must do is to educate our children and keep them safe. This is not to say that sports are not important as they indeed are. We need to keep our sports and clubs intact in these schools in order provide our children with a well-rounded education. The type of education that meets the standards held by the competitive college market today.

We must come together as a community to help our administration do just this. You can make your voice heard to both the Coop School Board on Wednesday, January 17th at their monthly meeting held in the Middle School MPR room at 6:00 p.m. and more importantly to the Coop School Budget Committee on Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 p.m. It is important to stress the solidarity of this community and place blame on one group or another. We have an incredible school system and it is important for all of us to join together to keep it that way.

Our next PTSA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School cafeteria.

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Some Thoughts from the

Principal (continued from page 1)

As most are aware, we are in the middle of budget season, working our way up to the March district meeting. There has been discussion of cuts in funding of the after school activities at both the high school and middle school, which is concerning. We understand that the culture of this building is built off of the variety of after school activities we offer to our students and we are looking at all areas within the high school budget to reduce funding and yet still maintain the high quality of instruction that our school is known for. The recommendations that we have made thus far are in the interest of reversing the increase in class size that developed in some areas this year as well as address anticipated enrollment growth next year. Research has shown that class size is one of the most important factors in maintaining quality instruction. I would ask that you stay tuned to informational updates and public forums so that you may be informed on these important budgetary issues as we move forward.

Despite the cold weather, our campus remains a very busy place. During the week before the holiday break the National Honor Society sponsored a Volunteer Fair, where many organizations presented opportunities for our students to become involved in community service and the annual Speech Contest for our freshmen and sophomore classes was held in the auditorium. A special thanks goes out to Mr. Williamson, of the English department, for spearheading the speech contest and to Mr. Connors and Ms. McElroy for organizing the fair. With the start of the new year, Guitar Night will be held on January 19th, a Student/Faculty Talent Show on January 25th, the second annual Mr. HBHS pageant on February 1st, the Valentine's Day semi formal dance on February 16th and the annual Spirit Week and Pep Rally held the week leading up to February break. Auditions for the spring musical "Working", are complete and rehearsals are underway.

Of more interest to parents, a College Night for Juniors is planed for the evening of February 22nd, a Dinner Dance sponsored by the Music Department on February 17 in the cafeteria and a semi formal Dinner Dance for parents sponsored by Athletic Boosters on February 3rd, at the Alpine Grove. Information on all of these events can be found on the school website.

I am also proud to announce that the Cavalier Penguin Plunge has come together again this year, stronger, but no smarter, than last year's team. On Sunday, February 4th a team of 10 - 15 teachers will take a dip into the chilly Atlantic Ocean at Hampton Beach as a fundraiser for Special Olympics of New Hampshire. Last year our team raised approximately \$5,000 and the entire event brought in between \$400,000 and \$500,000. At this early date, our

team is ranked 5th in the state (out of about 100 teams registered). If anyone is interested in supporting one of the team members you may obtain information on the high school web site. It is for a great cause and please remember that the level of your support will not determine the length of our swim.

Finally, we have begun preparations for next year, starting with a review of the Program of Studies, which should be published by the end of February. During the month of March students will select their courses for next year and we are hoping to offer students the opportunity to do this online which will make the whole process more efficient. We also hope that this process will allow us to build an accurate database of parent email addresses. The school website will contain scheduling information and updates and it is hoped that schedules will be distributed to students by the beginning of June.

Timothy Kelley, Principal



is published the third Friday

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

► Selective Service Registration

The Selective Service System is an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. The mission of the Selective Service System is to provide the number of men needed by the Armed Forces, within the time required, should Congress and the President decide to return to a draft, in the event of a national emergency. Registration is the process of providing the Selective Service with name, address, phone number, and other related information about one's self. It is a civic and legal responsibility for every young man to register with the Selective Service within the time period starting 30 days before, and ending 30 days after, their 18th birthday. Register 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.

Guidance News



Note from the Director

Happy New Year! So far 2007 in the Guidance Department has been off to a busy start. With PSAT distribution, college admission decisions, midterm reports and applications, scholarships, report cards, new schedules for semester 2 and planning for spring activities we have been on the run. Mrs. Noel has been busy sending students notes regarding time and date to meet with counselors to discuss PSAT results, future planning and credit checks and Mrs. Graff has been working on new report cards and transcripts. Needless to say there is a flurry of activity going on. The counselors have felt the PSAT discussions have been going well and enjoy the time they are spending with students introducing the college process. Work is also being done around registration and the Program of Studies for the upcoming school year. Registration for future classes gives the counselors another opportunity to discuss academic planning with our students. Registration for 2007-2008 will begin in March and more information will be coming in future Newsletters.

With midterm exams upon us counselors are certainly aware of the pressures students are feeling at this time. Not only do we need snow, most students feel they need more time, sleep and energy to get through this hectic and anxious time. Dealing with stressed students can be difficult and can cause the whole family to be turned up side down. It is helpful to allow them to be anxious or nervous realizing these are very real emotions and although they need to get through it they also need to feel that it is part of life that there are times that are more demanding than others. This affirms their feelings and moves them through the potential inertia that can settle in. Check in to let them know you are thinking of them and that you are there if they need you to get a cup of hot chocolate or an extra pencil. Students need to feel that they are supported and midterms or finals are not insurmountable. This type of testing is a typical college activity and is good preparation for the future. Please know we are here and if your son or daughter needs help that the Guidance staff is available to assist in any way we can.

Good luck!

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. Our new and improved Guidance section of the website (thanks to Mr. Boucher) has all the current information on scholarships, financial aid, college admission, guidance and career information, testing along with the counselor contact information.

Drop/Add Period

The drop/add period will begin on January 24th and end January 29th. Students must see their counselor in order to drop or add a course. Students are not allowed to drop full-year courses. All students must carry 6 courses each semester.

Information Sessions and Tours

We are delighted that so many families find Hollis Brookline High School an option for their children and we are happy to answer any questions new members to our community have regarding the options at the high school, however, due to the overwhelming amount of requests to talk with a counselor and tour the school, the Guidance department has tried to come up with a logical solution that will service the community. We are offering two time slots during the week for Information Sessions and Tours. 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 ($465-2269 \times 128$) to schedule a time to come.

Senior News

Seniors will be receiving letters from their counselors at the end of January that addresses any graduation requirements that might need to be attained. Please read these letters carefully and let us know if you have any questions. Remember all seniors must carry 6 courses each semester.

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. Students will not receive their report card if they owe money for postage. Please see Mrs. Noel if you have any questions.

College Admission Information

As mentioned in other newsletters: given the volume of paper and electronic information colleges are receiving at this time of year it is very important to have copies of all the information you have sent to colleges. Colleges often misfile and/or lose information due to the amount of information that they receive.

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

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before the application and visa versa. 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. When you receive a notice of this sort 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 causes 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.

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. Because this is a common form that most colleges use the counselors have developed a form to send along with all midterm reports. Midterm reports are automatically sent to the colleges students have applied to. Please note: If a student has a made decision to attend a college and does not want midterms sent to other schools please let us know as soon as possible.

Acceptances to colleges should be shared with the counselor. We keep records of these decisions so we would appreciate students letting us know the admission decisions. Not to mention we get very excited!

Financial Aid Information

Families can submit the FAFSA form now and should try to get this done as soon as possible. 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.

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. 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 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 as well as the PowerPoint presentation from our financial Aid Night.

Don't self-select yourself out of the Financial Aid process. You never know unless you apply!!

Scholarships

A list of scholarships is located on the website and is updated every Friday. Applications are available in Guidance.

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. 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 have been meeting with juniors to discuss their PSAT test results. We thank you for your patience with this activity and feel it was a very important meeting for students to understand the PSAT what is ahead for SAT testing. Keep in mind that these scores are confidential and that colleges do not see them.

Junior College Information Night

On February 22nd from 7pm – 8:30pm 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.

College Admission Handbook

A new college admission handbook is in the works for juniors but our current handbook is on the website under college information if you wish to start early.

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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 10th – deadline February 2nd (No Subject Tests are administered in March)

May 5th - deadline March 29th

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 interchangeable 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

SAT Prep courses are offered here at Hollis Brookline High School and at other agencies. Please see your counselor if you are interested in knowing what courses are available. The Hollis Brookline course sign up is ongoing in the main office.

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 17th from 8am to 2:30 pm. Pre-registration is required and can be done online at www.destinationcollege.org. Reservations must be received by March 9th. 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.

College Fairs

College Fairs will be coming up in the spring and it is a great time for students to gather information from a variety of schools at one time. Below are the times and dates of local fairs:

Boston National Fair

Bayside Expo Center 6pm Tuesday, April 10th

Pinkerton Academy

Hackler Gymnasium 6pm. Thursday, April 12th

Sophomore News

As with the junior PSAT takers counselors have 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 9th to sign up for a time to meet with their counselor.

Counselors will be meeting with 9th and 10th grade students during the winter to discuss their academic and career plans.

Freshman News

As with the 10th 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.

Winter Solstice ~ Dinner Dance Hosted by the HBHS Booster Club

Parents, Friends and Faculty come join us for an evening of fun and support Hollis Brookline High School Athletics. There will be a buffet dinner, cash bar and disc jockey. All proceeds to benefit HBHS Athletics.

Date: Saturday~ February 3, 2007

Time: 6:00 pm ~ Midnight

Location: Alpine Grove Banquet Facility, Hollis, NH

Dress: Semi Formal

Cost: \$100 per person \$125 per couple \$500 per table

To purchase tickets please contact:

Maggie Kerkhoff @Maggie.kerkhoff@nemov

Karen Sousa @Karen.sousa@nemoves.com ~ 465-7202



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

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District Receives Grant

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District is very pleased to announce the receipt of a second very generous grant to support both high school and middle school programs. These grants were made possible at the direction of a Brookline family through matching charitable funds made available through Fidelity Investments. This family is a strong supporter of the Cooperative School District and in particular of the technology and performing arts programs. Over two years the total grant has been \$30,000

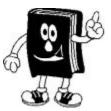
In 2005, this grant supported the district's Curriculum Innovation Team and the Performing and Visual Arts Task Force. An LCD Projector and computer were purchased for the High School to advance and enhance the technology available in the Auditorium. Also purchased were 6 Music Work Stations with state-of-the-art compositional and music activity software. These workstations benefited the entire district; one for each of the four elementary schools in Hollis and Brookline and two for the high school. These recent additions have greatly increased the usability of the Auditorium and have inspired users to a new level of technical competence and ability.

This year, the grant will support the high school's Allied Arts Department to continue the music technology initiative and will be used to purchase 2 Midi Workstations, a Superscope CD recorder and accessories, and three wall mounted monitors with DVD and internet capability. It will also support the middle school's Performing and Visual Arts Task Force purchase of a Concert Xylophone, two Wenger folio cabinets, 4 Yamaha guitars and cases, a baritone saxophone, sheet music and instrument repairs. All of these purchases will aid the district in meeting its goals to align curriculum and use of technology with the state and national standards as well as enhance the educational experience for our children.

Grants such as these are of tremendous benefit to the children of Hollis and Brookline, providing additional technology and equipment that they would otherwise not be able to experience. We at the Hollis Brookline Middle and High Schools along with the entire district wish to express our sincere appreciation for the generous efforts that provided us with this wonderful opportunity.

Book Club News

The Book Brunch Bunch is planning another used book sale. We appreciate donations of paperbacks, hardcover and children's books in good condition.



Performing Arts



HBHS will be having an Arts Festival and Talent Show on Thursday January 25 in the third floor lobby and auditorium. The art exhibit will begin at 6:00 PM followed by the talent show at 7:00 PM. There will also be a baked goods table. Please come and support our young artists and musicians at work. The event is \$5.00 for

adults. Children 5 and under are free. Proceeds will benefit the Allied Arts Department.

The Music Department is busy preparing to take the Honors Choir and Honors Jazz band to NYC in the spring. Thanks to all who have generously donated to our fall and winter concerts. Thank you also to the Russell Hill Band for the wonderful benefit concert last January 5. It was a great time enjoyed by all.

Tri M Honor Society will be having a Chamber Music Concert at the Hollis Congregational church on Thursday February 15 at 5:00 PM. The concert will feature instrumentalists and vocalists in a performance of works ranging from classical to Broadway and Jazz. The event is open to the public, and admission is \$3.00

The Music Department will be having its first Dinner Dance in the HBHS cafeteria on Saturday February 19, at 7 PM. An Italian buffet will be served, with swing dance music provided by our own Honors Jazz Band, Jazz Choir, and guest artists. Tickets are \$10.00 and will be on sale starting at the end of January. Please see any music student if you wish to purchase tickets.

Library

The HBHS library is very appreciative of the donations made this month. These include funds earned by the Poetry Club at their poetry slam. This money will be used to purchase poetry books for the library. Also, thanks to the Kale family for the donation of a full set of Britannica Encyclopaedias.

Parent Educational Series 2007

Feb. 21st – **504's/ IEPs/ Special Education**Mariellen MacKay, NH Connections

Apr. 4th – How to Choose a College / Alternative Career Development

Scott Power, NH Education Assistance Foundation

COME SUPPORT THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE WRESTLING TEAM

At the

9th Annual Cavalier Invitational

Dual Meet Tournament

February 10, 2007

Hollis Brookline High School

M9 00:3 - MA 00:9

Food, Fun, Raffles, Excitement!



► Booster Club News

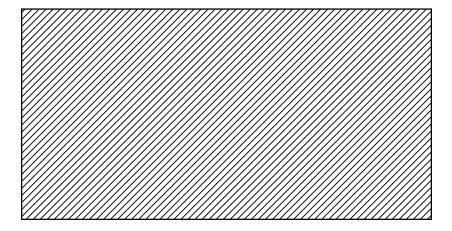


participate.

What a wonderful way to start off the new year with new faces at the Athletic Booster

Club meeting! Thank you for joining us and participating in conversation about our kids and the school activities they take part of. I am hopeful by the time this comes out we have enjoyed a successful first annual "Winter Dance" at the Alpine Grove. It will take place of February 3rd! It at the same time. Our task is to assist wherever needed at the same time. Our task is to assist wherever needed with the Athletics department, and with the crunch that is taking place right now at this very moment...we will focus on doing so. Please try to come and contribute on the second Wednesday of the month in the first floor conference room at 7:00 p.m.. We keep the meeting direct and share ideas of what we can do to help along the way. Your opinion is important. There is no obligation to the organization, you decide how much or how little to

Joyce O'Connor, H/B Athletic Booster Club President joc4936@yahoo.com, 603-930-4012



JANUARY 2007

Hollis Brookline High School 24 Cavalier Court Hollis, NH 03049

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