



MARCH
2007

Hollis Brookline High School

► **Some Thoughts from the Principal**

March madness has arrived at Hollis Brookline and is on display throughout the building. Students are here late and weekends rehearsing for the annual musical "Working". Winter athletes concluded successful seasons and many athletes participated in New England and all star competitions. Congratulations to the wrestling team for capturing the Division 2 State Championship. Rhon Rupp, their coach and Athletic Director, was named Coach of the Year. Boy's basketball finished the season atop Class I and made it to the semi finals of the state tournament. The US FIRST Robotics team took second place at the 46 team northeast regional competition, the best finish in the history of the program. Congratulations to the hard working students, their advisor, Sue Hay and the many adult mentors who gave countless hours of their time. The team was also recognized with the Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award which celebrates entrepreneurial leadership.

This is also the time of year when many of our seniors are anxiously awaiting college acceptances. Thus far, over 100 colleges have accepted our students including: Auburn, Bentley, Berklee College of Music, Boston College, Clark, DePaul, George Washington, Hofstra, Michigan State, Middlebury, Providence, Purdue, RPI, Saint Michael's, Smith, Stonehill, Citadel, Penn State, Trinity, Chicago, Michigan, UPenn and WPI. The seniors are continually reminded of the importance of a strong finish to their high school academic career. Colleges look carefully at their third and fourth quarter grades as an indicator of the type of student they have accepted. Superintendent Pike anticipates establishing a 2007 graduation date (either June 9th of 16th) by the end of March.

March is also time for the Coop District Meeting, which was held March 7th and 8th. We are excited that coop voters approved the technology warrant and feel that it will enrich the curriculum offered here at HBHS. The request for portable classrooms to address needed space was defeated. As we develop the master schedule this spring we will work to utilize any and all available classroom space within our building.

With respect to the master schedule, the new on line course selection process for grades 8 through 11 appears to be a success. This program was made possible due to the efforts of Physics teacher Mr. John Boucher. On line course selection will allow us to access data earlier and provide more time to work on finding available classroom space. Guidance counselors visited classes during the first three weeks of March. Students were asked to fill out their course selections carefully with alternatives so that we may allocate the available resources most efficiently. They are expected to return a hard copy of their course selections with teacher recommendations and parental signature. It is anticipated that 2007-08 schedules will be distributed by the end of May. For those with children in grade 8, we have scheduled a course informational meeting on March 27th at 7:00pm in the auditorium. In late May there is scheduled an evening open house for Grade 8 students and their families, where we will offer student led tours, as well as information on academics, athletics and clubs.

We have recently made an adjustment to the Use of Electronic Devices policy. Students are asked to work through their student council representative to bring about changes in school policies that directly concern them and many have expressed a desire to examine the Use Electronic Devices policy. Recently the student council proposed the following

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► **A Message from the PTSA**

Spring is in the air!!! Our March meeting was held in the Auditorium lobby, so that our members could participate in the second night of the Co-op District meeting. During this brief meeting, discussion was begun about the S-Team Scholarship. The scholarship along with the Post Graduation Cruise are just two of the events that the S-Team money helps to fund. Letters will be in your mailboxes very soon. Please be as generous as you possibly can.

During the two evening Co-op District meeting, the PTSA sold refreshments for the many people who attended the meeting. We want to thank Erin Magee, Donna Cormier and all their helpers for setting up and providing this invaluable service to the Hollis Brookline Community.

Our Staff Appreciation Committee provided a wonderful chocolate feast for the Staff and Teachers for Valentines Day. As always the teachers and staff appreciate the effort and the goodies. The Committee's next event will be coming up in May. If you would like to be placed on a list to make something delicious, please contact Kristen Berry, Lisa Schmalz, Kathy Translate, or Lisa Fait. Thanks to these ladies for all the work they do to get these events organized and served.

May is also the time for PTSA elections. If anyone is interested in running for any of these offices, please contact Donna Cormier, Nominating Committee Chairperson. We are also looking for a couple of people to help Donna out on this committee. Please contact Donna or us for more information if you are interested.

It's hard to believe that Spring Sports, Concerts and Graduation are right around the corner. Come on out and show your support!!

Co-Presidents:

Lex Bundschuh UNOFAM@aol.com 465-3142

Trish MacDonald trish_macdonald@charter.net 465-2898

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

adjustment to the student handbook which was approved by the faculty council, on a trial basis, for the remainder of the year:

Use of electronic equipment is not permitted during the school day. Use of personal music devices at a reasonable volume is allowed in study halls and in the cafeteria. Reasonable volume is at the discretion of the faculty or administration. Viewing of video content on/with personal electronic equipment will not be permitted at any time. Cell phones are permitted, but they must be turned off at all times during the day and may be used only before and after the school day. If parents need to contact students during the school day, they should do so through the main office.

Students may now use “music devices” during school hours only in study halls and the cafeteria and does not include in classes or in the hallway during passing time. The second portion of the policy concerning cell phones remains unchanged. Student use of cell phones during school hours continue to be a concern for our faculty and staff as some students need to be reminded to turn off cell phones during school hours. We have reminded students that repeated violations of the cell phone policy will result in the phones being confiscated and eventually parents being asked to retrieve them at the main office. The faculty and staff will evaluate the “music device” change at the end of the year.

In closing, Hollis Brookline held spirit week before February break. Over \$1000 and 1700 children’s books were donated to charity. The week was highlighted by the Friday afternoon pep rally. Cavalier spirit and pride was on display at this student organized event and they again exceeded our expectations. Each night during the week the building was alive with many students painting signs and preparing for their skits. The remarkable student chorography this year was highlighted by a revival of the faculty dance routine last seen at the talent show. One memory I took from the event as the smiling students exited the rally to begin their well deserved break was the senior who sadly commented that “this is my last pep rally”. Cavalier spirit is alive and well.

Timothy Kelley, Principal

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.

► **Spring Musical**

The Spring Musical, *Working*, from the book by Studs Terkel will be performed by the HBHS Performing Arts Department on the following dates:

Thursday	March 22	7:30 p.m.
Friday	March 23	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	March 24	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	March 24	2:00 p.m.



Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for students and seniors. Tickets are for assigned seats. Pre-order form is in this newsletter. For more information, contact Lex Bundschuh, 465-3142 or UNOFAM@aol.com

► **School to Career News**

Career Breakfasts

Sophomores are learning about various career interests through a series of Career Breakfasts are scheduled for the week of April 9th. Career Breakfasts offer students an opportunity to engage in roundtable discussions with business people. The business people share their insights, provide information and discuss qualifications needed in their respective professions. Dialogue is also encourage on workplace expectations, salary potential, educational requirements, workplace conditions and behavior. Career areas that will be represented are Armed Services, Architecture, Business Management, Sports Training/ Management, Photography, Culinary Arts, Psychology, Human Resources, Law Enforcement, Education, Engineering and Music. If you work in any of these fields and have an interest in being part of the Career Breakfasts please contact Sandy Demarest at demarests@sau41.k12.nh.us

Internship Program

Students are currently signing up for an internship experience for the 2007-08 school year. Students must make an appointment and complete the application packet by June 1st. I will be scheduling an information session in May to explain the program requirements. An internship is an excellent tool for testing out a career interest, giving students first-hand knowledge of a particular professional field. Internship candidates must demonstrate reliability, punctuality, organization, and motivation to work to his or her ability. If you would like more information please contact Sandy Demarest, School to Career Counselor at demarests@sau41.k12.nh.us or 465-2269 ext. 129.

Guidance News



Note from the Director

Just when we thought spring was here we are back to wintry weather! Well it has not dampened our spirits in the guidance office as we think ahead to next year. We are in the midst of course registration and from what we can tell the new electronic process is working well. We hope that students and parents found this to be an easier more effective way of selecting courses. Mr. Boucher put many hours of time into formulating and executing this process and we thank him wholeheartedly. Course selection and scheduling are a big part of what we do here in guidance as we help students plan their academic path through Hollis Brookline High School. We thank the students, parents and faculty for helping to make this process work as we move toward building the master schedule.

Our college information night for juniors and their parents was very well attended and we appreciate any feedback you may have on the evening as well as the admission handbook that was distributed. We encourage juniors and their parents to make appointments to meet with their counselor to continue the college admission conversation. The more parents and students communicate with the student's counselor regarding this very confusing process the more informed you will be and the easier the process will flow.

As I did last year I will be offering a "College Admission 101" class for interested parents. This program is designed to give parents insights into the "nuts and bolts" of college admissions. It will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2007 from 8:30 – 11:30am. Please call Mrs. Noel in guidance at 465-2269 x128 to reserve a spot. This program will be limited to 30 people so please reserve your space now.

As spring comes so does college admission decisions. This can be a very stressful and discouraging time for some students while for others it may be terrific. Please be aware that senior students may be experiencing some very deep and confusing feelings and may appear quite distant. While the college decision is exciting it is overwhelming as well. There is so much tied up in the decision for everyone involved, again patience and understanding can help. If you have any concerns or questions call the colleges but also contact the Guidance Office and we will try to help in anyway possible.

We continue to be very busy in the guidance office with developing our new transcripts, academic advising around course selection, college admission discussions, processing scholarships and career breakfasts along with the individual counseling we do with students. The guidance staff is working very hard and feel communication with our students, parents and faculty are of the utmost importance. This very important partnership is key to the success of every student here at Hollis Brookline High School and we encourage your input and communication.

Happy spring!

Course Registration

The Program of Studies is online and was distributed in classes the first week of March. Counselors explained the new online process in 9th and 10th grade English, and 11th grade History classes. The selection process closed on March 16th at 5pm. If students did not submit their selection forms on time they need to see their counselor immediately. Students will receive their course selection sheet on Monday, March 26th. We will start the school day with homeroom where the forms will be distributed to the students. These forms will be a print out of what the students selected. The schedule for the day will consist of homeroom then students will meet all seven periods so they can talk to their teachers about the courses they have chosen and get the teachers' recommendations. Students will then bring their signed form home to parents for parent's signature and return it the next day to their 1st period teachers. We realize it is a quick turnaround but if we do not have the forms returned in a timely fashion we can not build an accurate master schedule. This is a lengthy and time consuming process; however with your help it will ensure that students have appropriate schedules for the fall.

Counselors have been meeting individually with students, taking concerned parent phone calls and e-mails pertaining to course selection. We want to be sure to help any student or parent that has a question. Feel free to continue these communications even though the process of selecting the courses is over. It is an important part of each student's progress at HBHS.

Some rumors are floating that students can not change their schedules and we have done away with the add/drop period – not so!! We did tell students to be thoughtful and careful about their course selections as the master schedule is built on their selections. If they change their minds or opt for other courses after they submit their selections we run the risk of not having an accurate count of what students are requesting. This may cause a student not to have the opportunity to drop a level or change their schedule because there will be no other course available. This also causes students to be frustrated and discouraged. We try our best to balance student's schedules and give everyone a fair opportunity but it is really up to the students' seriousness and concern with the process. Please be sure to contact the counselor if the student's selection has changed even though the process is over.

It is true that we have cautioned students that if they change their minds in August we will have little choice for them. We have also emphasized our policy on full-year courses. A full-year course does not receive partial credit if a student drops it before it is completed. Therefore students who decide in January they want

to drop a full-year course will receive no credit. Again, being thoughtful in this process is very helpful in sculpting a solid schedule.

March 26th - forms distributed to homerooms, seven period day schedule, teachers' signatures

March 27th – forms due back at HBHS with parent signature

June – tentative schedules distributed

We appreciate your assistance in this process.

Advanced Placement Testing

Advanced Placement Testing will be offered starting the second week in May. The week of March 19th Mrs. Poznanski will visit all the Advanced Placement classes to discuss the tests and the registration process. Information will be placed on the website as well.

The cost of each exam is \$85. Students must have the registration form back to guidance by March 28, 2007. If a student changes his or her mind they will receive a full refund prior to April 1st and a partial refund of \$68 after this time. Any student who for some reason can not take the test on the scheduled day and needs to take a make-up exam will be charged an additional \$40 dollars for the new exam.

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 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.

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.

Senior News

As seniors are coming in to the final phase of the college admission cycle we would like to congratulate all the seniors on their hard work in this process and wish them the very best as they decide where their futures will take them. Please be sure let counselors know all college decisions and any scholarships or merit awards received from schools.

Receipts for Information Sent

Receipts can be picked up in the Guidance Office for information that was sent to colleges. Receipts will be given to the student if they have paid the \$3.00 per school postage fee. Report cards will be held if these fees are not paid.

Final Transcripts

Final transcripts will automatically be sent to the college or university students tell us they will be attending. There is no need to request for this to happen we will take care of this mailing as soon as the final grades are in. This mailing usually goes out by July 1st.

Accepted Student Open Houses

Colleges will be hosting Accepted Student days on their campus' in the spring. This is a great time to see the college through the lens of an accepted student not a potential admission candidate. These days often help students make that final decision. If the college does not host such an event 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. If you have any questions regarding Financial Aid it is important to visit the Financial Aid office as well when you are on campus.

The national deposit date is May 1st. This is a non-negotiable deadline for schools. 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 a 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 waitlist in the admission decision process. Although the college of your choice may be the one you are on the waitlist for be sure to deposit at another school as there is no guarantee the college will use the Waitlist. In fact colleges are using the waitlist less and less.



Financial Aid

If you are struggling to understand your financial aid award a great resource 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.

Scholarships

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

Please check the scholarship section on the Guidance website for updated scholarships on Fridays. Many of the local scholarships have MAY deadlines. These applications can be found in Guidance and your completed applications are often returned to Guidance.

Please remember to fill out a Scholarship Request form if you need supporting documents for your scholarship applications. These include letters of recommendation, transcripts, test scores, etc. If you would like the application packet to be sent with the materials from guidance, please attach your completed applications. If not, we will mail our supporting information separately. A \$1 fee will be charged for us to mail your supporting documents.

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

It is now the juniors turn to get into the college admission frenzy. Counselors are already busy meeting with juniors and their parents discussing options and colleges to visit. With the April vacation on the horizon it may be helpful to start scheduling college visits. 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 they so choose. April vacation is a perfect time to visit college campuses.

College Admission Handbook

The College Admission Handbook has been updated and is available in the Guidance Office. This handbook is a wonderful source of information and has all the forms needed to get through the maze of paperwork students face their senior year. The handbook allows students and parents the opportunity to learn

more about what colleges are looking for, college entrance exams, essay writing, interviews, college visits, NCAA guidelines and financial aid and more. We strongly encourage junior students to have a handbook. Be sure to get a hard copy or look at the online version.

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: 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 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

Please note: SAT Subject Tests are required by a small percentage of school but always by more competitive colleges. Students may want to think about taking these tests at the end of the year of the year they finish the class (i.e.: Accelerated Biology or Precalculus students may want to take the SAT in biology or math at the end of 9th/10th grade).

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 Cntr		6pm, Tues., April 10 th
Pinkerton Academy		
Hackler Gymnasium		6pm, Thurs., April 12 th
Franklin Pierce		
Northfield Activity Cntr		9–11:30am, Fri., May 18th

We are fortunate that these college fairs are available to our students. The fairs are designed to assist students in meeting college representatives and obtaining information. Over 400 colleges from all over the country will participate in The National College Fair. This is a very big fair and very busy it is helpful to

▶ Parent Educational Series 2007

Apr. 4th – **How to Choose a College / Alternative Career Development**
Scott Power, NH Education Assistance Foundation

▶ College or Career?

How do you choose? What is the best fit for my child and his/her future? With college being so expensive how do I choose the right college for my child to attribute to their success? With the ever-changing world we live in, as parents you need to guide your child in making the biggest decision of their young adult lives. Which is the right school? The right environment? Some of us are faced with children who do not want to go to college. How do you as a parent help them decide what career path best suits them?

Lisa Cole from the New Hampshire Education Assistance Foundation will help answer some of your questions regarding options available to your families in making this vital decision. Hollis Brookline PTSA S-Team will sponsor this educational workshop, free and open to anyone in the community, on Wednesday, April 4th, at 7 p.m., at the Hollis Brookline High School. For more information you may contact Pat Marquette at 673-1957.

▶ 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.



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!



plan on staying for the entire time just to get around to all the colleges. The other fair that students and parents are encouraged to attend is the Southern New Hampshire Spring College Fair held at Pinkerton Academy. The date of this fair is April 12th at 6pm. Parking is at a premium at Pinkerton so it is best to get to the fair prior to 6pm. 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 the college brochures and printed mailing labels to put on cards that the college representatives will ask students to fill out. This is a great opportunity to explore several colleges at one site.

Exciting News

This year we are very excited to announce that the Guidance Office in conjunction with Nashua South High School will be hosting a mini college fair during the day on April 12th. The colleges will be going to Nashua South in the early morning and then will be setting up here for later in the school day. We have 60 college registered to come to our school. The hours of the fair are 11:30 am.-2:00 pm. Parents are more than welcomed to attend.

College Admission 101

This program will be available to parents in on May 5th from 8:30 – 11:30 am. We will discuss admission criteria, what colleges look for in a candidate and actually evaluate some transcripts as admission offices do. Space is limited to 30 people please reserve your space with Mrs. Noel at 465-2269 x128.

Sophomore News

Any sophomore student who participated in the PSAT testing and has not received their scores please see your counselor as soon as possible. *It is important for accelerated students to consider taking the SAT Subject tests at the end of their sophomore year. Please see the section on SAT testing in this newsletter.*

Counselors will be meeting sophomore students in their classes starting in late April to discuss future planning.

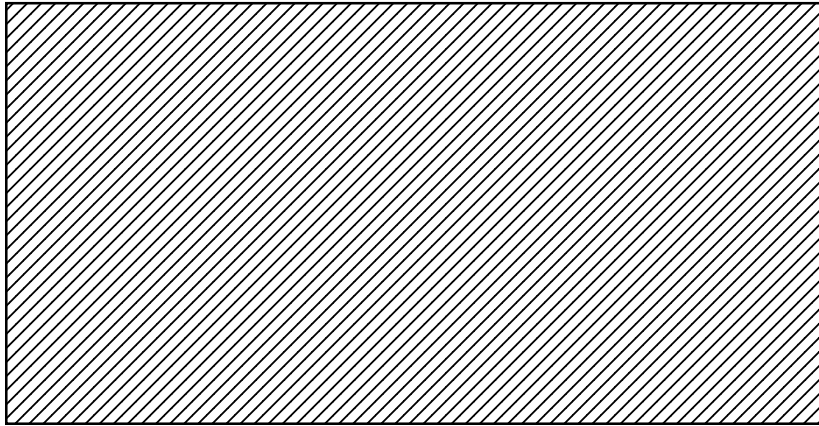


Please be sure to check our website and read the daily notices (www.hbhs.k12.nh.us) for all new information. We try to update both these sources of information on a weekly and sometimes daily basis.

Hollis Brookline High School
24 Cavalier Court
Hollis, NH 03049

MARCH 2007

BULK RATE
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The Book Brunch Bunch will be holding another used book sale this spring. We welcome your donations of any adult or children's books in good condition.

► Book Club



The HBHS library has recently purchased four sets of reference books in e-book format available in full text via the HBHS library web page. These are titles that we also own in print form, and they are valuable science and social studies resources. We hope to add to our e-book collection in the coming year.

► Library News

The Hollis Woman's Club will award two scholarships in June. Students who are male or female high school seniors residing in Hollis or Brookline are invited to apply. A scholarship for \$1000 will be awarded to a student who will attend a four year college or university. A \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to a student who will attend a vocational program. Those planning on attending a certificate program may apply for the vocational scholarship. These scholarships are funded by the members of the Hollis Woman's Club through annual events such as the Strawberry and Apple Festivals. Applications are available in the guidance department at Hollis Brookline High School. The application deadline is Tuesday, May 1, 2007.



► Hollis Women's Club Scholarship