



MAY
2007

Hollis Brookline High School

► **Some Thoughts from the Principal**

As another school year comes to a close, this marks the last newsletter of 2006-07. Many end-of-the-year events are quickly approaching. The senior prom will be held on May 25th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua. Graduation plans are in the works, a schedule of events has been posted on the school web site and mailed to parents of seniors. Dates to remember include: Senior Class trip to Cape Cod - June 5th & 6th, Senior Scholarship and Awards Night – June 7th, Graduation – June 9th and Boston Harbor Cruise – June 9th. Other end of the year activities include the spring play “Noises Off” - May 18th & 19th; Field Day – May 24th, Underclass Awards Day “Class Day” – June 5th, and Sports Awards night – June 12th. There is also a teacher workshop day scheduled for May 25th, which means no school for students. Final Exams for grades 9 – 11 are scheduled for June 14, 15, 18 and 19 with the last day of school June 20th.

Our students continue to be recognized for their accomplishments. The following students were named by the State of New Hampshire as Granite State Scholars in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement: Natalie Basile, Christopher Berlind, Trevor Buteau, Kate Cappetta, Henry Cone-Roddy, Devan Cote, Kalie DelSignore, Katharine Duffy, Michelle Filer, Dara Fisher, Eamon Fogarty, Anna Griem, Suzanne Grossman, Allison Huberlie and Elizabeth Kalenik.

At a recent PTSA meeting I was asked about the status and expectations of Field Day and it was requested that this topic be addressed in the newsletter. While many question the importance of a day being taken away from academics, others feel that the day serves to develop school spirit and it has long been a tradition here at Hollis Brookline High School. Last year I observed my first field day and while I very much appreciate the importance of developing school pride and spirit, it was obvious that the day lacked optimal participation and organization on the part of the students. As the school year began, many staff called for a reexamination of the day and I asked a group of faculty members to gather input and make a recommendation at the end of first semester. This year Field Day will take place on May 24th, with regular classes meeting for the first three periods, followed by field day activities. It was also recommended that Field Day be moved to the fall next year where it will meet the goal of building school spirit earlier in the school year. It is hoped that with a reduction in the day, it will be better organized. Student attendance and participation will also be evaluated to determine if the tradition will continue in future years.

As one year comes to a close, we find ourselves busy planning for next year. The 8th Grade Fair is scheduled for Wednesday May 30th from 6:30 – 8:00pm. During the evening we will showcase our building and all the exciting things that go on here. The guidance department is a busy place as counselors put the finishing touches on the

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► **A Message from the PTSA**

It has been a busy Spring thus far and it doesn't look it is about to slow down. Elections were held at the May 10th meeting. Your PTSA Officers for next year are:

Co-President: Erin Magee

Co-President: Trish MacDonald

Vice-President/Volunteer Coordinator: Open

Secretary: Marsha Cone-Roddy

Treasurer: Dianne Bonta

Congratulations to these ladies!! If anyone is interested in the Open position for Vice-President/Volunteer Coordinator, please contact Donna Cormier at 465-2726.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Lex Bundschuh for all her years of service on the Executive Board of the HBHS PTSA.

Jill Russell and her garden crew have been hard at work trying to get grass and plants in before graduation. If you have a green thumb and would like to help out, please contact Jill at 672-0409. Thanks to Jill and Marie DeGulis for all their hard work with this monumental project.

The 3rd Annual Walk For Mental Health will be held on Saturday, June 16th at the Nichols Field Track from 9 a.m. until Noon. Devin MacDonald, a Freshmen, began this Walk a 7th Grader to help banish the stigma of mental illness and raise funds for local agencies. Money has been donated to NAMI and the Area Council the past two years. The Walk is being coordinated by Devin and Mrs. Christine Heaton from the High School as well as Ms. Christy and Kelsey Berry from the Middle School. If you would like more information, you can contact Ms. Christy at the Middle School at 465-2223 or Trish MacDonald at 465-2898. We encourage everyone to support this wonderful effort.

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon was held on Tuesday, May 8th. A Spring theme had salads, sandwiches, and desserts to feed the Staff. The food was delicious and greatly appreciated by the teachers and staff of the HBHS. Thanks to Kathy Trasatti, Lisa Fait, Lisa Schmalz, and Kristen Berry for coordinating this terrific effort. Thanks to all of you who provided the incredibly delicious food!!!

Our final meeting for the 2006-2007 school year will be held on Thursday, June 14th at 7:00 p.m. The destination for this meeting will be either Shorty's Restaurant in Nashua or Erin Magee's home in Hollis. We will post the destination on the website as soon as it is determined.

Co-Presidents:

Lex Bundschuh UNOFAM@aol.com 465-3142

Trish MacDonald trish_macdonald@charter.net 465-2898

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

college selection process for seniors while reminding them that their acceptances are based on a strong academic finish to their senior year. As one group moves on another takes its place, on Saturday May 5th, our guidance director, Ms. Brenda Poznanski, ran a college application workshop for parents of juniors. This is one of many such programs that the department is running to familiarize parents with this process. We anticipate distributing tentative schedules to students in early June. The faculty has requested that an adjustment be made to the period schedule next year in order to provide a more consistent plan to each day. Next year all seven periods will meet on Monday and Friday each week with each class running for approximately 54 minutes. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday five classes will meet each day with four of them running for approximately 81 minutes. The rotations will remain the same and there is no change in the number of periods each week or in total classroom contact time. The adjustment was endorsed by the school board as well as the Instructional Practices Committee. We will continue to work with our teaching staff to provide opportunities to develop strategies for maximizing the opportunities provided with the extended instructional periods. An extensive array of workshop opportunities was offered this year and we will continue in these efforts during the summer months and throughout next year.

Beginning this summer, from July 1st through August 14th, the main office of the high school will be on a reduced schedule. A receptionist will be on duty and the building will be open to the public, Monday – Thursday from 8am to 12noon. We will resume regular hours for the school year on August 15th.

This marks the end of my second year as principal of Hollis Brookline and the school remains a special place due to the wonderful kids, a dedicated and hard working staff and a supportive SAU, school board and community. The PTSA organization is a wonderful resource and this newsletter has been an invaluable communication tool between the school and your homes. My thanks to the many volunteers who make it possible for this publication to arrive in your mailbox each month. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to work with your children each day. I look forward to next year and wish you and your families a restful, safe and enjoyable summer.

Timothy Kelley, Principal

The Cavalier Chronicle

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

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

H/B Athletic Booster Club News

The Hollis/Brookline Athletic Booster Club would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who came and participated in our first annual DATING GAME EVENT! Considering we pulled it together quickly we are very pleased with the out come and can imagine it will be the talk of school next spring when we plan to it all over again! As we end this year we want everyone to know how grateful we are to be involved with our kids and the staff at the high school. With that said I am pleased to announce and share the new officers for the 2007-2008 school year to all of you. I will continue to be active but in the background. Please plan to attend our meetings throughout the summer. Our next big event is the Golf Tournament and we can use all the sponsorship, and volunteers we can get! Have a great summer and Congratulations to the Class of 2007!

Incoming officers:

President - Dan Lyons 673-5753

Vice President - Eileen Kelly 465-6755

Treasurer - Sue Neirendorf

Secretary - Maggie Kerkhoff

Trustee - Karen Sousa

Have a great summer!

Joyce O'Connor

H/B Athletic Booster Club President

joc4936@yahoo.com

► **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.



► **Library News**

Everyone is encouraged to check books out of the HBHS Library for summer reading. Patrons may borrow up to 10 books to read during the summer months and return in September. Check out summer reading suggestions on the library web page.



Guidance News



Note from the Director

I guess I say this every year at the end of school but I am always astounded at how quickly the school year goes by. As I think about the close of the school year I feel it is important to reflect on what has happened in the guidance department.

Again, this year was one of change and new faces. We welcomed Mrs. Futrell, Mrs. Demarest, Mrs. Erskine and Ms. Catharine to our department as a counselor, school to career coordinator, 504 coordinator and graduate intern respectively. All four professionals have been wonderful additions to our staff and their enthusiasm, ideas, professionalism and commitment to students has made a huge impact on the work we do with our students. Their effort has been exceptional and we are lucky to have them all associated with the guidance department.

Our goals this year were to improve communication with our students, parents, faculty and staff, streamline the college admission process, work to improve the course registration process, and implement features of the new computer system.

Clearly communication is a big concern as we are always focused on getting to know our students and working effectively with them. With this in mind we launched a new computer system last summer to help communicate students' academic progress and achievement more effectively to students, parents and colleges. If anyone has ever gone through a computer conversion you know how time intensive and frustrating it can be, however we did get through the worst of it somewhat unscathed and the results have been terrific. Thanks to the monumental efforts of Mrs. Graff, Mr. Field, Mr. Quinn and Mr. Raymond we have a new report card, progress report, and transcript system in place. Not only are the new processes designed to give parents more accurate information regarding their student's progress and success but the new transcript is a more precise and detailed description of students' overall academic record at Hollis Brookline High School. This new system also allowed us to fine tune the course selection and scheduling process. We were more effective with dropping and adding courses and balancing schedules for all students.

As many of you are aware one of our big achievements was the on-line registration process. With the help of Mr. Boucher and Mr. Raymond it was a huge success. Students, parents, teachers and counselors all worked well in getting the information into the system and allowing for a program that we are still reaping the benefits from. The automated system helped us work more effectively on course selections and make schedules for students that fit their academic needs. The tentative schedules will be out in early June.

As we started to review our college admission program last year we continued, this year, to tweak how we counsel students and families, what we send to colleges, our handbook, information nights and preparation for senior year. One big change this year was in requiring all juniors to take the PSAT. This was the first time all juniors took the PSAT as they were optional for students previously. Doing this allowed counselors to meet with juniors individually to go over their scores, graduation requirements and

jump start the college conversation in early January. Some other college admission activities were:

- developed a new school profile
- sent receipt cards to colleges to ensure information was received
- college fair on campus (cancelled because of snowL but we were ready to go)
- visited all senior classes in early fall to discuss the application process
- Edited and improved the college handbook
- Revisited and enhanced junior and senior college Information nights
- Visited junior classes earlier in the spring to discuss college admissions
- Offered "College Admission 101" for parents again this year

Increasing our visibility and contact with students to get to know them better is an ongoing goal. This year the following activities gave us the opportunity to see our students beyond our office walls.

- visited freshman wellness classes in the fall and spring to discuss transitioning to high school and goal setting
- visited sophomore classes to discuss future planning, careers, college and academics
- visited all classes including the 8th grades to discuss courses selection and the new online registration process
- article in each edition of the student newspaper highlighting what was going on in guidance
- visiting classes about ASVAB and AP testing

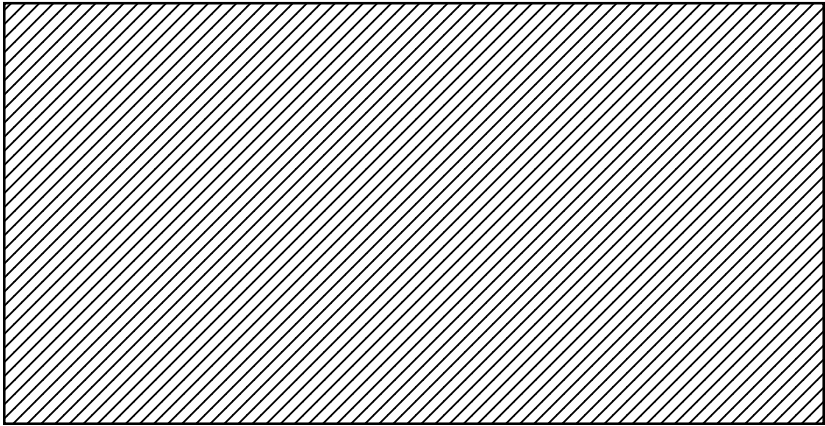
Communication with faculty and staff is also vitally important for the success of our work with students. To this end we implemented new initiatives to help our already very positive communication with faculty and staff to become even better.

- quarterly newsletters to the staff letting them know what guidance was doing
- quarterly meeting with the Special Education Department to work on communication and student needs
- attendance and membership on key committees throughout the school so that guidance will be informed and heard
- closely working with department chair people regarding course selections
- In-service day presentation to faculty and staff on Bullying and Harrassment

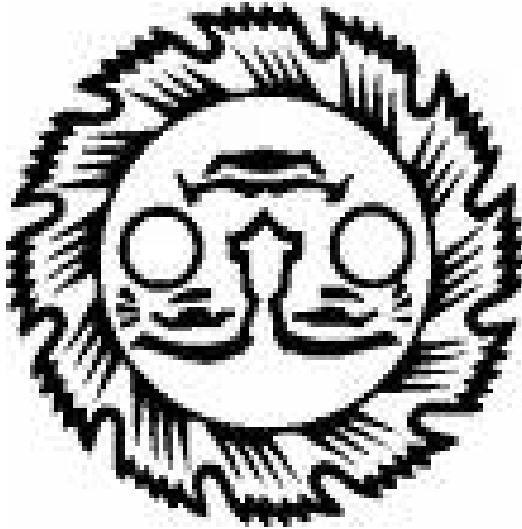
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Visit the PTSA at
www.hbhs.k12.nh.us/ptsa
where you'll find a list of officers & committees
Back issues of newsletters PTSA meeting
minutes and so more!



**ENJOY YOUR
SUMMER!**