



Hollis Brookline High School

October 14, 2009
www.hbhs.k12.nh.us

Some thoughts from the Principal ...

As many of you are aware, our High School has had its fair share of negative publicity of late. I would like to assure everyone that our priority remains that students at Hollis Brookline High School will be educated in a safe, secure and productive environment. As Principal, I take the communication of information to the community very seriously and ensure that it is done in a responsible and accurate manner. It is in this way that we can build and maintain the trust of our community. Recently we have utilized the Alert Now system to communicate electronically and quickly with families, which means that we must have accurate email addresses for the families of our students. I understand that this form of communication cannot be overused in this age of spam cluttering up mailboxes. It is hoped that by providing accurate information to families, this will provide the opportunity for you to have meaningful conversations at home. We appreciate your words of support and will listen and take seriously your suggestions and criticisms. As Principal, I make many decisions throughout the day, and it remains my practice to do that which is in the best interest of the students first, and to ensure that their educational experience is safe and productive.

On October 6th – 8th our Juniors took the NECAP statewide assessment in Writing, Reading and Mathematics. There is a Science component of the test that will be administered next spring. The results will be used to measure our school's Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) as determined by the No Child Left Behind Act. Additionally, on October 14th the Junior class will take the PSAT test during the school day. This test is also available for sophomores on a first-come basis at a cost of \$15.00. The test is free to Juniors and is offered during the day as a means to assist students in their college planning, prepare them for the SATs, and to provide more of an opportunity to participate in the National Merit Scholarship program. Over 8000 students in New Hampshire participated in the PSAT program last fall, and so few are chosen as semifinalists that schools are lucky to have just one scholar named. We are proud to announce that Hollis Brookline has three National Merit Semifinalists this year: Rachael Filer, Tamara Liu and Kayleigh Ryherd. In addition, this past week, we received word that an additional twelve current Seniors have been honored as National Merit Program Commended Scholars. They are Kristopher Brown, Emily Davis, Zacory Kobylarz, Leigh Kowalski, Brian Litchfield, Alyssa Lovas, Trevor Neirendorf, Joseph Perricone, Kyle Pucci, Chiara Secules, Hannah Trasatti and Zifan Yang.

On Wednesday, October 14th, while all Juniors and some Sophomores will be taking the PSAT exams for the first three hours of the day, our Seniors will be working with the underclassmen as a continuation of our Seniors as Leaders Together (SaLT) initiative. The class of 2010 will be moderating small group discussions with the underclassmen under teacher supervision, following the viewing of the movie "Pay it Forward", a film about doing good works for others to repay the good that has happened to you. The film is part of the Wellness curriculum and provides an opportunity for our Seniors to pay their leadership forward and to work with underclassmen in the hopes of making their school and community a better place. Following the film/discussion and PSAT testing, we will resume our regular Wednesday classes. This is considered a full school day for all students.

On the evening of October 2nd, 24 of our students were inducted into the National Honor Society. The wonderful evening was organized by members, officers and the advisors, Ms. Roy and Mr. Huckins. The event, held in the auditorium, was highlighted by an address by Superintendent Susan Hodgdon.

Recently, we were made aware of the achievements of our students with respect to the Advanced Placement testing. Last spring, 298 Advanced Placements tests were administered to our students. This statistic alone may result in our again being cited on Newsweek's list of top high schools in the country. While the number taking the tests is important, we are more interested in the actual results and are pleased to announce that our students have again done remarkably well due their hard work and talented instructors. Eighty of our students achieved a perfect score on AP tests, including English (25); US History (7); Calculus (8); Chemistry (20); Computer Science (3); Biology (6) and Statistics (8).

Not all of next year's Seniors have taken the SAT tests, but the scores are in from those that took the exams in the spring along with individual subject tests. The results get better each year; already 10 of our Seniors have earned a perfect 800 score on one of their SAT tests (Critical Reading, Math or Writing) and 6 earned an 800 on a subject exam, 4 of these 6 are actually underclassmen. In addition, two of our students, Kristopher Brown and Benjamin Garcia, have been named by the College Board as finalists in the National Hispanic Recognition Program.

School spirit is alive and well with the success of our athletic teams, the first-ever bonfire held October 2nd, which was held prior to the Homecoming dance, and the first home night football game, held under temporary lights on October 9th. Our fall concert is scheduled on Wednesday October 21st, the annual Physics-Catapult / Halloween / Pep Rally Day October 30th, Veteran's day Assembly November 10th and Fall Sports Awards Night on November 10th as well.

In closing, and in light of all that has happened since the beginning of the school year, I believe strongly that this current collection of students and staff is the most talented and enjoyable group that I have had the privilege of working with. As parents, you should be proud of the accomplishments of your children, and we are thankful for your continued support.

Tim Kelley

A Note from your PTSA

Co-Presidents:

As students and teachers settled into their fall routines, so has the PTSA organized their activities for this season. Our Old Home Days booth experienced great success with the running of the booth by smiling high school students and wonderful parent volunteers from the middle and high school PTSAs. Each school earned about \$500 for enrichment and project funds.

We are now getting ready to get our student directories delivered as well as we are organizing our Fall Staff Appreciation event for our educators and HBHS staff. We will be asking volunteers for baked goods and items for the teachers as they stay at school for parent-teacher conferences on Nov. 19th. If you'd like to contribute, please contact Kristen Berry, 465-7447, or Sole Hawekotte, 465-9611.

Our Parent Education series begins this year with a speaker on Oct. 14th, at 7pm. Sandra O'Keefe will be talking about "Nutrition and Your Teen". And next month, Nov 4th, 7pm, Gayle Van Ark from the Center for Preventative Medicine, will be helping us understand how teenagers cope with life based on how their neurotransmitters are firing!

Our HBHS PTSA will continue to attend the Co-op School Board and Budget Committee meetings so we can report to our membership at the monthly meetings. Big discussions ongoing include the budget and how our schools as well as our town districts can consolidate purchasing and planning to reduce costs. We encourage all parents to attend to become informed on the issues. Our communities care deeply about our children's' education but also about their pocketbooks. Please join us as we participate in this government of ours.

The next HBHS PTSA meeting will be November 12, 8:30am in the HBHS cafeteria. See you there!

Sincerely, your Co-Presidents,

Marie Degulis MarieDegulis@yahoo.com 673-3855

Jill Russell Russell33@charter.net 620-2825

HBHS Athletic Booster Club

Mark Your Calendars!!

Many of our teams are finishing up their seasons and we are in the process of planning our Fall Sports Awards Night. We will be celebrating our Fall athletes on November 10th, so mark your calendars and join us. We will be holding the ceremony in the gym again to accommodate the large number of fall athletes and their families.

If you have taken any pictures and would like to share these during the slide show, please put them on a disc and deliver them to Mr. Rupp in the Athletic Office. We will need to have these by November 2nd in order to give John Filer time to put it all together. A huge thanks to John for helping us out yet again!

We are still looking for more people to participate in the Booster Club. Please join us for our November meeting on Wednesday, November 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Guidance Office Conference Room. This is a departure from our regular second Wednesday of the month due to the November 11th holiday. Please join us!

Go Cavs!!

Trish MacDonald, President

Hollis Brookline Athletic Booster Club

Trish_macdonald@charter.net



Hollis Woman's Club News

The Annual Hollis Hoedown will be held once again at the Lawrence Barn on **Saturday, November 21st** from 6:30-9:30pm! There will be live music for dancing as well as renown 'caller' Frank Woodward. Kids 6th grade and younger who dress in 'country' costume will be entered in our contest for prizes. This is a great family event and very popular last year! Spread the word and join the fun - all ages welcome. Tickets are available now by emailing hollishoedown@gmail.com or calling Jeanne Cleveland at 465-2097. Adults are \$15, teen 13-19 \$10, children 4-11 \$5, free ages 3 and under. Sponsored by the Hollis Woman's Club.

HBHS Library News

On Thurs, Nov., 12th at 8:30, the PTSA will meet in the HBHS library for an overview of databases and ebooks available for research from on and off campus. Please join us for an informative session that could change the way your child does research.

Barb Boucher

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 1Q09 AT HBHS

Oct. 21	HBHS Fall Concert
Oct. 22	Best of Souhegan Expo— 11am-7:30pm @ Hampshire Dome, Milford
Oct. 30	Catapult/Halloween/Pep Rally Day at HBHS
Nov. 4	HBHS Athletic Booster Club Meeting — Guidance Dept. Conference Room
Nov. 4	Parent Ed. Series presents Gal Van Ark, Center for Preventative Medicine
Nov. 6	1st quarter ends
Nov. 10	Veteran's Day Assembly
Nov. 10	Fall Sports Awards Night — HBHS Gymnasium
Nov. 11	Veterans Day—NO SCHOOL
Nov. 12	PTSA Meeting—HBHS Cafeteria
Nov. 18	HOBY Application Deadline
Nov. 21	Annual Hollis Hoedown — Lawrence Barn 6:30-9:30pm
Nov. 25	NO SCHOOL-Teacher Workday
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 3	6:30pm Financial Aid Night HBHS Auditorium

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 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 call 465-2269 for more information.



Visit your PTSA at

www.hbhs.k12.nh.us/parents/ptsa, where
you'll find the list of officers & committees,
back issues of newsletters, and much more!

From Your Guidance Department

Well there is no doubt that this has been an unusual Fall. It is unfortunate that, in the beginning of the school year, HBHS has been faced with continual sad news. Please know that the Guidance department always prioritizes the education of the students in the building. We offer supportive services to assist students when events are tragic or so overwhelming that they begin to interfere with the educational process. We also hope we serve as models to promote conversation, identification and processing of feelings in a safe environment. That being said, we continue to thank the parents of this community who in conjunction with us, help us best assist the students in this school so they may ultimately reach the glory days of their senior year and joy in defining their life goals! So let us share with you the events and programs that we have provided during the month of September and inform you of upcoming guidance events and activities.

The College Application Process is in full swing. We have hosted our evening Parent/Student College Presentation and have met in small groups with the seniors. We have explained the Common Application in some detail and still stand by ready to answer any questions that may surface. HBHS students have taken advantage of the numerous college admission representatives we have had the pleasure to host at our school. These college visits offer a wonderful opportunity to ask school-specific or academic questions from the admissions representative that most likely will be the first to review your application.

Senior News

Deadlines and Important Supplemental Information:

One of the most difficult components of the college admissions process is the various deadlines and protocols that are attached to each individual school. No longer is one answer applicable. This means researching each school individually and storing the information in an organized way for retrieval. One point we can emphasize is that deadlines are strictly adhered to. Some colleges will cite a 'receipt' deadline, while others adhere to a 'postmarked' deadline. Common sense dictates to never leave this important application to last-minute chance. Early Action or Early Decision deadlines are usually November 1st or November 15th, which means that the guidance department should receive the student's *College Supporting Documentation Form* (pink) by October 9th and October 23rd respectively for each college to which they are applying. Also, please provide your counselor any *school report form* required by the college. The Common Application also has a school report form that is an integral component of the application. A charge of \$3.00 per school application is charged to cover the cost of the continual mailings we will complete throughout the school year.

Postcards and Receipts:

Counselors include a postage paid postcard with each college application packet sent. Colleges, upon receipt, sign and return this card to us providing us with information that the packet has arrived safely. Please remember that large universities can take many weeks in the sorting and delivering of information into your individual file. HBHS students will also receive a receipt from their counselor indicating the specific information sent to each school. These packets typically contain the school profile,

transcript, counselor letter of recommendation and supplemental form; teacher letters of recommendation and supplemental form; and any other supporting information desired by the college or student. First quarter grades will be sent for every application with an early action or early decision deadline, and mid-year grades will be sent with every student's application.

SAT/ACT Scores

Please remember that the SAT and ACT scores must be sent to the specific college by the Educational Testing Service in order to be considered official. The SAT scores can be sent through www.collegeboard.com and the ACT scores through www.act.org

Financial Aid Night

The Financial Aid Presentation will take place on Thursday, December 3rd at 6:30 in the high school auditorium. It is very important for parents to attend this informative evening. This is a time-sensitive date since the FAFSA form cannot be submitted until January 1st. This presentation will also cover information on the CSS Profile. It is important and helpful for parents to check the financial aid requirements for each school their child is applying to. Some private colleges require the CSS Profile, and this is accessed through www.collegeboard.com. Check with colleges to ensure you are sending the correct information in a timely manner.

Another great source of information for financial aid is the NHHEAF organization in Concord. You may contact NHHEAF at 1-800-525-2577 and online at www.nhheaf.org for free day and evening appointments.

Scholarships

The HBHS Guidance website will update new scholarship opportunities for students on a regular basis. Please be sure to check the website for a listing of available scholarships. Local scholarships are more abundant after the new year, but national scholarships are available now. Students should also submit a *scholarship transcript request form* found in Guidance for any application that needs supplemental information. These forms can be found in the Guidance office.

NCAA

Do not forget to register with the NCAA if you are planning on participating in college sports. This is done at www.ncaaclearinghouse.org. Initial and Final Release Forms should be downloaded and brought to Guidance so preliminary and final transcripts can be sent to NCAA. SAT scores will also need to be sent to NCAA from the ETS.

PSAT

All juniors will take the PSAT exam on Wednesday, October 14th. This exam will begin by 7:15 and run approximately 3 hours. This is a great opportunity for students to compile information that will be helpful in the college application process. Although college admissions consists of many factors, including transcripts, recommendations, and extra curricular activities, there is no denying that many schools carefully utilize standardized testing. Early results will allow students to prepare for their SAT exams, which we recommended taking before the end of their junior year.

From Your Guidance Department—Cont'd **College Fair**

Nashua High School North is hosting a college fair Monday, November 2nd. This fair helps students see the incredible opportunities that lie ahead of them as over 200 colleges participate in this event. We recommend that while at the fair you fill out the various college postcards to receive lots of additional information about these schools.

SAT/ACT Services for Students with Disabilities

Students who need testing accommodations for these tests are strongly encouraged to discuss this process with their case managers as soon as possible to ensure the accommodations are available for testing.

Upcoming test dates and test registration deadlines can be found on the College Board and ACT websites.

www.collegeboard.com

www.act.org

Sophomore News

PSAT

Sophomore students are invited to take the PSAT on Wednesday October 14th. There will be a \$15.00 fee for this exam. Once again, students who are in accelerated classes and/or want practice with standardized testing may benefit from this practice exam.

HOBY Scholarship

Students are now eligible to apply for the HOBY scholarship. Information about HOBY is outlined below.

Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar:

This seminar brings together a select group of high school sophomores who have demonstrated leadership ability. Students will interact with groups of distinguished leaders in business, government, education, and other professions to discuss present and future issues. One sophomore will be selected from HBHS to attend the HOBY Leadership Seminar in NH. The student will be selected based on their leadership ability, sensitivity to others, and desire to communicate their knowledge to peers.

Some of the positive outcomes of participating in a HOBY program include:

- **Superior critical thinking skills.** By presenting multiple viewpoints on important issues, HOBY encourages participants to evaluate all issues from a critical perspective.
- **Enhanced leadership skills.** HOBY's question-and-answer format, small group discussions, hands-on service learning experiences, and leadership role exercises enable participants to better understand leadership and begin to identify their own particular leadership strengths.
- **Better understanding of the democratic process.** Discussions on democracy, free enterprise, volunteerism and community service are facilitated during HOBY.
- **Improved goal-setting skills.** All aspects of HOBY are geared to encourage the participants to see leadership as a life goal worth pursuing. During the programs, participants are encouraged to identify personal goals and make a commitment to achieve one or more within the six months that follow.

• **Realizing the importance of leadership.** All HOBY participants are challenged to complete a minimum of 100 hours of volunteer service annually. HOBY's [Leadership for Service](#) curriculum element encourages young adults to

give back through community service.

Students interested in attending the HOBY Leadership Seminar must write a one-page essay. Application deadline is November 18th. More information is available in the Guidance Office or email Kerry Gangemi at gangemik@sau41.k12.nh.us.

Freshman News

School counselors visited with freshman students this month in their Wellness classes. Our primary goal was to get acquainted with our new students, but we were also able to do a fun activity that allowed us to gather information about their interests and activities. We reviewed our role as counselors and how to make Guidance appointments. We also discussed factors to be mindful of now, such as discipline history and extracurricular activities, as they play a large role down the road when completing college applications. We were incredibly impressed with the respect, interest and enthusiasm the students displayed. We are truly happy to have spent time with them and we will be returning later in the year with more activities and information.

News from the Student Assistance Program!

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) provides confidential services for students whose personal concerns may be affecting their academic performance or behavior at school. Students are encouraged to use the SAP program for help with family problems, emotional concerns, peer issues, and alcohol or drug abuse. Many students are referred to the program through a friend, teacher, counselor or parent. The program offers assessment, referral, supportive and group offerings. For more information, please contact Cathy Cray at 465-2269 x.122.

Career Services News

Internship Opportunities

Internships are a great way for juniors and seniors to explore career interests. It is time to start planning for second semester internships. There are many opportunities available to accommodate a wide variety of interests including business, politics, communication, manufacturing, and education. Interested students should make an appointment with Mrs. Sullivan in the Guidance Office to begin the process.

The Best of Souhegan Expo

The Southern NH Career and Business Expo will take place on Thursday, October 22, at the Hampshire Dome starting at 11:00 am. Students who attend this Career Fair will have the opportunity to participate in two 20-minute career-related workshops and visit booths representing more than 150 local organizations and business leaders. The Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce has created a "scavenger hunt" designed to assist students with engaging exhibitors in conversation. Once completed, students will be entered in a drawing to win four scholarships. Interested HBHS students will attend the Expo during the school day. However, this event is open to the public from 11am to 7:30 pm. For more information please contact Julie Sullivan at sullivanj@sau41.k12.nh.us

Hollis PTA 3rd Annual Auction!



This year ****online only****
and
in time for the holidays!

Items can be viewed starting in October at
www.hollisptauction.com

Mark the dates in your calendar:

Online bidding from December 6 – 13th
(Distribution of items on December 15th)

***Great Opportunity to buy holiday gifts AND
support the Hollis Elementary Schools at the same time!***

If you have items you'd like to donate or would like to be a family or business sponsor,
download forms at www.hollisptauction.com or email hollisptauction@yahoo.com

The auction is the Hollis Elementary School PTA's largest fundraising event each year.

**Proud sponsors of the
Hollis PTA 2009 Holiday Auction**

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