

CCHS NEWSLETTER

(Published by CCHS and the CCHS Parents' Association)

Volume 22 – Number 6

FEBRUARY 2005



PARENT ASSOCIATION

The first semester is over and our students have completed their mid-term exams, winter sports are in full swing, rehearsals for the musical are underway and many are eagerly anticipating the February break for travel or just a change of pace (and a chance to sleep in!)

Remember, on Wednesday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the CCHS Auditorium the Concord-Carlisle Alliance for Teen Safety is sponsoring a Forum on Teen Suicide and Depression. The keynote speaker will be Gail Griffith, author of a book about her family's personal and powerful experience with the attempted suicide of a son. It is called "Will's Choice: A Suicidal Teen, a Desperate Mother, and a Chronicle of Recovery", and it will be released in May 2005. Gail will be preceded by Boston Globe Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Eileen McNamara, whose November 28 column, entitled "Our Silence is Fatal Flaw", about the unrelated suicides of three teens in Wellesley and Needham, has touched a raw nerve for suburban Boston. If you would like any additional information, please contact Barbara Howland, Executive Director for Alliance for Teen Safety at cc4youth@colonial.net or 978-835-2729.

If this newsletter reaches you before the end of January, this is a reminder that the Summer Opportunities Fair will take place on Monday, January 31st from 5:30 to 8:30 in the CCHS Cafeteria. This event is free and open to all in the community. This year's Fair produced over \$6500 in revenue which is used for faculty grants. Congratulations to the Committee on a job well done.

The Positive Youth Development "40 Developmental Assets" surveys that our students completed earlier this year have been compiled and the results will be returned to us very soon. These surveys seek to determine how many of the factors in a young person's life identified as "assets" are present for the youth of our community and will help us to determine future actions, policies and programs aimed at increasing these assets in our youth. Presentations of the information will take place in various forums - watch for dates and times to be announced.

The Senior Safari committee is well underway with plans for this year's all night graduation party. This amazing event takes many volunteers to succeed and is enjoyed by nearly all of the graduating seniors each year. If you would like to help out, please contact committee chairs Christine Corr at 978-369-8479 or Carol Smith at 978-369-6960.

I want to thank Anne Wagner for her dedication in editing and sending out the Friday "Chit Chat" each week. This Friday update can only be as complete as the information provided to be included. To have something included, please send it to cchschitchat@comcast.net. Please, NO PHONE CALLS. Items must be submitted in writing, must be sent by NOON on THURSDAY, must be school related, and are subject to editing. Late submissions and submissions by phone will not be accepted.

This is my second and final year as the PA President and the Nominations Committee is already at work seeking to fill this position and several others due to parents "graduating" or moving on to other responsibilities. (Lisa Betancourt, the current Vice President, is willing to serve as co-President but needs a partner). In order to provide a smooth transition, it would be very helpful to identify anyone interested in serving on the PA Executive Board or any committee as soon as possible. There are many ways to help out and if you have an interest in getting more involved or can think of someone who might be willing to take on one of these jobs, please call any of the PA Executive Board or the Nominating Committee members (listed in your "Connections" directory).

If you are reading this, you are on the e-mail distribution list. If you have friends who are not getting information from CCHS because they are not signed up, please share information with them and encourage them to get on this list. To sign up they need to go to www.lists.ptg-concord.org/mailman/listinfo and follow the instructions. They will need their student's ID number to sign up.

We still have a number of copies of Connections (the student directory) which were paid for but not picked up on Back to School Night in September. These can be collected from Mrs. Hammer in the main office before 12:30 any day. If you need an extra copy, we have a few available at \$5 per copy.

Don't forget the Principal's coffee which will be held on February 7th at 8:30 a.m. in A-7. The next PA meeting will also be on February 7th at 7:30 p.m. in the library (please note the change from our usual second Monday - we wanted to avoid meeting on Valentine's Day!)

Have a great February break and, as always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns that the PA can address.

Diane Payne
PA President
978-287-5031

PA MEETING/COFFEE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

The PA meeting which was scheduled for January 10 is rescheduled. The next meeting/coffee will be on Monday, February 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library (please note that this is a change from the previously announced date of February 14). If you have any matters to bring to the attention of the PA, please call Diane Campbell Payne at 978-287-5031. Thank you.

NOTES FROM ART DULONG



During the next few weeks and months you will be hearing about the 2004 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) which was administered last spring to seven school districts in the area including Concord and Concord-Carlisle. The Emerson Hospital works closely with schools as they create the survey and tabulate the results. The survey is actually based on one created by the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Emerson Hospital considers the information critical to their long range and short range planning as they address the variety of health issues mentioned in the survey. The schools consider the information critical as they create and recreate the health programs offered to students of all ages. The information is reported for individual schools and for each school in relation to a similar state survey and in relation to the other schools in the Emerson survey (the aggregate). There will be an open meeting at CCHS (date and time to be determined) to present the recent findings and open the topics for discussion. However, at this point I am going to offer you a few of the highlights regarding the CCHS results.

In general we can see that the messages we promote through our Health programs are having positive results, usually. Taken over time more students are wearing seatbelts and fewer students are driving after drinking. Fewer students are using tobacco products, alcohol, or illegal drugs. Fewer students are having suicidal thoughts. Somewhat disappointingly, the sexual behavior has remained constant. When we compare ourselves to the state results or the aggregate results we compare favorably in almost every case, including every area mentioned above. However, there are two comparisons that I find particularly problematic. One relates to weapons, defined as knives, guns, or clubs. Approximately 6% of our students report having brought a weapon to school during the 30 days preceding the survey. Taken alone this is startling, but the state and aggregate figures are both 5%. The second area that is problematic is a report by 24% of our students that they were offered/sold/given illegal drugs on school property (not necessarily during the school day) during the past 12 months preceding the survey. The figure is a woeful 32% for the state, but is only 22% for the aggregate, which are more similar to CCHS. To me the two risk behaviors that involve possible weapon availability and potential availability of drugs are serious issues. Parents, students, teachers, and administrators are going to have to work together to ensure the safe school environment that can benefit all of us.

I have already shared some of this, particularly safety issues, with the teachers. They are committed to helping. Before this article gets to you, Arthur Unobskey, Kathy Bowen, and I will have made a presentation to the school committee. Emerson Hospital has been releasing information to the press and making presentations. As mentioned, we will have a presentation, more complete than this brief article, at CCHS very soon, probably late February or early March. Stay tuned for the time and date.

I hope you all understand that the behaviors mentioned above are typical of some percentage of teens. They are called "Risk Behaviors" for the obvious reasons. The challenge is to minimize that percentage through effective educational programs and continuing parental awareness. It is a national issue, but we can only deal with it on a local basis. I appreciate your support as we all work together.

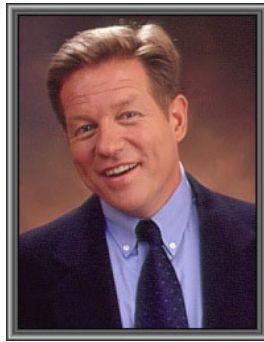


February Calendar



1. Boys Bball
Summer Opportunities Fair/Snow Day
2. Metco Senior Financial Ad Meeting
3. Pit Orchestra Rehearsal
CC Pops Meeting 7:00 pm
Parent Meeting @ Metco Inc 7:30 pm
4. Boys Bball
Homerom Attendance Reports
Course Selection Distribution
5. Possible Musical Rehearsal 1-6 pm
Trivia Night '07
7. Carnation Sale '05
Principals Coffee 8:30 am Room A-7
Business Club Candy Sale
8. Girls Bball
March Newsletter Deadline
9. **Open House 8th Grade Parents**
Senior Financial Aid Meeting
10. Pit Orchestra
11. Girls Bball
Homerom Reports Cards
12. Senior Movie Night
13. Possible Musical Rehearsal 1-6 pm
14. **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**
ARB Meeting 2:30
Bake Sale All Week '07
16. SAC Meeting 7:00 pm
17. Fund Raiser '06
Pit Orchestra Rehearsal
18. **Homerom Attendance Reports**
Boys Bball
19. DCL Boys & Girls All Star Game
21. **PRESIDENT'S DAY**
VACATION – No School All Week
Musical Rehearsal – All Day
22. Musical Rehearsal – All Day
23. Musical Rehearsal – All Day
24. Musical Rehearsal – All Day
25. Musical Rehearsal – All Day
28. Musical Dress Rehearsal – 3-7pm

COMEDIAN **JIMMY TINGLE**
TO PERFORM AT
CONCORD-CARLISLE HIGH SCHOOL



Noted comedian and satirist Jimmy Tingle will be coming to Concord-Carlisle High School on Sunday January 30 for a LIVE PERFORMANCE to benefit the upcoming trip to China of the CCHS Chinese language students.

Jimmy Tingle: Jimmy Tingle is a brilliant humorist who targets the things in contemporary life that just don't make sense. He is currently appearing as the political and social humorist on *CBS' 60 Minutes II*. Other national television credits include appearances on *The Tonight Show, Comedy Central, Larry King Weekend, The Late Show with Conan O'Brien, The American Comedy Awards* and his own *HBO One Night Stand* comedy special.

Tingle recently appeared as a television talk show host in Chris Rock's new film, *Head Of State*. Other film credits include the role of the neighborhood bartender in *Next Stop Wonderland*, a priest in *Boondock Saints*, and a restaurant owner in *By The Sea*.

Jimmy's theatrical credits include writing and starring in his own one man show "*Jimmy Tingle's Uncommon Sense, The Education of an American Comic*". The play received stellar reviews during a nine-week engagement at the American Place Theater in New York City and continued to succeed brilliantly at the Hasty Pudding Theater in Cambridge, MA becoming the longest running one person show in that theater's history.

Jimmy Tingle's *Uncommon Sense* made its Los Angeles debut at the Coast Playhouse in 1998 and was nominated by The L.A. Weekly for "best male solo performance" for their 20th Annual Theater Awards. His latest one-man show, *Jimmy Tingle In The Promised Land*, debuted at Jimmy Tingle's OFF BROADWAY Theater in Somerville, MA in 2002 and is currently on tour.

Jimmy's latest venture is that of theater mogul. He recently opened Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway Theater in Somerville, MA, where he presents a wide variety of entertainment programming.

CCHS Chinese Program trip to China: The Concord-Carlisle High School Chinese language program is taught by Ms. Hai-Ming Wu and offers a full four year program in Chinese language and culture, one of the only such programs in area high schools. The CCHS Chinese program students will be traveling to China in April to hone their language skills and deepen their understanding of Chinese culture. The upcoming trip, which will be led by Ms. Wu, will be the first that the program has sponsored and marks a major milestone for the program as well as an exceptional opportunity for its students.

Tickets: Curtain time will be 7:00 pm January 30 at Concord-Carlisle High School. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be reserved on line at www.cchsChinatrip.blogspot.com or by calling (978) 505-9540.

For further information please contact Hai-Ming Wu at hwu@colonial.net.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

The Fiscal Year 2006 recommended school budgets for Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle Regional School System have been voted by the School Committee. The news is very positive relative to last year.

For Concord Public Schools, the School Committee has met the override guideline issued by the Finance Committee. This budget is \$23,983,000, and represents a 4.05% increase over the FY05 budget. The budget would require an override of proposition 2 ½ of \$302,034.

This budget will allow us to adhere to guiding principles put forth by administrators. These are: maintain and/or expand regular education initiatives, fund professional development opportunities for staff, maintain current teacher/student ratios, restore funds to supplies and materials accounts, and increase time on learning by re-evaluating the delivery of music instruction.

This budget will allow for an increase in reading tutors, replenishing part of the loss of clerical staffing at Concord Middle School, add math proficiency teachers at each elementary school, and increase the hours of kindergarten aides to cover five days a week rather than the current four. The budget will also allow for software to be added at Concord Middle School, and will allow for the purchase of computer hardware and peripherals. These are small changes in areas of the budget which have been either reduced or not addressed in recent years.

For the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, the proposed FY06 budget is \$17,953,832. This would require an override of proposition 2 ½ and also matches the Concord Finance Committee guideline of \$17,495,172.

A large part of the CCHS budget increase is non-discretionary, including salary adjustments, utilities, and private placement tuition increases, amongst others. In addition, the School Committee has proposed adding instructional staff in the areas of math, music, art, and adding drama to electives. The proposed budget would restore some clerical support which was cut in previous years, and add to the curriculum textbook line to accommodate enrollment increases. The budget also addresses computer replacement needs. The district is attempting to establish a pattern of computer replacement that will be steady over the years. These increases are minimal and address areas which the district has either cut or not addressed in previous years. The good news is that we will not have a reduction list this year. We will ask for support from the towns for a small override in order to move the system forward in a small increment.

Overall, the state has increased support of our special education costs. For the first time in years we will not seek and do not anticipate needing supplemental appropriations from the town to meet our Special Education obligations for FY05.

We will share further details of the upcoming budget with you as they become available. Please plan to attend the Public Hearing on the School Budget articles on March 1 at the Alcott School auditorium at 7:30.

Betsy Bilodeau
On behalf of the School Committee

2005 CONCORD CARLISLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1

Applications for the Concord Carlisle Scholarship Fund (CCSF) must be submitted by April 1, 2005. Applications are available online at CCScholarhipfund.org and in the main office at CCHS.

A complete application requires a CSS Profile, which requires several weeks to process. Please use code 0161 when filling out the profile form.

Visit the website for detailed application instructions and links to the CCSS and FAFSA materials.

The CCSF is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1966 dedicated to providing scholarships to deserving students. In 2004, nearly \$100,000 was awarded to local students. The CCSF scholarships are based on need. Applications to CCSF are shared with other local organizations, including the Concord Women's Club, the West Concord Women's Club, the VFW, The Concord Public Library and the Carlisle Garden Club, which all award scholarships.

Please direct any questions to our website: CCScholarship Fund.org.

Teri Hale
CCSF Trustee

REPORT CARDS DISTRIBUTED FEBRUARY 11, 2005

Second quarter report cards will be distributed to all students on Friday, February 11th. Parents are reminded that reports cards are not mailed home. Report cards are given to students to bring home to their parents. Please encourage your son or daughter to check the honor roll list that is posted on the main office window when report cards are issued. If he/she does not find his/ her name listed but believes that it should be, he/she should see Dr. Weinstein as soon as possible.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE INFORMATION

First and foremost it is important to understand that we believe strongly that a student's attendance in class is of primary importance. We track it closely and try to be as accurate as possible. Penalties for unexcused absence are serious and include loss of credit. Tracking accuracy is to some extent dependent on cooperation from you and receiving good information from you. Certainly, when timely calls are made or notes delivered our system works extremely well. In those instances when the call did not get through or the note did not get delivered there are predictable problems. Our last attempt to gather the correct information is the distribution of attendance reports to the students every two weeks. The homeroom attendance report schedule is included in the calendar section of this newsletter. The attendance reports indicate both excused and unexcused absences for the previous two weeks. Students are asked to bring the reports home for your attention. The [Handbook for Students and Parents](#) describes the process for clearing up mistakes. Please help your child to understand the importance of good attendance as well as the importance of timely follow up when the attendance report contains an error. If you have questions or concerns please call Mrs. Merry at 978-341-2490 x7103.

COURSE SELECTION MATERIALS TO BE DISTRIBUTED ON FEBRUARY 4TH.

Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will receive Program of Studies Booklets in homeroom on February 4th so that they will have time to read the book, consider classes for next year and consult with their teachers about which courses might be best for them.

Teachers in departments which have sequential courses, such as math and foreign languages, will provide specific recommendations about which level of the next course appears most appropriate in light of the student's performance so far. Science teachers will make recommendations about levels, as well, and will also help students determine which science might be best for the coming year. English teachers provide current sophomores with a suggested set of courses for junior and senior year so that a tentative two-year plan can be made. This approach is particularly relevant for social studies students since some elective are offered only on an every other year basis. Art and music teachers can help with recommendations, as well.

Along with course information, students will receive a course selection sheet to be used to register for next year's classes. All of the sheets are collected on March 11th.

Based on student choices and available staff, decisions about the number of sections of each course to be offered are made. It is very important that choices be made very carefully. When we cannot provide first choices for every student, we schedule on a priority basis with next year's seniors being scheduled first, then juniors, sophomores, and freshmen.

The back of the course selection sheet is very important to the sign-up process, for it asks students to indicate a second choice for each of the courses listed on the front of the sheet. In the event we do not have enough sections to accommodate everyone who wants a specific course; we will provide the second choice course. Given the state regulations for 990 hours of structured learning time, it is important that students understand that signing up for anything just to fill out the sheet with the idea of dropping the course and substituting courses later on, no longer works.

If you have questions, please call department heads or your child's teacher(s) or counselor. We are here to help and look forward to working with you.



SENIOR



SAFARI

Planning for Senior Safari has begun. Chairmen this year are Christine Corr, [mailto:mccorr@aol.com] and Kathy Hughes-Morris, [mailto:kathyhmorris@aol.com]. Committee chairs will be spending time over the next couple of months making arrangements to ensure that all the pieces of this big puzzle we call Senior Safari are in their proper place in time for graduation weekend.

Each of the committees needs volunteers to help make this a success, especially parents of this year's high school freshmen and sophomores, so that new people can learn while assisting in various roles, then carry on this wonderful tradition.

Food Committee: Chairs Laurie Cadigan and Roxanne Zak; Decorations: Kathy H-M; Activities: Karen Stout and Madelyn Arthur; Chaperones and Volunteers Chair Lisa Philippou; Prizes and Raffles: Sandy Henderson. They would all love to hear from you. Contact them by sending an email to [mailto:cchsseniorsafari@aol.com] and letting Christine and Kathy know how you are interested in helping.

Future planning meetings will be held on Tuesdays, March 15, April 12, and May 10, in room A-7, from 7:30 to 9. Please put these dates on your calendar now and be a part of the success of Senior Safari.

Senior Safari Committee



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS— PLEASE TAKE NOTE

The parking in front of the school including around the islands and at times on the islands themselves, has become a safety issue. The Concord Police Department and Concord Fire Department ask that motorists obey and respect the **No Parking signs that are posted**. Should an emergency occur, it is important that emergency vehicles have access and not be impeded by illegally parked vehicles. The fine for parking in a No Parking zone is \$15.00. Thank you for your cooperation

WHAT DO I DO IF I WANT TO HAVE A FRIEND VISIT SCHOOL?

We enjoy the fact that many community members use our facilities. Yet, during the school day we must maintain an appropriate environment to promote teaching and learning. Therefore, we cannot allow student shadowers/visitors unless certain conditions are met.

- First, visitors must be pre-approved by members of the administration and the host's teachers at least one day in advance.
- Secondly, these students cannot be missing a day of their own school in order to visit ours.
- Thirdly, if the students are traveling on the bus from Boston, they must seek permission from Mrs. Dinnall, the METCO Director, to have a guest on the bus.
- And lastly, no visitors are allowed on the day prior to a long weekend or holiday/vacation. For example, no visitors will be allowed on the half day of Thanksgiving or the Friday prior to February vacation.

THE PROCESS SHOULD PROCEED AS FOLLOWS:

- A student would seek permission from an administrator several days in advance of the visit date. The administrator would determine whether the visitor has school on that date and determine that the presence of a guest on that date is appropriate.
- The student would then need to get written permission from all of his/her teachers and return that written permission to the administrator. The METCO Director must also sign-off that it's okay for the individual to ride the bus.
- The visitor would need to forward to us a note from his/her parents and his/her school, stating that they do not have school on that day and that they have permission to visit CCHS.

Once all signatures are collected and returned to the administrator, the student has permission to bring a visitor to school.

ON THE DAY OF THE VISIT,

- The host student must sign-in their visitor with Mrs. Hammer in the main office. The visitor will receive a pass.
- The visitor must remain with their host for the entire day. If they are not in the presence of their host, they will be asked to leave.

We do have many visitors throughout the year. It is rare that we do not allow an individual to visit the school if they have followed the process outlined above. We hope that you will help us to insure a positive learning environment for our teachers and students.

Jessica Truslow

PLEASE ASSIST US.....

During this past quarter we've had a number of students surprised when we told them that we do not accept dismissal notes from parents after the fact. We also do not accept parent sign-offs of unexcused absences on attendance reports for unexcused absences.

THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP.

If your child needs to be dismissed from school, we must hear from you **BEFORE** he/she leaves school. We do all that we can to ensure that your child is safe from the time he/she steps onto school grounds until they leave. Once they are here, we have a "duty to care" for him/her. We take that responsibility very seriously. If we do not know where they are, certainly you can understand how this impinges upon our ability to know that they are safe. In addition to our legal responsibilities, your child cannot learn if they are not in the classroom.


Our dismissal process requires that a note or phone call is received in the office PRIOR to your child's dismissal. They should bring the note in the morning to Mrs. Hammer. If you call in the permission, your child must come to the main office prior to departure to check out with Mrs. Hammer. If you haven't called the office at that point, your son/daughter will contact you before he/she leaves the building.

After the appointment, your son/daughter must check back into the main office and receive a pass back to class. This process allows us to know that your child had permission to leave the building and that they have returned. Therefore, if we had a building emergency, we would know that he/she was safe.

Again, our utmost concern is your child's safety. Please assist us in that process with letting us know when your son/daughter will be out of the building prior to their departure.

Jessica Truslow

**MARCH NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 8TH**
Send your articles to
mhammer@colonial.net

TELEPHONE  **REMINDER:**
The number to call is **978-341-2490**.
Listen to the prompts and follow the instructions.



CONCORD'S COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION

Concord's Community Access Television CCTV is Concord's new and exciting effort to foster communication, community and collaboration. The studio at CCHS is no longer managed by the commercial access provider, so a group of citizens has organized to keep local access TV alive. We provide Public, Educational and Governmental local access for all citizens and organizations in Concord on channel 8 and soon on channel 9 as well.

CCTV offers training to community members and students interested in learning the basics of television production. CCTV supports people interested in producing their own cable program or working on film production crews to cover local events. CCTV and your community need your vision, your energy and your support. Local access TV relies on community volunteers. Join CCTV! Members help get school, community, government and cultural events on the air for all to enjoy.

Community production training starts with orientation on Thursday, January 20th, 7-9pm and runs weekly (7 sessions for full training if desired) until March 3rd. Our next orientation will be Tuesday, March 7th, 7-9 pm and additional trainings will run weekly on Tuesday nights until April 12th. Learn more about CCTV at www.concordtv.org or email us info@concordtv.org

Robin Cicchetti, LMS rcicchetti@colonial.net

Willard School

185 Powder Mill Road

Concord, MA 01742

SUPPORT FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS AVAILABLE THROUGH MINUTEMAN SENIOR SERVICES

Are you caring for an elder? Do you have an aging parent or spouse who is likely to need your help in the near future? You don't have to do this alone. Minuteman Senior Services is here to give you the tools and the support you need to care for your loved one without sacrificing your own physical and emotional health. Minuteman Senior Services, a non-profit agency, has been helping elders and their families in Concord, Carlisle, and 14 other communities for over 25 years. Experienced staff is available for a free in-home consultation to identify elder and caregiver needs. Information and referral is offered on topics such as housing options, adult day programs, transportation, and personal care assistance. Training by specialists concerning daily living issues such as managing challenging behaviors and in-home safety is available. It also is possible to arrange temporary respite services to give the caregiver time off. These services are available at no charge through funding from the Administration on Aging and the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs. If you or someone you know could benefit from professional support in your role as a family caregiver, call Minuteman Senior Services at 781-272-7177. **Contact:** Ruth L. Scheer, Coordinator - Family Caregiver Support Program - Minuteman Senior Services - 24 Third Avenue, Burlington - 617-972-5675.



SUBSCRIBING TO THE LIST SERVE:

Go to www.lists.ptg-concord.org/mailman/listinfo and click on the link to your child's class. If you have children in multiple classes, repeat the process for each child. READ and FOLLOW the INSTRUCTIONS provided. You will need to have your child's student I.D. handy when subscribing. When you subscribe, you will receive an auto-generated response which you MUST REPLY to in order TO ACTIVATE your SUBSCRIPTION. IF YOU DO NOT REPLY, YOUR SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST WILL SIMPLY DISAPPEAR FROM THE SYSTEM. PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ALONG TO ANYONE WHO HAS NOT SUBSCRIBED YET.



SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

In the event of school cancellation or delayed openings, announcements will be made on radio stations WBZ and WHDH and on television channels 4, 5, and 7. In the case of a delayed opening, school will begin at 8:35 a.m. instead of 7:35 a.m. Buses will arrive at bus stops one hour later than usual in the morning. Classes will end at the regular time, 2:05 p.m.



Happy Valentine's Day



UNDERSTANDING TEEN DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE

A Forum at
Concord Carlisle Regional High School Auditorium
500 Walden Street, Concord

February 2, 7:30 to 9:30 PM

Keynote Speaker will be *Gail Griffith*, author of
“Will’s Choice: A Suicidal Teen, a Desperate Mother, and a Chronicle of Recovery”

Also speaking will be *Eileen McNamara*, Boston Globe Pulitzer Prize recipient columnist

Sponsored by the Alliance for Teen Safety Concord & Carlisle, MA
For additional information contact Barbara Howland, Executive Director, 978-835-2729

EVERY LIFE WORTH LIVING: UNDERSTANDING TEEN DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE

The caring communities of Concord and Carlisle, through the Alliance for Teen Safety, are sponsoring a Forum exploring teen depression and suicide, on Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 PM in the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School Auditorium, 500 Walden Street, Concord. The keynote speaker will be Gail Griffith, author of a book about her family’s personal and powerful experience with the attempted suicide of a son. It is called Will’s Choice: A Suicidal Teen, a Desperate Mother, and a Chronicle of Recovery, and it will be released in May 2005. Gail will be preceded by Boston Globe Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Eileen McNamara, whose November 28 column, entitled Our Silence is Fatal Flaw, about the recent unrelated suicides of three teens in Wellesley and Needham, has touched a raw nerve in suburban Boston.

Eileen’s column challenged our communities to open the topic for discussion: “We do not know how to talk out loud about suicide in this country, especially when it takes the lives of young people, for whom it is the third leading cause of death, behind only car accidents and homicides... Suicide is not a rare, inexplicable act, though certainly it feels that way during the initial shock. It is a chronic public health problem, compounded by the shame and stigma still attached to mental illness. More than 5,000 teenagers kill themselves every year in the United States...The whole topic hits a little too close to home...Silence reinforces the isolation of those struggling with depression (the main cause of suicidal thinking)...A society that is less than open about the prevalence of adolescent depression is less than fully equipped to help its children.” (Reprinted courtesy of the Boston Globe.)

The publisher of Gail’s upcoming book has written: “In the early hours of March 11, 2001, 17-year old Will ingested a near fatal dose of his antidepressant medication...Will’s Choice is his mother Gail Griffith’s riveting and shockingly veracious memoir of the family’s journey of diagnosing, treating, and trying to save their son. Laying bare raw emotion and her own critical assessment of her previous bouts with depression, her role in Will’s suicidality and the question of why a boy of Will’s aptitude and intelligence would find life unworthy of living, Griffith exposes Will’s struggle. By including Will’s own words in the form of witty and honest journal entries, readers bear witness to Will’s attempts to explain what even he can’t fully understand: why he did it. Throughout, Griffith takes us on the very personal road each of the family members traveled to renew Will’s interest in life and to regain their equilibrium in the aftermath. Will’s Choice is a story of hope, of a child battling and nearly succumbing to his depression and his attempts to end his own life and the measures his family took to close ranks to save him.” (Reprinted courtesy of Harper Collins Publishers)

In the weeks following the Forum, smaller follow-up discussion groups will be scheduled. If you would like any additional information, please contact Barbara Howland, Executive Director of the Alliance for Teen Safety, at cc4youth@colonial.net or 978-835-2729.



Understanding your Special Education Basic Rights

Learn about:

- Your rights under federal law (IDEA) and state law
- Special education regulations
- How to use information to assist in the planning, decision-making and monitoring of your child's IEP

*Workshop presented by **Donna Murphy***

**Experienced Special Education Advocate
A Federation for Children with Special Needs Trainer**

**February 8, 2005
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

Minute Man Arc for Human Services, Inc.
1269 Main Street
Concord, MA 01742

For directions and more information: www.concordspedpac.org

Co-Sponsored by:

Concord Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (Concord SPED PAC)
And
Minute Man Arc for Human Services, Inc.



PERFORMING THEATER ARTS NEWS

With rehearsals for West Side Story underway, it is important that we do not forget that there are other fantastic musical opportunities around us. These include *Sweet Charity*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, all part of the Broadway in Boston series.

SWEET CHARITY is being performed at the Colonial Theatre at 7:30pm (bus will depart at 6:30pm) on Sunday, March 20, 2005. The cost of the trip is \$30 per student and includes transportation. The itinerary for the trip is as follows:

- 6:30PM Board bus and depart CCHS
- 7:30PM Show
- 10:00PM Board bus for return
- 10:30PM Arrive CCHS

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA is being performed at the Opera House at 7:30pm (bus will depart at 6:30pm) on Sunday, April 10, 2005. The cost of the trip is \$30 per student and includes transportation. The itinerary for the trip is as follows:

- 6:30PM Board bus and depart CCHS
- 7:30PM Show
- 10:00PM Board bus for return
- 10:30PM Arrive CCHS

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS is being performed at the Colonial Theatre at 8:00pm (bus will depart at 7:00pm) on Friday, May 6, 2005. The cost of the trip is \$58 per student and includes transportation. The itinerary for the trip is as follows:

- 7:00PM Board bus and depart CCHS
- 8:00PM Show
- 10:30PM Board bus for return
- 11:00PM Arrive CCHS

Below you will find a permission slip that may be used for any of the above performances. If you are **purchasing tickets for multiple shows**, ONE CHECK MAY BE WRITTEN, however, PLEASE FILL OUT A PERMISSION SLIP FOR EACH SHOW.

I give permission for my son/daughter _____

to attend _____ on _____.

(NAME OF SHOW)

(DATE OF SHOW)

Parent/Guardian: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

(PLEASE SIGN)

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Permission slip(s) and check (made payable to CCPOPS) should be dropped off in **Mr. Brown's office** with Mrs. Jamison during morning chorus blocks. If you have any questions, please contact Erica Karban at ekarban@colonial.net or (978) 341-2490 x 7299.



TICKET ORDER FORM

Ticket sales begin Friday, January 28, 2005.

Tickets may be purchased by mailing a check (made payable to CCHS Music) and order form to Erica Karban, CCHS, 500 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742, by dropping a check and order form off at the high school (in Ms. Karban's mailbox in either the main office or math office), or online at ccpops.org (by credit card).

All tickets are first come, first serve and are \$15 each. All ticket sales are final – no refunds will be given for unused tickets. A seating chart can be found at <http://ccpops.org>. While requests for sections or rows may be made, please understand that we cannot accommodate any specific seat requests at this time. If nothing is requested, you will be assigned the best available. All tickets will be held at the will-call table (near the entrance) to be picked up on the night of each performance.

If you are requesting tickets for multiple people and need them held under different names, please be sure to specify that information on the order form.

If you have any questions regarding tickets or handicapped seating, please contact Erica Karban at ekarban@colonial.net or (978) 341-2490 x 7299.



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____ (please write in all caps & put slashes through the number zero)
(You will only be contacted if there is a problem with your ticket request)

Friday, 3/4/05, 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00pm)

Number of tickets: _____ Hold tickets under the name of: _____
Section/row: _____

Saturday, 3/5/05, 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00pm)

Number of tickets: _____ Hold tickets under the name of: _____
Section/row: _____

Sunday, 3/6/05, 2:30pm (doors open at 2:00pm)

Number of tickets: _____ Hold tickets under the name of: _____
Section/row: _____

Friday, 3/11/05, 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00pm)

Number of tickets: _____ Hold tickets under the name of: _____
Section/row: _____

Saturday, 3/12/05, 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00pm)

Number of tickets: _____ Hold tickets under the name of: _____
Section/row: _____

Sunday, 3/13/05, 2:30pm (doors open at 2:00pm)

Number of tickets: _____ Hold tickets under the name of: _____
Section/row: _____

Reminder: • No tickets will be mailed • All tickets will be held at will-call for each night's performance



Short Sleeved Shirts

Long Sleeved Shirts

Sweatshirts

Orders will be accepted for short sleeved shirts, long sleeved shirts, and sweatshirts from now until 2:30pm on Friday, February 4, 2005. Checks (made out to CCHS Music) can be left in Ms. Karban's mailbox (main office or math office) or mailed to Concord-Carlisle High School, Erica Karban, 500 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742. If paying with cash, please be sure to give it to Ms. Karban directly.

All shirts will be delivered to the school no later than Wednesday, March 2, 2005 and will be handed out after the open dress rehearsal that afternoon. Anyone ordering a shirt that is not in the school may either pick it up that afternoon or make arrangements to pick it up at another time.

If you are ordering more than one shirt, feel free to circle more than one size, use more than one form, or make a note on the form.

Ms. Karban

.....
Please Print

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____ Year of Graduation _____
(if applicable)

Short-Sleeved T-shirt (\$10): S M L XL XXL 3XL

(also available in youth XS, S, M, L, XL)

Long-Sleeved T-shirt (\$15): S M L XL XXL 3XL

(also available in youth S, M, L)

Hooded Sweatshirt (\$25): S M L XL XXL





There are still a number of seniors who have not purchased a Cap and Gown. Seniors should bring a check for \$25.00 to Mrs. Coleman as soon as possible. Remember, without a Cap and Gown you will not be allowed to participate in the Graduation Ceremony. If you are not planning on participating in the graduation ceremony, please see Mrs. Coleman.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!! Most of us have finally finished the college application process - thank heaven! Congratulations to all who have, and double congratulations to all who are still on speaking terms with their kids. We are headed rapidly toward the end of the school year. Emphasize to your child that he/she needs to stay on top of all those pesky requirements - paying parking tickets, reviewing attendance reports, returning books, etc. The Senior Class is sponsoring an Irish dinner for the senior citizens in Concord on March 12th. We need student volunteers. If your child needs a few more community service hours (or even if he doesn't), this is a worthwhile way to earn them. Details about how to volunteer will be distributed to the kids in the near future.

A couple of dates to remember:

- February 6th to 11th is the Valentine flower sale.
- February 12th - a Senior Movie/Pizza night has been tentatively scheduled in the school cafeteria.

We are planning a parent social for March. We originally thought of having one in January, but everyone's schedule was a little too frantic. Stay tuned for details about time and place. Have a great month and stay warm.

Lee Bagley, Bev Castrichini, Margaret Coughlin, Karen Ippolito

CLASS 2006

The Junior Class is sponsoring an all school dance on Friday, March 18th. In order for the dance to be held, parent chaperones are needed to help check in the students and their belongings and to man the doors to the courtyard. Teacher chaperones are available to handle individual student situations. This is an important fundraiser for the class and is dependent upon parent involvement. To help, contact Lisa Philippou at [mailto:lphilippou@comcast.net] lphilippou@comcast.net or at 978-369-2878.

CLASS OF 2007

Here are a few dates to remember for class activities in January and February.

- ❖ Saturday, January 29 – Class of 2007 Tubing Night at Neshoba. Last year the 30+ students who participated had a great night of tubing. Cold night, plenty of snow, and hot chocolate made for a lot of fun. Announcements will be posted on Class bulletin boards. Encourage your student to look for news.
- ❖ Sunday, January 30 – Parents social at the home of Steve and Diane Payne – 4:30 to 7:00. We're all in this together – let's make sure we know who "we all" are.
- ❖ Saturday, February 5: Trivia Contest Night at CCHS – sponsored by Class of 2007. Last year, the first ever event proved enormously enjoyable for all in attendance. Consider forming a team or signing on with a group that already exists. Announcements will come through class email lists as well as through student announcements.

As always, your involvement makes these events possible. Please keep your eyes open for news about planning for the Sophomore Semiformal, scheduled for the evening of May 7. Requests to students to help develop a theme for the event are announced each morning in the daily announcements. We look forward to including a strong team of volunteers for this event under the welcomed leadership of Laura Fadden.

Jan McGinn

CLASS OF 2008

Many of our kids helped decorate and sell wreaths during Teacher Conference Day in December, but the big thanks go to Faith Johnson and her crew, Janet Gillies, Kathy DeMarco, Genine Tillotson and teacher advisors, Laurie Guinta and Dan McGrath. Laurie and Dan also helped the class officers plan and execute a very successful Dodgeball Tournament. Such a smash hit, look for it again next year. In the meantime, duck! The Class of '08 will be selling refreshments at the Summer Opportunities Fair, Monday, January 31, 2005, Lesley Wagner is coordinating this effort. Students and/or parents interested in helping, please give her a ring at 978-371-8060.

Katie Carr

TRIVIA CONTEST

Saturday, February 5th 7:30-10pm CCHS Cafeteria

Tickets: \$6 students, \$10 adults Teams: must be four - six people

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE SOON

Teams will sit at tables in the cafeteria (no stage - no stage fright)



Sample Trivia Categories

Movies, TV, musicals, children's videos,
Current music, classical music, books, plays,
Sports, current events, math & science, ...



Students, faculty, sports teams, clubs, businesses, and organizations all over Concord will compete for the chance to be crowned **TRIVIA CHAMPIONS**, plus there will be prizes for the top teams! Questions will be from various time periods, so your team has a better chance if you have a mix of ages, backgrounds & skills.



Email any questions to: Classof2007@comcast.net

This event is a fundraiser for the CCHS Class of 2007.

WILLARD SCHOOL

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BUILDING A NEW WILLARD

Over the next few months there will be a lot of discussion about the condition of Concord school buildings (including Willard) and what we should do. The following is an abbreviated list of frequently asked questions (FAQ's) developed by the buildWillard committee to help educate the community about the conditions at Willard. The FAQs are followed by the buildWillard committee proposed timeline for a new Willard. Please feel free to contact the buildWillard committee with any questions at buildwillard.org. You will also find more complete FAQs and a listing of key dates and presentations occurring at the buildwillard.org site.

WILLARD BUILDING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE SPACE PROBLEMS WITH THE WILLARD BUILDING?

- The current Willard building is 50% smaller than buildings today that meet the state educational guidelines.
- The Art room, Music room, Cafeteria, library and computer room are 30% smaller than the state educational guidelines.
- Over 60% of support rooms are undersized or half the size of recommended guidelines.
- EMTs have difficulty getting into the nurses office because it is not directly accessible from the hallway.
- There are about 75 adult employees with only two designated adult bathrooms.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE SPED AUDIT?

- Willard was cited by SPED for inadequate spaces for special education and Learning Center space in 2000 and no improvements have been made.
- There is another SPED audit in the Spring of 2005 which Willard will most likely fail. The legal and investment ramifications are not yet known.

WHAT ARE THE SYSTEMIC AND STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS?

- Extensive roof leaks have contributed to a mold problem throughout the building.
- Many classrooms must have buckets in place during heavy rainstorms to catch the leaks.
- Last year 3 classrooms were temporarily relocated due to burst piped that caused flooding in the classrooms.
- Temperature fluctuations due to ineffective thermostats can cause room temperatures to range from 60 degrees to 55 degrees.
- Bees and other insects get into classrooms due to lack of screens on windows
- State energy codes are not met.
- ADA handicap accessibility is not met.

WHAT IS THE FEASIBILITY STUDY?

The School Committee approved funds for a feasibility study to explore options in the placement of a new building on the Willard School grounds. The chosen architect will determine optimal placement of a new building considering safety, efficient use of site, abutment, septic and aesthetics. The results of the study will be available April 1, 2005 and public forums will be held to review the findings.

WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS?

- \$1.8 million in capital expenditures must be made in the next 5 years.
- \$2.2-2.4 million in identified expenses must be made in 6-10 years.
- An unknown amount would need to be spent for meeting SPED requirements.
- All dollars spent would be going into a building that is obsolete and rapidly deteriorating.
- Construction costs are rising at 4.5% per year which is 2.5% higher than inflation at 2%.

FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION at buildWillard.org.

Sue Fulshaw
978-371-0023

CCHS Dates to Remember:

- **ALL STUDENTS will have a HOMEROOM AT 7:35 ON MONDAY, JANUARY 31st to receive their SCHEDULES.**
- **Summer Opportunity Fair on January 31st.**
- **COURSE SELECTION MATERIAL will be passed out in homeroom on February 4th.**
- **OPEN HOUSE FOR 8TH GRADE PARENTS on February 9th at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.**
- **REPORT CARDS issued on February 11th.**

“Guidance Bulletin”

February 2005



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY



Volume I, No. 15

Junior College Board Testing

College-bound juniors should plan to begin college entrance exams this spring. All college-bound juniors should take the SAT I, which is available on three dates. Students who are applying to certain schools may also be required to take the SAT II: Subject Tests, which are available on either of the final dates. It is not possible to take both versions of the test on the same test date. Students should consult their guidance counselor for advice on testing.

Many schools do not require the SAT II: Subject Tests. Those schools that do require may specify which exams they want. Because these tests are often related to classroom work, juniors are usually advised to take the exams as late in the junior year as possible.

Students can apply on-line, by phone, or in writing. Registration information is available in the Guidance Office. *There is an additional charge for late registration and preferred test centers may not be available.*

Date

March 12, 2005

May 7, 2005

June 4, 2005

Test

SAT I *only*

SAT I/SAT II

SAT I/SAT II

Deadline

February 7, 2005

March 25, 2005

April 29, 2005

The ACT vs. The SAT

There are two major testing services in the United States that administer college entrance exams, **The College Board**, which gives the **SAT I and SAT II** exams and **The American College Testing Program**, which gives the ACT assessment test. The SAT's are required mostly by colleges in the East and West. Most colleges in the South and Mid-West have historically required the ACT's. Almost all colleges now accept either test and, at many colleges, **the ACT can be substituted for both the SAT I and SAT II.**

Information detailing the differences between the ACT and the SAT is available in the Guidance Office. A conversion chart, which facilitates comparison of SAT and ACT scores, is also available. Because SAT and ACT test dates never conflict, it is possible to take both exams, although there are fewer ACT test centers. For those juniors who wish to take the ACT tests, this spring's testing and application deadlines are **April 9, 2005 (March 4, 2005), and June 11, 2005 (May 6, 2005).**

Course Selection Groups

All freshmen, sophomores and juniors are reminded to attend the small group course selection meetings with their counselor which take place during February and March. The small group meetings will review graduation requirements and help students select courses for the 2004-2005 school year.

Students will receive appointment letters in the mail about one week before the scheduled group meetings. Course selection materials will be distributed on February 4, 2005 and collected on March 11, 2005 during homeroom.

Juniors
Sophomores
Freshmen

week of February 7, 2005
week of February 14, 2005
week of February 28, 2005



Junior College Conferences

Juniors will receive mailings from counselors inviting them to a junior scheduling meeting in February and a college planning meeting in March. Juniors are encouraged at both these meetings to follow up with individual counselor meetings. Counselors are available to meet with parents by appointment. Please call the guidance secretaries at extension 7108 or extension 7109 one week in advance.

Internet College Research

The Internet has radically changed the way we seek and obtain information. For example, researching colleges no longer requires writing numerous letters to colleges requesting information and applications or thumbing through piles of catalogues and handbooks seeking information. Obtaining information about colleges and even applying to them through the Internet have readily become the preferred method of most high school students.

The **CCHS Guidance Web Site**, which can be found at www.colonial.net/guidance, presents students and parents with much information about a variety of guidance-related topics organized mostly around grade levels.

Major features include a calendar providing dates and descriptions of guidance programs, an archive of the *Guidance Bulletins*, the monthly Guidance newsletter, information about the college search process, college entrance exams, and financial aid, along with links to hundreds of other useful sites and information on the Internet. These links may contain additional information and resources for further research.

Depending on the needs of the individual, the web site can help students:

- Initiate thinking about career goals or college interests.
- Assist students with the post-secondary planning process.
- Connect to specific information about most U.S. colleges and universities.
- Provide information to students with specific interests or special needs.
- Provide links to other web sites on the Internet.

While the web site currently contains many pages of information, it remains a work in progress with many more pages still to be added in other important areas.

