

CCHS NEWSLETTER

(Published by CCHS and the CCHS Parents' Association)

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MARCH 2005



PARENT ASSOCIATION

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable February break and that you and your students had a chance to do something different either in town or traveling. Let's hope that the warm weather will arrive soon!

The PA does not conduct fundraisers throughout the year but does collect dues in the Fall and send out an annual appeal letter in the second semester. All parents should have received this letter in February. Dues and contributions are used to award grants twice a year to faculty and staff members who submit requests for programs, equipment and events that directly enrich the lives of the students and the community at CCHS. All of these items have a positive impact on the experiences of students at the high school and we appreciate the support that parent community has provided in the past. Please consider this appeal carefully and give generously so that we can continue to fund these grants. Many thanks to Karen Sabatino for coordinating the Direct Appeal Campaign.

Over 100 students are involved in this year's musical "West Side Story" - Performances are on March 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and March 6 and 13 at 2:30 p.m. Ticket order forms can be found at ccpops.org. Congratulations to all involved with this production.

The Summer Opportunities Fair was held on January 31st. This year, in addition to the travel and camp opportunities presented in the Cafeteria, there was a summer job fair presented in the library.

Congratulations and thanks to the committee, Kathy Maple (Chair), English Ball, Nancy Flaherty, Karen Sabatino, Suellen Wheeler and all others who helped with this very successful annual community event.

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. Parents of 9th, 10th and 11th grade students are needed to help with everything including chaperoning and food service on the night (June 4th) and senior parents are welcome to help with planning, setup and cleanup but do not attend the event. If you would like to help out, please contact committee chairs Christine Corr at 978-369-8479 or Carol Smith at 978-369-6960.

As I have mentioned several times, 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. If you are new to the school it is a great way to get to know people and if you have been here for a while your experience and contacts will be very helpful. 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 anyone on the PA Executive Board or the Nominating Committee (Lisa Betancourt, Cindy Jessee, Carolyn Higgins or Shelley Mogil).

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 March 7th at 8:30 a.m. in A-7. There will also be an evening PA Meeting/Coffee this month on March 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the library. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns that the PA can address.

Diane Payne, 978-287-5031
PA President



CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION

If you are interested in helping to care for the gardens at CCHS, join a dedicated group of volunteers who contribute their love of gardening to help beautify and maintain beds at the school.

Contact Barbara Lewis, 978-287-0049 or blglewis@comcast.net





NOTES FROM ART DULONG

There are so many things happening of interest to parents it is hard to know where to start. So, in no order of importance here are some things you should know.

The school committee has voted to modify the interscholastic athletic program in a couple of ways. We will be adding Girls' Ice Hockey and Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track next winter. At this time there are many details to work out, but in each sport we expect to be able to join our Dual County League rivals who already have programs. There will also be a change to the athletic fee. The fee will change from \$75 per athlete/per season to \$125 per athlete/per season but with a \$500 per family/per year maximum. The current policy that no athlete will be denied participation by virtue of economic hardship will continue. If the fee presents a hardship on the family the parent simply should approach the Athletic Director or me.

The Feasibility Committee studying the high school facility has met several times. An architectural firm, SMMA, has been chosen to lead the review. They have already spent a great deal of time in the school meeting with administration, faculty, secretaries, custodians, and maintenance in an effort to understand our school and our needs. The committee meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6PM, usually in the Ripley Building. These meetings are posted and open meetings.

The snowstorms this winter have presented significant challenges to the maintenance and custodial staff who are responsible for clearing the campus. Just so you understand, in addition to the roadways and sidewalks, they are clearing every air intake vent in the building, clearing snow and ice from around the window areas, clearing the roof in some areas, and then minimizing the underlying ice. They did an incredible job considering the obstacles they faced. Another problem that the custodial staff has faced is the mud and dirt tracked in during weather such as this. Again, they do a terrific job keeping up so that CCHS maintains its appropriate environment.

One other thing about snow, the days we missed do have to be made up. The last day of school is now scheduled to be June 23. Please plan accordingly. School policy is that final exams are not given prior to the exam period (6/20-6/23).

The budget still seems to be moving in a positive direction that will support all we currently do and maybe some new initiatives. This good news is almost entirely due to the state keeping its word regarding the money it mandates to support education. I say that with fingers crossed because we never really know until payment comes due.

This March we will be visited by the Massachusetts Department of Education for what is called a mid-cycle review of Special Education services, civil rights compliance, and English Language Learner programs. They are actually reviewing both Concord and Concord-Carlisle. They have already requested volumes of information that they will preview in preparation for interviews with a variety of staff on the day they spend at CCHS. These reviews are standard practice for all schools in Massachusetts and are necessary for a variety of reasons including the fact that the rules, regulations, and laws around these issues are constantly changing and/or being reinterpreted by the courts. The DOE visit helps us as much as it informs them.

As I write this, the Red Sox equipment vans have left for sunny Florida. Spring is on the way.

SCHOLARSHIP TO HONOR NICK RESSLER

The Concord Carlisle Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that a new named scholarship will be awarded for the first time this year. **THE NICK RESSLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND** was established by Nick's family and friends in cooperation with the Concord Carlisle Scholarship Fund to honor the life of an outstanding young man. Nick was a promising student, artist, musician, athlete, and leader when he lost a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 14 in 2001. In speaking about their son, Nick's parents said that his education in the Concord Public Schools "helped shape his life in very positive ways and nurtured his love of learning." A member of the Class of 2005, he would have graduated from CCHS this June.

To further other students' pursuit of knowledge, Nick's parents, Paul and Pam Ressler; sisters, Kim (CCHS '01) and Jen (CCHS '08); and Nick's friends and extended family established The Nick Ressler Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2005 to commemorate Nick's classmates' high school graduation year. Nick's family and friends hope that through this fitting tribute Nick's Renaissance spirit will continue to be recognized and remembered.

The Concord Carlisle Scholarship Fund is pleased to administer this annual scholarship to a four-year college or university for a local student who exemplifies Nick's pursuit of excellence in the arts, academics, athletics, and leadership. To apply for this scholarship, as well as all others administered by the Concord Carlisle Scholarship Fund, graduating seniors should complete an application form which is available at CCHS. Those who would like to honor Nick by contributing to the fund in his name may do so by sending a tax-deductible contribution in any amount to the Concord Carlisle Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 217, Concord, MA 01742 with a note that the gift is to be deposited to The Nick Ressler Memorial Scholarship Fund.

CONCORD-CARLISLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The CCSF is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1966 dedicated to providing need-based scholarships to deserving students. In 2004, \$125,000 was awarded to local students in support of their post high school educations. Concord and Carlisle families generously provide financial support through CCSF's annual appeal.

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 by email to us at ccsf@colonial.net

Teri Hale
CCSF Trustee

2005 CCSF APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1

Applications for the Concord Carlisle Scholarship Fund (CCSF) must be submitted by April 1, 2005.

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

More School Committee News on next page



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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

The public hearings for the Town Meeting articles for schools scheduled for March 1. For the first time in some number of years the School Committees and Concord Finance Committee have matching budget guideline recommendations. Overrides will be required for both the CPS and the CCHS budgets, but they are smaller overrides than last year and they allow for small increments in the educational program. Please pay attention to these important issues in the coming months. If voters approve of an override at Town Meeting, then a vote will be held at the polls in June to ratify that vote. The School Committee is grateful for the close collaboration of the finance committee and the select board in working with the school community in the development of the budget.

The School Committee's Facility Subcommittee has spent the past months determining how to proceed with building plans. The focus was on three buildings, Willard School, CCHS, and Concord Middle School. The School Committee has determined that the Middle School project will be put off for some number of years, perhaps ten. Due to the compelling educational and facility needs at both Willard and CCHS, however, the School Committee has recommended proceeding with Willard School design funds this year. If approved, the construction funds would be voted on next year. A study by an architectural firm is underway to tell us whether Willard School could be in use while a new school is built next to it. If this is not possible, the only swing space option that makes sense is to use the old Alcott (currently Thoreau) School. In either case, the recommendation has been made to move forward with this project now. The space constraints and conditions at the Willard School are compelling, and the expenditures which will need to be made to keep the school operational are costly and not long term investments. The School Committee felt it made more fiscal and educational sense to move forward with the new building now. Waiting will cost much more money and educational concerns will not be addressed.

The CCHS study is continuing and will be complete in June. The Regional School Committee intends to move this project forward for design funds by Town Meeting 2006, and construction funds a year later. The study will determine whether a renovation/addition or a new school is a better investment.

This is a lot to ask of taxpayers, but the compelling educational needs, space constraints, and safety issues have led the School Committee to the conclusion that waiting is not an option. The needs of the school buildings have been put off for too long. We hope that you will listen carefully in the coming months to the detailed reasons for our recommendations. These buildings are old and worn out, and do not meet the needs of today's educational program.

In addition to building and budget matters, the effort to rewrite the policy manual continues. Also, the administration is continuing its efforts to reorganize the central office functions. In all it has been a busy but productive year.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Betsy Bilodeau
School Committee



DON'T FORGET MARCH 12 – ST. PATRICK'S LUNCHEON FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS OF CONCORD AND CARLISLE SPONSORED BY THE CLASS OF 2005.



DON'T MISS THE CCHS MUSICAL – WEST SIDE STORY – MARCH 2 OPEN DRESS REHEARSAL, PERFORMANCES SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 4, 5, AND 6 AND MARCH 11, 12, AND 13.



THE BAND CONCERT ON MARCH 23, CHORUS CONCERT ON MARCH 30 AND THE ORCHESTRA CONCERT ON MARCH 31. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THESE FANTASTIC SINGERS AND MUSICIANS PERFORM.

SENIOR



SAFARI

Senior Safari 2005

This year's Senior Safari committee is as strong as ever. Great people have stepped in to plan for the all night party that CCHS graduating seniors will be attending in the school cafeteria, upper gym and adjacent hallways, following graduation on Saturday, June 4th. Now what needs to happen is for volunteers from every class to join them in making Senior Safari a success once again. People will be needed to help set up and decorate, organize refreshments and activities, chaperone and clean up.

Parents of Seniors

Be on the look out for your package of information regarding Senior Safari arriving soon in the mail. Why not take care of this business right away? There is no reason to wait, and no one likes to be rushing at the last minute. Purchase your student's ticket and make your donation to support Senior Safari financially, sign up to contribute food or to work on event breakdown and storage immediately following the event. Send in your child's baby picture so that it will be displayed with all their classmates' in the library windows. Please make a copy of the photo, any size up to 8 x 10, **put your child's name on the back**, and mail to Barbara Lewis, 282 East Riding Drive, Carlisle, 01741, or drop it off with Martha Hammer in the front office.

Parents of Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors

Graduation is such a busy time for families of graduating seniors. They need you be a part of helping their kids get through this time of celebration in a safe and loving way. And that is what Senior Safari is all about. Find out how to get involved. It is a lot of fun getting to know other parents of CCHS students and working together to get the party started. Just as past underclass parents were there for seniors of bygone years, know that future parents will be there for your student during this grand time of transition.

Senior Safari meetings are held in Room A-7 on Tuesday nights at 7:30, on March 15th, April 12th, and May 10th.
Contact committee chairs:

Christine Corr (978-369-8479, mecorr@aol.com) and
Kathy Hughes-Morris (978-28700154, kathyhmorris@aol.com)
or send an email to cchsseniorsafari@aol.com to let them know you would like to help.

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.

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 by letting us know when your son/daughter will be out of the building prior to their departure.

Jessica Truslow

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 concern, please call Mrs. Merry at 978-341-2490 x7103.

Jessica Truslow



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! Member help get school, community, government and cultural events on the air for all to enjoy.

Community production training started with an 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



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.

Community Education Offers: "Coach your Teen to Confidence"

Tuesday March 15, 7:00-9:00 PM at CCHS

The way a parent listens, supports and appreciates can make a big difference in increasing the joy and decreasing the frustration of living with a teenager. Professional coach Jan Steward will demonstrate ways to modify parenting styles and gaining a deeper understanding of teenagers. The class uses the book "Parent As Coach" by Diana Haskins, available for \$12 in class. The call fee is \$20. To register or for information call Community Education, (978)318-1540 (days) or (978) 318 1432 (evenings.)

'06, '07, '08 COURSE SELECTIONS ARE DUE ON MARCH 11th

Last month's newsletter announced the distribution of the Program of Studies and described the course selection process. If you have questions or would like to discuss placement recommendations with teachers, please call now so that your son or daughter can submit his or her course selection worksheet in **homeroom on March 11.**

The number of sections of each course to be offered depends upon the sign-ups collected in March. After that time it is difficult to change courses or to add courses to a schedule. Guidance counselors may be contacted at 978-341-2490 x119/120 if you would like assistance in working with your son or daughter to complete course selections for next year.

Class of 2009 parents, please note that course selections for your sons and daughters will be collected by eighth grade counselors and forwarded to the high school. Eighth grade counselors have already shared with you the process being followed for Class of 2009 high school course selections.

If you have any questions about that process and/or course selections, please call your counselor. If you would like additional information about a high school course, please feel free to call the chairperson of the department in which the course is offered. You may reach that person by calling 978-341-2490 and asking for the department.

- A **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD** will be given to any **SENIOR** who has completed 100 or more hours of service. All forms verifying these hours **MUST** be turned in to Ms. Truslow **BEFORE** April Vacation in order to qualify for this award.
- There are a number of seniors who have **NOT** purchased a cap and gown for graduation. If your son/daughter has a cap and gown they still must **ORDER** a tassel. If your son/daughter is **NOT** going to participate they need to let Mrs. Coleman know **ASAP.**
- Don't miss out on **SCHOLARSHIPS.** There are many scholarships waiting to be claimed. Your guidance counselor can point you in the right direction. Also, be sure to look into the Concord-Carlisle Scholarship Fund. See Mrs. Tessari in the Registrar's office for a CCSF application.
- The **SENIOR LETTER** will be sent home to all seniors and their parents in **APRIL.** This letter contains information about the graduation ceremony, rule and regulations pertaining to the senior prom, graduation and more.

CLASS  **2005**

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Remind your student that volunteers are needed for the St. Patrick's Day dinner. A good opportunity to pick up a few community service hours, and a very worthwhile cause.

Many thanks to Sandra Curran and Maureen Tarca for co-chairing the event. It is a big undertaking, and they have done a wonderful job. Thanks also to Mary Jane MacEachern for acting as liaison with the Council on Aging.

We are still hoping to schedule a parent social for this month. We will let you know when we have it nailed down.

Congratulations to all those lucky Seniors who have already heard from their colleges.

Best of luck to everyone who is sweating it out until April.

Lee Bagley, Bev Castrichini, Margaret Coughlin, Karen Ippolito

CLASS 2006

A Parent Social will be held on Friday evening, March 11th from 6:30 to 8:30. Lisa and Jim Philippou have kindly offered their home at 165 Hutchins Road in Carlisle. It's a great chance to catch up with other parents of '06 students. Invitations will be sent after February vacation.

A Parent Morning Coffee scheduled for March 16th has been cancelled.

The Junior class is sponsoring an all school dance on March 18th. Since this is a major fundraiser for the class, students willing to help out are encouraged to contact their class officers. Parents able to chaperone may contact Lisa Philippou at [<mailto:LPhilippou@comcast.net>] LPhilippou@comcast.net or at 978-369-2878.

The Class of '06 is also selling CCHS flip-flops during the week of February 14th through the 18th. Look for an order form elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Parent Advisors are looking for parents willing to chair or co-chair the Graduation Reception which the junior class provides for the senior class immediately following graduation in June. Many committee heads are already in place so one or two people are needed to oversee the event. Contact Lisa Philippou (see above), Sandra Arena at [<mailto:Sarena101@1verizon.net>] arena101@1verizon.net or at 978-287-4063 or Jane Turner Michael at [<mailto:Jtmconcord@aol.com>]

CLASS 2007

Thanks to Steve and Diane Payne for opening their home for a Parent Social in January.

Only one event planned for this month - Friday March 4: Class of 2007 Tubing Night at Neshoba. This event is rescheduled from January 29. 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.

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 2008

Thanks to Leslie Wagner for coordinating a brigade of students and parents in snack sales and distribution at January's Summer Opportunities Fair. Dan McGrath and Laurie Giunta, the stalwart 2008 class advisors were a huge help as well.

Keep an eye out for information on a Freshman Parent Spring Social to be held this spring. This will be a wine tasting event, with date and location to be determined.

On April Fool's Day, April 1, the class will host a Freshman-Only Movie Night in the CCHS cafeteria. The kids will be voting on the movie (s) to be shown on a BIG screen TV. Snacks and drinks will be available – sort of just like home!

Katie Carr

WELCOME CLASS 2009 - GRADE 8

As part of our orientation/welcome to the Class of 2009, eighth grade parents will receive the [CCHS Newsletter](#) beginning with the March issue. We hope that the news will be of interest and that it will give you a sense of high school activities and events, as well as topics of concern to parents in grades 9-12. You are most welcome to attend any of the public events announced in the newsletter.

Each year at this time we begin to ask for parent volunteers to help organize the Class 2009 Parent Group for the incoming freshmen class. We need two to four parents who would like to share "chair" duties. Some of the duties of the 2009 Parent Group include helping the freshmen class get organized, helping with traditional class activities, fund raising, social events for 2009 parents, newsletter reporter, and more.

Over the years, a "book" has been developed by parents to help those who follow. The book contains all of the information you will need to help organize the traditional activities for freshmen year. Contact Diane Payne, President of the Parents' Association if you are interested.

Parents of incoming freshmen, Class of 2009 are invited to attend any of the meetings or activities for CCHS parents, as well as any school events between now and the end of the year. We would love to have you join us.

**KAPLAN OFFERS COURSE and PRIVATE TUTORING
TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE NEW SAT THIS SPRING.**

PRIVATE TUTORING - Kaplan offers private tutoring for SAT prep through Kaplan Premier. If your student has a busy schedule and would like an in-home personalized prep program for the NEW SAT, call Kaplan at 781-216-9036 to arrange a program with one of their excellent tutors.

CLASSROOM COURSE - The classroom program offers: 12 total class sessions, including 4 full-length simulated practice tests, a full complement of Kaplan's expert resources including over 250 flashcards, 24-hour a day access to on-line workshops, The Big Purple Book of SAT Tests, and the student lesson book, expert and enthusiastic instruction from a Kaplan teacher in small, focused classes, the latest test-taking and vocabulary building strategies, development of Essay Writing, Grammar, and Math strategies, a personalized study plan based on each child's individual strengths and weaknesses, and the ability to make-up missed sessions at another Kaplan location at no charge. Need based financial aid is available.

SABS5059: 12 sessions on Tuesday/Thursday at 6pm starting on March 22, 2005 for the May exam at CCHS

Call 1-800-KAP-TEST to register.

FREE PSAT PRACTICE TEST OFFERED BY KAPLAN ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005 FROM 9AM TO NOON
AT CCHS. CALL KAPLAN FOR INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER.



MARCH CALENDAR



- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Musical Dress Rehearsal 2:15-7 pm2. Open Dress Rehearsal 2:15-7 pm
Private School Registration Library 7:00 pm3. CC Pops Meeting Library 7:00 pm4. Homeroom
Registration Info Due to CCHS from Carlisle
Musical 7:30 pm5. Musical 7:30 pm6. Musical 2:30 pm7. Principals Coffee 8:30 am Room A-7
Jr. State Bake Sale All Week
Freshman Fundraiser
MCAS Math Retest
Metco Dessert & Discussion 7 pm8. April Newsletter Deadline
MCAS Math Retest9. MCAS ELA Comp
Touch Up Rehearsal 2:30-5:00 pm
Pit Orchestra Rehearsal
Backup Date Private School Registration10. MCAS ELA 1 & 211. MCAS ELA 3
Musical 7:30 pm
Course Selection Collection
Homeroom/Attendance12. St Patrick's Luncheon for Senior Citizens
SAT
Musical 7:30 pm | <ol style="list-style-type: none">13. Musical 2:30 pm14. Course Selection from Concord/Carlisle
Due to CCHS
ARB Meeting 2:30 pm
Model UN Bake Sale All Week15. Senior Safari 7 pm Faculty Dining Room16. SAC Meeting 7:00 pm
Communicating with your Teen 7 pm Little Theater17. Food Fest
MMEA All State18. Homeroom
Junior Class All School Dance
MMEA All State19. MMEA All State
Dance Grade 7 & 8 Café21. Spring Sports Tryouts Begin23. Band Concert24. NO SCHOOL Professional Day25. NO SCHOOL Good Friday27. Easter Sunday28. Homeroom/Attendance
ARB Meeting 2:30
Spring Play Auditions
Spectrum Bake Sale All Week
Sophomore Class Magazine Drive29. Chorus /Orchestra Rehearsal 6:30-8:30 pm30. Chorus Concert 7:30 pm31. Orchestra Concert 7:30 pm |
|--|---|

Important Newsletter Information You Need To Know.

- The next newsletter **deadline is March 8.**
- Please send your articles to Mrs. Coleman at icoleman@colonial.net.
 - Please limit your article to no more than **½ page maximum**
- All articles must have a **name and telephone number** that can be published with the article.



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

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

WILLARD SCHOOL

Be informed about Warrant Article #24: Design Funds for New Willard Building

The School Committee has submitted Article #24: Design Funds for New Willard Building on the Warrant for Town Meeting. The article asks for \$1.75 million for the purpose of financing design services for the Willard School. Here are some of the facts you should know in preparation for Town Meeting:

- Willard was built in 1957, 7 years after the old Thoreau and Alcott.
- Willard has many of the same infrastructure issues that the old Thoreau and Alcott faced including water leaks (classroom flooded, materials destroyed), inadequate space (children being taught in the hallways), heat fluctuations (55-80 and no heat in one classroom this winter), ants/mice/bees (no screens), state energy codes not met.
- There are safety issues at Willard including no emergency lighting, no sprinkler system, fire exits to inside courtyards, no paging system in several areas, fire safety issues due to lack of storage, office placement limiting visitor oversight, narrow entry to nurses office makes it difficult for emergency personnel to access.
- Willard is 1/3 smaller than state educational guidelines (800 sq ft classroom space with no storage vs. 1,100 sq ft with storage), does not meet special education requirements (was cited in the 2000 audit and no improvements have been made), and is not ADA handicap compliant.
- Old closets have been converted into professional rooms due to lack of space, teachers phone is in an old storage closet, there is only one adult bathroom in the building, and the only storage room is accessed through the music room making it difficult to get materials while class is in session.
- 1/3 of the town's elementary school children are in a school that does not meet state educational requirements.
- \$1.8 Million in maintenance is projected over the next 5 years (does not include any improvements) and \$4-5 million of identified capital expenditures over the next 10 years.
- An estimated cost of building a New Willard starting in 2006 is \$21 Million. Waiting five years to build could cost an additional \$6.8 million due to sunken maintenance costs and construction cost increases.
- Based on median household value of \$731,000, the median cost per year to build a new school would cost \$276.87 per year 2008-2028 (20 year bond) with the highest median cost in 2009 at \$368.57.

The School Committee has requested a feasibility study to determine if a new Willard can be built on site while using the existing school or if the existing school would have to be torn down to make space for a new building. The study will consider conservation land, septic/leeching fields, neighborhood concerns, optimal building design. The feasibility study results are due in early April.

For more information visit www.buildwillard.org and attend one of the many coffees, presentations or tours happening between now and Town Meeting.

WIQH RADIO

What have we played for you lately??? If you haven't heard WIQH recently, you might have missed the very educational discussion on Teen Depression and Suicide sponsored by the Alliance for Teen Safety (but you can hear it again soon...more in a moment) or the Concord Carlisle League of Women Voters Superintendents Forum featuring a lively discussion among the leaders of the Carlisle, Minuteman and Concord Schools. What about CCHS Junior Benjamin Gatti's hour long interview with Concord author Gregory Maguire? Or CCHS Patriots Hockey and Basketball?

Don't miss out any more! Tune in to **88.3 FM, CCHS's student-run radio station** whenever you can for entertainment, C-C sports, community events, news and special programs. A rebroadcast of the ATS forum on teen depression airs again on WIQH on Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m. and again at 7:00. Boston Globe columnist Eileen McNamara interviews Gail Griffith, author of the forthcoming book "Will's Choice, a Suicidal Teen, a Desperate Mother, and a Chronicle of Recovery". The program, like the book, is a candid discussion of depression's effects and how the disease can be overcome.

Coming up later in the spring, WIQH will provide live coverage of selected CCHS Girls' and Boys' Lacrosse games as well as Softball and Baseball action. Check the Carlisle Mosquito, Concord Journal and www.wiqh.org for schedule details along with a complete listing of all programming on 88.3 FM.

And if you're looking for some great deals while shopping around town, pick up a **WIQH Hometown Treasures Coupon Book**. It's got coupons good for discounts at nearly 50 stores, services and restaurants. And all the businesses are in the Concord-Carlisle area. Best of all, the \$25 you'll pay for the book helps support WIQH. Pay a little, save a lot more, and support 88.3 FM! It's an awesome deal. Contact WIQH at 978-369-2440 for more info.

THE CONCORD SPED PAC



The Concord Special Education Parents Advisory Committee is a positive and solution oriented committee that has grown to over 150 members. As a state mandated, system wide volunteer organization, we serve as a resource and advisor to parents of children with disabilities from preschool to high school. We work closely with the Concord Public School and Concord-Carlisle Regional School District administration to identify areas of needs and act in an advisory role to the respective School Committees regarding parents' collective issues.

We can help you become an effective advocate for your child.

We offer a broad range of information, contacts, networking opportunities and presentations by specialists. SPED PAC members share information (books, tutors, evaluators, etc.) they have found useful in guiding their children's education. We will help you connect with other parents and professionals dealing with similar issues.

You don't have to do this alone.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Visit our website: www.concordspedpac.org and [view our Calendar](#) for a list of this year's educational presentations or watch for our announcements in your school newsletters.

Next BUSINESS MEETINGS:

March 17 7:30pm- 9pm Ripley Bldg Rm-1

May 17 9:30am-11am Ripley Bldg Rm-2

The Concord SPED PAC serves all Concord schools, from preschool through high school. Our membership is open to parents or guardians of children with disabilities and anyone interested in special education in Concord.

BECOME A MEMBER

It is easy and free.

Visit our website and subscribe to our SPED PAC email list. Just click on one of the purple Yahoo buttons. We have an email list for PreK through grade 8 and another list for our high school and beyond. Join our discussions and receive the latest announcements about research on educational issues, information on local disability conferences, and current state and federal laws information.

The Concord SPED PAC
c/o Melody Orfei
192 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

For more information, call your school liaison:

ALCOTT: Maria Tinglof at 978-369-4206 emty0@yahoo.com or Melody Orfei at 978-371-2182 o.mel@verizon.net

THOREAU: Melissa Katz at 978-371-0672 pskatz@comcast.com or Anne Randle at 978-369-5255 annerandle@aol.com

WILLARD: Kim Blake at 978-287-4120 yoyoandmimi@earthlink.net or Christine Carr at 978-287-0533 eve christine.carr@verizon.net

PEABODY: Bonnie Polakoff at 978-371-2455 bonnieboop@comcast.net or

SANBORN: Kathleen Chapman at 978-287-0078 krfchap@yahoo.com

CONCORD CARLISLE HIGH SCHOOL (CCHS): Christine Corr at 978-369-8479 mccorr@aol.com

MINUTEMAN TECH HIGH SCHOOL: Melody Orfei at 978-371-2182 o.mel@verizon.net

MINUTEMAN ARC: Liz Hopkinson, at 978-287-5236 lhopkinson@verizon.net

OUT-OF-DISTRICT: Sandra Arena at 978-287-4063 Sarena@erols.com

MENTAL HEALTH / DIFFERENCES: Carole Fiorentino at 978-369-2621 eve CWFhere@comcast.net

Visit our website: www.concordspedpac.org

**CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2005-2006**

<p>SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u> 1 Professional Day 5 Labor Day 6 Prof. Day/Orientation 7 CLASSES BEGIN</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY</u> 20 Presidents' Day 20-24 February Recess 27 Classes Resume</p>	<p>FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 12 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p>
<p><i>September 6–Orientation for 9th Grade and New CCHS Students</i> September 6– First day for 6th Grade Students September 7– First Day for all students - no school for 6th grade</p>			
<p>OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><u>OCTOBER</u> 4 Rosh Hashanah 10 Columbus Day 13 Yom Kippur</p>	<p><u>MARCH</u> 22 Professional Day</p>	<p>MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>
<p>NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p><u>NOVEMBER</u> 11 Veterans' Day 23 Half Day 24-25 Thanksgiving Recess</p>	<p><u>APRIL</u> 14 Good Friday 17-21 April Recess 17 Patriots' Day 24 Classes Resume</p>	<p>APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>
<p>DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u> 8 Professional Day 23 Half Day 26-30 Winter Recess</p>	<p><u>MAY</u> 29 Memorial Day</p>	<p>MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>
<p>JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><u>JANUARY</u> 2 New Year's Day 3 Classes Resume 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u> 3 Graduation 22 180th Instructional Day 23-29 Snow Days One Professional Day for teachers following last student day</p>	<p>JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>

SCHOOL COMMITTEES

Betsy Bilodeau, CSC, CCSC
 Rebecca Shannon, CSC, CCSC, Chair CSC
 Michael Fitzgerald, CCSC, Vice Chair CCSC
 Patrick Sinnott, CSC, CCSC, Chair CCSC
 David Dockterman, CCSC
 Jerry Wedge, CSC, CCSC, Vice Chair CSC
 Jan McGinn, CSC, CCSC

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brenda D. Finn, Superintendent of Schools
 Ms. Diana Rigby, Assistant Superintendent
 Mr. John Flaherty, Director of Finance & Operations
 Ms. Jessica Murphy, K-12 Special Education Director
 Mr. Arthur Dulong, Principal – CCHS
 Mr. Arthur Unobskey, Principal – Concord Middle School
 Ms. Sharon Young, Principal – Alcott Elementary School
 Mr. Jim Halliday, Interim Principal – Thoreau Elementary School
 Ms. Patricia Fernandes, Principal – Willard Elementary School

<u>SCHOOLS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>	<u>SCHOOL HOURS</u>	<u>M-W-T-F</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>November 24</u>
Alcott Elementary School	318-9544	Kindergarten	9:00 -12:15	9:00 -12:15	9:00-12:30
Thoreau Elementary School	318-1300	Elementary (1-5)	9:00 - 3:20	9:00 -12:15	9:00-12:30
Willard Elementary School	318-1340				
Concord Middle School		Middle (6-8)	8:15 - 2:30	8:15 - 1:00	8:15-11:40
Peabody Middle School	318-1360				
Sanborn Middle School	318-1380	High (9-12)	7:35 - 2:05	7:35 - 2:05	7:30-11:00
Concord-Carlisle High School	318-1400				

SCHOOL YEAR

The 185th scheduled day is June 29th. The school calendar includes 5 days to cover *no school* contingencies. Classes will end upon completion of the 180th instructional day. A professional day for teachers follows the last day of instruction.

No school programs will be planned for October 4 or October 13 or the evenings preceding these dates.

CANCELLATION OR DELAYED OPENING OF SCHOOLS

Announcements will be made on television stations WCVB-TV-5, WHDH-TV-7, WBZ-TV-4; radio station WBZ and posted on the home page of colonial.net

Item: JED

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The Concord School Committee and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee believe strongly in the importance of regular attendance by all students. The Committees adhere to and are in full compliance with Chapter 76 of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which defines attendance regulations. Except in cases of illness and other unique circumstances, students are expected to be present when school is in session. The building principal will have the final authority in determining whether a student's absence is approved or unapproved. In the event of unapproved absences, disciplinary action, when appropriate, will occur as indicated in the appropriate student handbook.

Should a parent choose to keep a student out of school for a reason which is not approved, the school and individual teacher(s) will not assume responsibility for either preparing lessons in advance for the student or for providing individual tutoring or extensive individual help for the student when he or she returns. It will be the responsibility of the student and the parent to identify work that may be missed. While teachers will provide the normal range of assistance, it is the student's responsibility for making up that work.

School Committee Policy

ADOPTED: CSC: 27 May 1986
 CCSC: 27 May 1986

“Guidance Bulletin”

March 2005

Volume I, No. 16



Spring and Summer Visits

While college admissions offices welcome student visitors during much of the year, school vacations in April and during the summer months are particularly popular times to visit. For the April vacation, an added advantage is that classes are still in session and sports and other campus activities are easier to see in progress. While school is in session, visitors can also gain a sense of intangible, subjective qualities such as campus atmosphere, the student body, the relative emphasis on academics, and the overall “feel of the school community”.

Most college visits begin with a group information session offered by the admissions office and a student escorted tour of the campus. Because many colleges pay attention to demonstrated student interest in the school, the admissions office contact is one expression of this interest. Students and parents are also typically welcome to explore the campus on their own, sit in the Student Center, and browse the college bookstore, etc. Depending on a college’s policy and the degree of student interest in the school, students may also schedule an interview for the day of their visit. Through the admissions office, students sometimes may arrange to return to spend an overnight in the dorm at one of their top choice schools.

For more information on college visits and interviews, consult the CCHS Post-Secondary Planning Handbook or the CCHS Guidance Department Web Site at www.colonial.net/guidance.

Junior Planning Meetings

Group meetings for juniors to meet with their counselors and receive information on college planning and other post-secondary options will be held during the week of **March 14, 2005**. This session will focus on college selection criteria and various informational resources available in the Guidance Resource Center. This meeting is especially important as juniors will be re-introduced to **MYROAD**, an internet-based college and career planning program, which allows students to access information from school or home. At the end of this meeting, juniors will schedule individual follow-up conferences with their counselors to discuss their individual plans in detail. About one week prior to this group meeting, each junior will receive a letter in the mail designating the time and place of the meeting.

How Colleges Will Use the New SAT Test

On February 7th, several of our counselors attended a College Board seminar in Boston in which Admissions Directors from several highly competitive local colleges and universities presented and discussed the various ways they will be using the new writing section of the SAT. To summarize:

- 1) At many schools, the class of 2006 will be required to submit scores from the new test.
- 2) SATI Writing Portion – Colleges and Universities at this point really have a limited idea of what to expect with this new test. Most will consider this a trial year to collect data and see what happens. The admissions committee may read the Writing sample as part of the application for all students; other colleges might read the sample only for borderline candidates.



- 3) SAT II Subject tests – Most colleges do not require any SAT IIs. However, of those colleges that required three SAT II tests in the past, most will now only require two subject tests. There are still a few colleges that will continue to require three tests, and this information will be on their own college web site by late spring. A student may still take an SATII in October in time for early decision should the need arrive.

- 4) ACTs – If you would like to take the ACT in lieu of the SAT, we suggest that you take the ACT with the Writing portion. Some schools will require it, and some will not. However, if you take it with writing, you will cover all of your bases. The ACT can also be submitted in lieu of the SAT II subject tests at some schools.

College Board Test Info

March 25, 2005 and April 29, 2005 are the regular deadline dates for juniors to register for the May 7 and June 4 SAT exams. Those juniors taking any SAT exam must bring a picture ID with them to the test site. Guidance counselors can provide an alternative form of identification before any of the tests if students do not have a picture ID.

AP Exam Registration

Juniors or seniors who have a strong academic background in advanced courses may wish to take the **Advanced Placement (AP) Exams**. Many colleges and universities award college credit or course exemption to students who receive high scores on an AP exam. AP exams are offered in many subject areas including English, math, science, languages, history, computer science, music theory, and studio art. Students should see **Ms. Trainor in the Main Office** for a complete listing of subjects in which the exams are offered. The exams are given in mid May.

The deadline for registration for AP exams is **March 18, 2005**. The cost of each exam is **\$82.00**. Registration is with **Ms. Trainor in the Main Office**. Teachers of subjects in which students are considering an AP exam can offer advice about whether students should take the exam in that subject. Students who are not sure if they will take an AP should sign up for the test and will receive a partial refund if they decide not to take the exam.

SENIORS

A Community Service Award will be given to any senior who has completed 100 or more hours of service. All forms verifying these hours MUST be turned in to Dr. Weinstein before April vacation in order to qualify for this award.

