

# CCHS NEWSLETTER

(Published by CCHS and the CCHS Parents' Association)

Volume 23 -- Number 6

**JANUARY 2006**



## PARENT ASSOCIATION

How often do we wait with anticipation and excitement for that first big snow storm, but as soon as the front sets in, and the snow plows are out, our thoughts drift to the warm days of summer. Well, if that describes you, then the **CCHS Summer Opportunities Fair, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30**, is the place for you! Learn about wilderness adventures, sports camps, volunteer opportunities and much more. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fair, and it gets better every year.

And speaking of summer, soon our community won't have to wait for summer to swim, with the new **Concord Carlisle Community Swim & Health Center set to open March, 2006**. The building itself is amazing with four pools, two fitness rooms, roomy locker and changing areas and much more. This facility when opened, will also be offering planned Saturday night activities for our middle and high school students. If you would like more information, please contact C.C. Pools at 978-371-0109 or by e-mail at [INFO@CCPOOLS.ORG](mailto:INFO@CCPOOLS.ORG).

**Many thanks to Kate Bird, Anita Tekle and Janet Lipkin** for organizing and hosting the teacher appreciation dinner on conference day, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Not only did they orchestrate a delicious dinner, but gave our faculty a needed break from a long conference schedule.

Coming up for January, the Guidance Department is sponsoring a **"Freshman/Sophomore Parent Evening" January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** to discuss the timeline for the college process. The class of 2006 will be sponsoring an all school dance this month too. Please remember that our school dances can only continue if we are able to secure enough faculty and parent chaperones.

Best wishes to the Concord-Carlisle Community in 2006!

Lisa Betancourt, PA President, 978-369-3453



Happy New Year



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## CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS/CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Families:

I hope all of you are taking time to relax and enjoy what to me, is a beautiful season of the year. Many of your children will be receiving gifts of various games that you may be challenged to understand but thrilled to watch them learn.

I have been asked to share information about another "game" that your children and possibly you may have heard about recently in national publications and on the Oprah show. The "pass-out, choking, knockout, black hole game", as the November 21<sup>st</sup> Newsweek article states, "is becoming common around the country. Children/young adults choke themselves with a rope or belt or have someone else do it, and then loosen the grip as they begin to lose consciousness-triggering a head rush they regard as an innocent, drug-free buzz". This is not a harmless practice and communities are losing children who thought it would be fun to try. Newsweek also states. "There is very little in the medical literature at this point".

I have communicated information re: this "game" to the CCHS and Middle School Principals and guidance departments. Neither group have heard about this "game" being played here but asked me to share this information and a web site that you could access for further information. On the [stop-the-choking-game.com](http://stop-the-choking-game.com) site there is an article by Dan Baldwin for parents as to how to "Discuss the Dangers of Choking with Young Adults".

Keeping our children safe is a challenge. However, if we are proactive and supportive of each other, with a willingness to share information and communicate with our children in a way that lets them know we are aware and concerned about them, it will help us accomplish our goal of keeping them safe. If you have questions please feel free to call me at 978-341-2490 X 8132

Sincerely,  
Kathy Bowen, K-12 Health Education Coordinator  
Concord Public/Concord-Carlisle Schools

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I hope everyone has had a restful break. I must tell you, the breaks are necessary... for faculty and students.

Before reading anything below I want to assure you that, at the moment, things at CCHS are terrific. Students and teachers continue to amaze with their commitment to excellence. Parents continue to support in ways that are too numerous to count.

I am not going to spend this first missive of the year in a detailed discussion of the budget issues, but I would feel remorse if I did not share some information and establish some context. We are, indeed, in another budget crisis year. The school committee has recommended a budget that will require an override in excess of \$400,000. Earlier this Fall I was asked to prepare a reduction list in excess of \$800,000. Thus, even if a 400K override should pass we will be reducing the necessary budget by over 400K. The school committee budget, reduction list, and what it all means will certainly be discussed in detail over the next couple months. For now, I'd like to offer my opinion regarding a broken political system, a broken funding system and reasons why it will remain broken for the foreseeable future. Please stop reading here if you prefer not to indulge my rant.

Every town has competing forces for its tax dollars. Schools are the recipients of the greatest share of each tax dollar. That is a fact unlikely to change because schools are people centered and are facing increasing demands in both an educational sense and in a social sense. The schools have become the last bastion to care for and cure the ills of society. We are dependent on having the people to teach, nurture, and manage the students. People cost money. We inherit all that the social services the federal and state government sheds from its own plate. The result is that while federal and state politicians tout tax savings and refuse tax increases the local taxpayer foots the bill for national and state political decisions. Consequently, the local entity appears to be a dollar hungry beast gobbling up money faster than it can be handed to the local coffers. That is not the case, but few want to believe it.

The question the cynic asks is, "Why can't they just cut expenses?" Here are a few realities. The Proposition 2 ½ law allows a town to collect an increase of no more than 2 ½% plus additional taxes due to new construction. There is not much new construction in Concord or Carlisle. The local assessment means that the levy limit will support a modest increase in school budgets of something near the 2 ½%. Meanwhile insurance costs are rising at between 10% and 15% every year. Fuel costs will rise 50% or more. Salary expenditures will increase almost 7%. Special education expenses will rise dramatically due to out placed students. I have just referenced more than 80% of the entire budget. We cannot control the insurance costs, the fuel costs, or the special education costs. One might say we could control the salary costs, but it is not that easy. Teacher salaries, in every town, include step changes due to experience and lane changes due to increased degrees. At this moment most CCHS teachers are young enough to be moving upward on the steps and across on the lanes. Thus, a modest raise for teachers, let's say 2%, will amount to about 6% increase in the salary account. The only people who actually get 2% are those at the top of the scale. We cannot really control teacher costs, nor would it be reasonable to promote a modest starting salary followed by repeatedly minimal raises.

Revenues are tightly controlled. Costs are almost uncontrollable. The system is broken. The system, as created, is based on assumptions about federal, state, and local cooperation. That is not happening. The system, when created, was based on being able to increase levy limits by more than 2 ½%. That is no longer true. Things will continue as they are because the federal and state politicians create great sound bites by espousing lower taxes. It will continue as it is because local politicians, most of whom are volunteers, do not have the time, the will, the energy, or the opportunity to band together to create a strong and united front with which to assault the status quo. Things will continue as they are because the factors that drive cost for education will not be reducing in the near future.

What it means is that even the most efficiently managed towns, which surely include Concord and Carlisle, will continually face overrides and reduction lists.

I think I need another break!

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Semester II Schedules will be issued on Monday January 30 at 7:35 in homeroom.

### **CORI FORMS**

You will not be able to volunteer at CCHS without an updated Cori Form. Please see Mrs. Coleman in the main office to fill out a form.



**COME TO THE SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES AND JOBS AND JOBS FAIR!!!**  
**25th Anniversary Summer Opportunities Fair--January 30, 2006**

Come help us celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Summer Opportunities Fair! Whether you are looking for a camp, enrichment opportunities, or an adventure this summer, the Summer Opportunities Fair has something for you!

**The 25th Anniversary Summer Opportunities Fair**  
**will be held on January 30th**  
**from 5:30-8:30 pm in the CCHS cafeteria.**

In an effort to give students of all ages an opportunity to explore some exciting alternatives to their usual summer activities, the fair brings together representatives from over 80 organizations to present information about summer opportunities locally, nationally, and abroad. Exhibitors will display information on traditional summer camps, special needs programs, wilderness adventures, education and enrichment opportunities, sports camps, foreign language and student exchange programs, volunteer opportunities, and more. Free anniversary goodies for all!! Admission is free. Refreshments will be available. Snow date January 31st, 5:30-8:30 pm.

Questions? Call Nancy Flaherty at 978-371-0549. Sponsored by the CCHS Parents' Association



**SENIOR SAFARI**

*First Planning Meeting*

If you are looking for a great committee to serve on, we have the answer for you. SENIOR SAFARI! This is the all-night graduation party sponsored by the Freshman, Sophomore and Junior parents of CCHS. It is an elaborate production of decorations, activities and food. We will continue with the tradition, now in its 15th year, of giving our graduates a safe place to gather for a fun night of celebrating. This year we will be undergoing some updating of this event, including a new name (to be determined), decorations and theme!

Attend the first planning meeting on **Tuesday, January 10 at 7:30 pm in room A-7. Bring a friend.** Meet the committee chairs. If interested but cannot attend call, Christine Corr 978-369-8479 or email us at [CCHSSeniorsafari@aol.com](mailto:CCHSSeniorsafari@aol.com)

**CONCORD-CARLISLE ADULT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION**  
**Driver Education and SAT Prep Classes AT CCHS**  
*Winter 2006*

Concord-Carlisle Adult & Community Education is offering the following courses in **Driver Education** and **SAT Preparation** for high school students beginning January, 2006. For more information, to register and also see complete course listings for the entire community, go to [www.ace.colonial.net](http://www.ace.colonial.net) or call (978) 318-1540 weekdays, (978) 318-1432 weeknights.

**Driver Education**, Christo Driving School, Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 10 – March 2, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., \$420

**Driver Education**, Christo Driving School, Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 10 – March 2, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., \$420

**Summit Education**, New! SAT I Preparation for April 1, 2006 Test - 12 Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m., January 3 – March 28, \$550

**Summit Education**, New! SAT I Preparation for May 6, 2006 Test - 12 Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., January 26 – May 4, \$550

**Summit Education**, New! SAT I Preparation for May 6, 2006 Test - 12 Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m., January 31 – May 2, \$550



**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.

**STUDENTS ARE REMINDED TO CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND BOXES IN THE CAFETERIA AND IN THE MAIN OFFICE. ITEMS WILL BE SENT TO GOODWILL AFTER VACATION.**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS**

The School Committee continues to discuss the balance between funding operating budgets and making capital investments in our school buildings. In preparation for the Town Meeting in 2006, a vote was taken to put forward nine warrant articles for schools, addressing budgets, building renovations, design funds, and supplemental appropriations to cover unforeseen costs.

At the December 13, 2005 meeting the School Committee voted to recommend a budget of \$24,460,285 for Concord Public Schools (K-8). The budget will require an override of \$381,931. The budget reflects a reduction in staff of 3.5 Full Time Equivalent employees due to decreased enrollment at Concord Middle School, and two math proficiency teachers funded for one year at the elementary level. The Math Curriculum specialist position for the three elementary schools will remain in the budget. There will also be an 8% reduction in the supplies and materials budget.

If an override fails to pass for Concord Public Schools, reductions will include an additional 17% reduction in the supplies and materials budget, a reduction of the itinerant nurse position, a reduction of four library aide positions, and the elimination of district curriculum specialists. The loss of these positions would be detrimental to the school system.

Passing an override requires passage of a budget at Town Meeting, followed by passage at the polls by a majority of voters. The Concord Finance Committee supports the override proposed by the school committee.

For Concord-Carlisle High School the School Committee voted to recommend a budget of \$19,189,282, which will require an override of \$473,782 (approximately 30% Carlisle and 70% Concord responsibility). It is likely that Carlisle can pass this level of budget with no override, as the enrollment ratio has moved in Carlisle’s favor this year. Concord would need to pass this budget at both town meeting and the polls, while Carlisle will have to vote only at Town Meeting to establish a “match” and an agreed upon budget for CCHS.

The budget is very tight for CCHS. The recommendation includes a 20% reduction in supplies and materials, reduces funding for the radio station, reduces one of two campus monitors, and eliminates the senior project. If the override does not pass for CCHS, reductions that will impact the school include a reduction of the only remaining campus monitor, a further reduction in supplies and materials accounts, a reduction in athletic equipment expenditures, and a reduction in co-curricular funding. A much needed social worker position will be eliminated, instructional staffing will be reduced, and department chairs would have added teaching responsibility and less time to perform administrative functions. Budget reductions will have a fundamental effect on how CCHS operates. The School Committee noted that operating on a very tight budget; reductions go to core curriculum very quickly. The Concord Finance Committee is supporting the override budget recommended by the School Committee, recognizing the importance of this funding for CCHS.

Additional Warrant Articles will include renovation money for Concord Public Schools and CCHS. CPS capital expenditures will be invested on a new roof for the Willard School if design funds for a new building are not approved at both the polls on March 28 and the Town Meeting in April. Additional monies will be requested to address other crucial needs if a new Willard School design does not get underway this spring. If design funds for a new school are approved, the money allocated to schools from the town’s capital plan will be spent on projects at the Concord Middle School, and Ripley. The old school buildings have needs that cannot be fully addressed within the capital monies available, and will require large capital infusions in the coming years.

At CCHS, both Concord and Carlisle will be asked to support monies for capital improvements necessary prior to the completion of a large project. This money, if approved, will be spent on upgrading the fire alarm system, replacing the intercom system for safety purposes, upgrading lighting, and reconfiguring the science labs, amongst other small projects.

The spike in heating and fuel costs, in addition to an unexpected increase of about \$780,000 in Special Education costs (largely due to out of district placements having to do with mental health issues) at CCHS this year, have resulted in the School Committee placing an article on the warrant for supplemental appropriations at CCHS. The district continues to try to minimize this request as the year ensues through careful budget management.

Overall, in order to keep our school systems strong, we encourage all citizens to pay attention in the coming months to the discussions surrounding these requests. The balance of addressing facility challenges with operating budget challenges will be a balance that the town will have to focus on for several years to come.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season and a healthy New Year in 2006!

Betsy Bilodeau, School Committee

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**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.

**TELEPHONE REMINDER:**

The number to call is **978-341-2490** to reach anyone at the high school. Listen to the prompts and follow the instructions. **Do not use 978-318-1417.**

# Save the Date

## Metco Annual

### Dessert & Discussion - 2006



**ALL ARE INVITED TO THE METCO  
ANNUAL DESSERT AND DISCUSSION – 2006**

- WHERE:** **Concord-Carlisle High School - Library**  
500 Walden Street  
Concord MA 01742
- WHEN:** **Thursday, March 2, 2006**  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- PRESENTER:** **Dr. Prudence L. Carter**  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
Harvard University
- BOOK:** **Keepin' It Real: School Success Beyond Black and White**

Dr. Prudence L. Carter will discuss her new book, providing us with insights on the influence of race and ethnicity on the culture and achievement of African American and Latino students. Dr. Carter will explore some assumptions about minority student academic engagement and school success, and identify strategies to help students meet expectations. Dr. Carter will also answer questions from the audience and our panel of readers.

# Do You Want to Win \$10,000?

Help support the [CCHS Class of 2008](#) by participating in an [“Elimination Raffle.”](#)

**WHAT IS THAT?** Only 250 tickets are sold. Each ticket admits two people to a dinner and party. There will be a live band/DJ! As the numbers are drawn, they are eliminated from the raffle. The last one drawn wins \$10,000!

(Must be 21 to attend event, but only 18 to buy a ticket.)

**IS THAT IT?** There are other options. When we get down to the last 10 people, they could opt to split the money! Or the last 5 people! Or the last 2 people!

**HOW?** You can get your ticket by filling out the bottom portion of this form and sending it back with your check to the Class of 2008. An actual ticket with your prize number will be recorded by us and mailed to you.

**HOW MUCH?** Each ticket is \$100. You can split the cost with 1, 2, up to 10 people. But, you have to split the winnings too!

**WHEN?** The dinner/dance will be March 24, 2006.

.....  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

1 or 2 (circle one) will attend

Will not be able to attend  
(check below)

When the elimination gets down to 10 people, all 10 have to be present to agree to split the winnings or we continue eliminating. If you are not present that night, we need to know if you are willing to split or not. Please check 1, 2, or all three boxes below and above to indicate your vote, in case you are one of the last few winners!

I am willing to split the winnings among 10 people

I am willing to split the winnings among 5 people

I am willing to split the winnings among 2 people

**Make Checks Payable and Send to:**  
CCHS Class of 2008  
C/O Laurie Giunta  
Concord-Carlisle High School  
500 Walden Street – Concord, MA 01742



**SUBSCRIBING TO THE LIST SERVE:**

Go to [www.lists.ptg-concord.org/mailman/listinfo](http://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.

**CLASS 2010 ORIENTATION BEGINS**

Eighth graders from the Carlisle and the Concord Middle School will be visiting CCHS during the month of January. Dates for these visits as well as parent orientation meetings are noted in the enclosed calendar page. Starting with the March Newsletter, Concord and Carlisle parents of Class 2010 will begin to receive the CCHS Newsletter if you/they are signed up for the list serve.

**COURSE REGISTRATIONS FOR 2006-2007**

Program of Studies booklets are being prepared for current freshmen, sophomores and juniors so that they will be able to select courses for the coming school year. Materials will be distributed at the beginning of second semester in February, and students will have ample opportunity to review course descriptions, talk with their teachers and counselors, consult with their parents and submit their selections.

In February, all students who are in sequential programs of study will receive a recommendation from their current teachers for next year's placement. Parents who have questions about recommendations are invited to contact teachers directly. If you have a general program question, please call the guidance counselor for your son or daughter. Course selections determine the number of sections to be offered, so making the right decision is very important.

**THANK YOU PARENTS!**  
The entire faculty would like to express their appreciation to all of the parents who worked and provided the delicious supper on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, Conference Night. It was Spectacular!  
Thank you very much.

**CONCORD CARLISLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND'S WEBSITE**  
The Concord Carlisle Scholarship Fund application instructions and forms have been updated for the 2006-2007 awards cycle and are now available for downloading at [www.ccscholarshipfund.org](http://www.ccscholarshipfund.org).



**GLITTER AND SHINE AT THE CEF/CSA AUCTION!**

**SAVE THE DATE - FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2006** for the CEF/CSA "Silver and Gold Auction" to benefit the Carlisle Public School. This year the auction will be held at the Westford Regency Ballroom, where we will offer a full evening of cocktails, dinner, and dancing to a live band. Both silent and live auctions will give opportunities to bid on items both large and small. We are currently seeking donations of all kinds. Call Lauren Bakewell (978-287-0318) or visit [www.carliseschoolassociation.org/auction.html](http://www.carliseschoolassociation.org/auction.html)

**MID-YEAR EXAMS**  
Mid-year exams will be administered January 24, 25, 26, & 27.  
The schedule for mid-year exams will be posted around the school and copies may be picked up in the main office from Mrs. Hammer.  
The exam schedule is also in this newsletter for you to print out.



### CONCORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT YOGA FOR TEENS

Come find out why all kinds of people are flocking to yoga. Yoga is particularly good for pre-teens. Not only does it give you a strong, flexible body and a calm, focused mind, but it can help control your mood swings, do better in school, relieve fatigue and mental strain, and sleep better at night. In this weekly class, you'll get instruction on how to do the poses properly. You'll put these poses together in a flowing style of yoga that is vigorous and calming, energizing and relaxing. You'll also discover the meditation techniques. Most importantly in this class, you'll learn to enjoy your own body, have fun, and feel good about yourself without comparing yourself to others or competing. Class is held at 105 Everett St. on Mondays at 2:30 pm. This 15 week session starts 1/9/06 and costs \$150, classes can be prorated.

Jan MacCulloch

### 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, Assistant Principal

**Don't forget the Freshmen/Sophomore Parent Meeting with Mr. Dulong on January 11<sup>th</sup> CCHS Auditorium from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

*Don't forget about the **Summer Opportunities Fair** (see article in this newsletter) Get involved in **Senior Safari** – (see article in this newsletter) a really fun event for all involved.*

## CCHS STUDENTS - VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

The students in the picture below raised money bought presents and wrapped them on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. The gifts were later presented to individuals at Shiloh House in Boston as part of a holiday effort with Volunteers of America.

**Row 1 Seated:** Jennifer Dorsey, Volunteers of America and Blair Robinson

**Row 2** Zackary D'Arbeloff, Sarah Robinson, Audrey Gourlie, Talia Hahn, Kristen Morgan, Kate Ostrowski and Samantha van Puten.

**Row 3** Rashad Williams, Ian Carr, and Erin Hassey



### MESSAGE WINDOW FOR STUDENTS

Each day we receive many requests from parents to deliver messages to students. Since there is not a staff member available to deliver messages and because we do not interrupt classes, a message window was established in the main office. The names of students for whom there is a message are posted on the main office window opposite Mrs. Hammer's desk. If their name is posted, students should see Mrs. Hammer to pick up their message. Please remind your sons and daughters to check the message window in the main office.

Part of the No Student Left Behind Law that was passed states that schools must release the names of their junior and senior students if a branch of the armed services request it. It also states that you have the right to request that we do not release your child's name. If you don't want your child's name released, please contact Mrs. Merry at 978-341-2490 x7103 and she will remove your child's name from any list that is requested.

Soon you will be able to view all of the important information sent home or distributed to students in school.

Coming Soon  
CCHS Administration Web Page

Opening of School Information Handbooks Mailings Program of Studies Newsletters Senior Information Exams and Schedules

## THE DISMISSAL PROCESS

### 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, Assistant Principal

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## January



## Calendar

1. Free
2. *No School*
3. *Classes Resume*
4. Senior District Festival / Course Selection material delivered to middle schools
5. Free
6. *Homeroom/Attendance Reports* / Senior District Festival / Sr. Parent Social – off campus
7. Senior District Festival
8. Free
9. ARB Meeting / *Principals Coffee – 8:30 a.m. room A-7*
10. Private School Visit / CPS School Committee Meeting
11. *Freshmen & Sophomore Parent Meeting – 7:30 p.m. auditorium / Carlisle 8<sup>th</sup> grade visit CCHS*
12. *Peabody 8<sup>th</sup> grade visit CCHS*
13. *Sanborn 8<sup>th</sup> grade visit CCHS / Homeroom*
14. Free
15. Free
16. *Martin Luther King Day – No School* / Musical build set
17. *Newsletter Deadline*
18. Freshmen & Sophomore BACK UP DATE / SAC Meeting 6:30 p.m. main office conference room
19. Free
20. *Homeroom / Attendance Reports*
21. Junior District Festival Awards / Jr.-Sr. Dance
22. Freshmen Snow Tubing / Sophomore Dodge Ball Tournament
23. *ARB Meeting*
24. *Mid Year Exams Begin* / Joint School Committee Meeting / *Metco Sr. Post Secondary Financial Aid Meeting @ Metco Inc.*
25. *Mid Year Exams*
26. *Mid Year Exams*
27. *Mid Year Exams / Quarter 2 – Semester 1 Ends* / Sr. Parent Social – off campus
28. SAT / Music All State Awards
29. Frosh Parent Social – off campus
30. *Homeroom – Semester 2 Schedules distributed at 7:35 a.m. / Summer Opportunities Fair* / Class 2009 Food Sale at Summer Opportunities Fair
31. Summer Opportunities Fair BACK UP DATE

## MID-YEAR EXAMINATION INFORMATION

### THE SCHEDULE

The schedule for the week of **January 23 (Exam Week)** is printed on the next page. Please study it carefully and share it with your parents and/or students.

### ATTENDANCE

Everyone is expected to be in attendance for every block all week. **Each day, except Friday, January 27 is a full day of school. Friday is a half-day.** Regular attendance policies and procedures will apply.

### LATE ARRIVAL

**Students who arrive late (after 7:35 a.m.) must report to the main office** to sign in and to be admitted to school for the day. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday students who are late must wait in the main office to be escorted to their exam room.

### TRANSPORTATION

Buses will run at the regular morning times every day. The regular 2:10 bus will run every day except Friday. **On Friday, buses will leave CCHS at 11:25 a.m.** Late buses will run only on Monday and Tuesday, January 23 and January 24. **There will be no late buses Wednesday, January 25 - Thursday, January 25 and Friday, January 27.**

### CAFETERIA SERVICES

Cafeteria services will be available each day. **On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, there will be only two lunch periods,** and only sandwiches, snack foods and beverages will be sold for lunch. **No lunch will be served on Friday.**

### LIBRARY SERVICES

The **library will be open regular hours** and all services will be available as they are during a regular school day.

### CLASSES DURING EXAM BLOCKS

Some courses will have class instead of an exam during exam blocks. Teachers will inform students if this will be the case.

### STUDY HALLS

Students who have a study hall or the second half of a science lab during one of the exam blocks must report to the cafeteria for a study hall. Please note, however, that study halls will meet in their regular locations during class blocks. Students may also use the library for study.

### RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM EXAM ROOMS

All students must remain in their exam rooms until the end of the examination period. **Students may not be dismissed early from exams.** Students should bring a book to read or work to do in the event they complete their exam before the end of the period. **No students will be permitted to move through corridors, visit teachers, or go to their lockers during the examination sessions.**

### RETURN OF MATERIALS

Students who are taking semester courses should return all materials or pay for lost materials on the day of their exam.

### REPORT CARDS

Grades close January 27. Reports cards will be issued in homeroom on February 10.

### SECOND SEMESTER

Second semester begins Monday, January 30 with a homeroom at 7:35 to distribute second semester schedules.

### WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF SCHOOL CANCELLATION

If school should be called off due to inclement weather, the schedule for exams will be moved up one day for each "snow day". Be sure to take all materials home at the beginning of the exam period to have all necessary materials for studying.

**PLEASE SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR EXAM SCHEDULE**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MID-YEAR EXAMS OR THE SCHEDULE,**

**PLEASE SEE MR. DULONG, DR. WEINSTEIN, OR MS. TRUSLOW.**

## MID-YEAR EXAM SCHEDULE

2005-2006

MONDAY JAN. 23	TUESDAY JAN. 24	WEDNESDAY JAN. 25	THURSDAY JAN. 26	FRIDAY JAN. 27
7:35 A – BLOCK 8:32	7:35 <b>A-BLOCK EXAM</b>	7:35 <b>C-BLOCK EXAM</b>	7:35 <b>E-BLOCK EXAM</b>	7:35 <b>G-BLOCK EXAM</b>
8:37 B-BLOCK 9:33	9:20	9:20	9:20	9:20
	<b>15 MINUTE BREAK</b>	<b>15 MINUTE BREAK</b>	<b>15 MINUTE BREAK</b>	<b>15 MINUTE BREAK</b>
9:38 G-BLOCK 10:34	9:35 <b>B-BLOCK EXAM</b>	9:35 <b>D-BLOCK EXAM</b>	9:35 <b>F-BLOCK EXAM</b>	9:30 <b>H-BLOCK EXAM</b>
10:39 D-BLOCK 11:24	11:20	11:20	11:20	11:15
11:29 E-BLOCK 12:14	11:25 <b>C-BLOCK &amp; LUNCH</b> 12:12	11:25 <b>E-BLOCK &amp; LUNCH</b> 12:12	11:25 <b>G-BLOCK &amp; LUNCH</b> 12:12	<b>DISMISSAL BUSES WILL DEPART CCHS AT 11:25 A.M.</b>
12:19 F-BLOCK 1:04	12:17 <b>C-BLOCK &amp; LUNCH</b> 1:04	12:17 <b>E-BLOCK &amp; LUNCH</b> 1:04	12:17 <b>G-BLOCK &amp; LUNCH</b> 1:04	
1:09 H-BLOCK 2:05	1:09 D-BLOCK 2:05	1:09 F-BLOCK 2:05	1:09 H-BLOCK 2:05	
	<b>NO LATE BUSES</b>	<b>NO LATE BUSES</b>	<b>NO LATE BUSES</b>	

**Notes:**

- If you have a study hall or the second half of a science lab period scheduled during an Exam Period, you should report to the cafeteria for a study. Bring study materials with you.
- **Buildings H, A, and Gym will eat first lunch.**
- **Buildings S and L will eat second lunch.**

**STUDY FOR YOUR EXAMS**

**EAT BREAKFAST**

**GET A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP**

**BE PREPARED WITH MATERIALS NEEDED FOR EXAMS**



## CLASS OF 2006

There are still a number of seniors who have not purchased a Cap and Gown. A list is posted on the window in the main office. Seniors should bring a check for \$30.00 to Mrs. Coleman as soon as possible. Remember, without a Cap and Gown you will not be allowed to participate in the Graduation Ceremony.

Many thanks to all the teachers and administrators and parents who helped make the dance in December possible for the students of the senior and junior classes. And thank you to all the people who helped at the Senior/Faculty/Alumni Reception just before vacation.

Hope everyone had a very enjoyable holiday, and is rested and ready for this home stretch to the finish line in June. Students should be sure write a nice note to teachers and counselors to express their gratitude for the help that has been given toward the applications to colleges.

First up on our calendar is a **Parent Social on Friday night, January 6**, at the Gorman's home at 115 Indian Pipe Lane. Thanks to the Gormans for their generous hospitality.

Then the **Class of 2006 is sponsoring an All School Dance on Saturday, January 21**. We will need chaperones so please respond when the call goes out.

**In February our students will be selling Carnation-grams as a fundraiser and fun-raiser.** Seniors will be taking orders for a few days from all the students in school, for flowers with a note to be sent to a friend. Then our kids deliver during lunch periods to the classes of the recipients on Valentine's Day.

This will be a very busy period for the class because the students will take Carnation-grams orders for three days, leave for their **ski trip to Mount Snow on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>**, and return **Saturday night, the 11<sup>th</sup>, the night of the Parent Social** at the Morris's, 94 College Road. Then on **Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>, the carnation-grams are delivered.** It is amazing how many factors must be considered when trying to schedule events and activities.

Sometimes the only dates available end up making things a bit tight, but now that we are such old hands at most of this, we will manage admirably.

Please mark your calendars – on **Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting the Senior Citizens St. Patrick's Day Luncheon.** We will need lots of student and some parents to help, so keep the date clear if you can. Then on **April 7 is a Parent Spring Social** at the Wilson's.

Sandra Arena: [sarena101@verizon.net](mailto:sarena101@verizon.net)

Barbara Lewis: [blglewis@comcast.net](mailto:blglewis@comcast.net)

Josephine Bottone: [jbottone@hotmail.com](mailto:jbottone@hotmail.com)

Jane Turner Michael: [jtmconcord@aol.com](mailto:jtmconcord@aol.com)

Lisa Philippou: [lphilippou@comcast.net](mailto:lphilippou@comcast.net)

**CLASS OF 2007  
NO NEWS THIS MONTH**

**CLASS OF 2008  
NO NEWS THIS MONTH**

**CLASS OF 2009  
NO NEWS THIS MONTH**



**CCTV – COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION**

CCTV, Inc. is the new community access television group in Concord-Carlisle. The old studio at CCHS is new again! Come and see the studio, new engineering controls and a great editing suite. Help us welcome a new era for Public-Education-Government television in Concord and Carlisle.

**GRAND OPENING: Reception & Open House**

**Thursday, January 5, 2006**

**5:00-7:00 PM**

**ALL WELCOME!**

**The Open House is followed by ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.**

**All Members Welcome**

**Thursday, January 5, 2006 - 7:00 PM**

Attendance and participation by all members is encouraged. Eligible persons may join CCTV, Inc. that evening, and visitors may attend (non-voting). For more information see [www.concordtv.org](http://www.concordtv.org) or [www.carlisletv.org](http://www.carlisletv.org)

Studio and offices: 978-369-5038

Court Booth

Concord Carlisle Schools, Adult & Community Education self-funded, year-round, continuous learning for all ages  
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**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ~ A CONCORD-CARLISLE OBSERVANCE ~**

**Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 7:00 PM**

**Sanborn Building - 835 Old Marlboro Road, Concord**

**~ A MUSICAL TRIBUTE ~**

**WILLARD 5TH GRADE SINGERS**

**CONCORD MIDDLE SCHOOL 6TH GRADE CHORUS**

**CONCORD MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECT CHORUS**

**CONCORD MIDDLE SCHOOL SMALL ENSEMBLE**

and

**INVITED CCHS PERFORMERS**

with

**MUSIC DIRECTORS: Charlyn Bethell and Isaac Brody**

**KEYNOTE: Professor Dennis Taylor - "Overcoming Racism: A Personal Journey"**

Expect humility, humor, and self-examination as Boston College English Professor Dennis Taylor, who hailed from Baltimore before coming to Concord, talks about how he learned and changed.

**FREE & OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**

Co-sponsored by the **Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council**, PO Box 744, Concord

**SUPPORTING A CLIMATE FOR FREEDOM**

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# “Guidance Bulletin”

January, 2006

Volume I, No. 24

HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Financial Aid Information

*ALL* seniors interested in financial aid will need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which is a cost free form. The FAFSA should be submitted as soon as possible after January 1, 2006. If necessary, parents can use estimated figures and verify them late with tax forms. *Many* seniors will complete the Financial Aid PROFILE form. The list of colleges requiring the PROFILE is in the registration material. A photocopy of all information should be made. The Profile form is available in the Guidance Resource Center. The FAFSA should be completed on-line.

Students can pick up the local scholarship forms from the CCHS Records Office or download them from [cchsscholarshipfund.org/](http://cchsscholarshipfund.org/). Any CCHS student can apply to this fund. The Concord-Carlisle Scholarship Fund requires the FAFSA, but Carlisle students wishing to apply to the **Caroline Hill Fund** need to list the code number **0520** on the PROFILE as well.



## Loans for College

If a family anticipates significant financial need, they may qualify for a federal loan such as the Perkins and Stafford. Both of these programs require that a FAFSA form be submitted early in January. Many families will not qualify for a Perkins or Stafford loans because their expected family contribution will be above the cutoff, but there are still many other loans available.

## Non Need Scholarships – Grants

Although there are colleges which offer merit driven funding, most college sponsored funding is need driven. A merit (non need) scholarship or grant is entirely awarded on such factors as: class rank, College Board scores, and second talent or extra curricular participation. This is not a new phenomenon. In many colleges this grant falls under the title “Presidential Scholarship Programs.” Look for these programs and during the admissions interview ask the question. “Do you have a scholarship program for which I can compete?” **The key word is compete. Always view a competition as an opportunity.**



## Avoiding Scholarship Scams

Each year, an estimated 300,000 students and parents are cheated by scholarship scams, according to the Financial Aid Information Page, a comprehensive financial aid web site. “Fraudulent scholarship and loan companies are counting on families in desperate need of financial resources to not thoroughly investigate their company,” cautions Bob Williams, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau. Scholarship scams have existed for years but with increased usage of the Internet, they are on the rise. Dr. Kenneth Hartman author of the College Board’s “Internet Guide for College-Bound Students,” and contributor to the College Board’s web site, provides the following warning: “Scholarship scam artists lurk on the World Wide Web, and they could be hazardous to your bank account.”

Several warning signs have been reported to the Financial Aid Information Page and the Better Business Bureau. The following are just a few: Scholarships with application fees, Questionable addresses, Scholarship services

requiring fees and Unusual requests for personal information. **Source:** A Fall Issue of “Higher Education Access” a publication at The TERI (Educational Resource Center Institute) College Access Center, Boston Public Library.

There are phony college scholarship services. . . . . Recently, the Federal Trade Commission found a number of web sites with deceptive practices. Companies posing as scholarship search or financial-aid foundations charge from about \$25 to provide lists of scholarships, to more than \$800 to guarantee eligibility for a minimum amount of financial aid. These promises of guarantees are not possible. To identify false claims consult the following web site: [www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams](http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams). Beware of services that do “all the work” students must apply for scholarships and grants. Advice: Don’t give out credit card or bank account information to “hold a scholarship.” Scholarship lists are available at schools and libraries or at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). **Source:** Dallas Martin, PhD., president, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Washington D.C., [www.nasfaa.org](http://www.nasfaa.org)

### **Financial Aid Hot Lines**

- 800-442-1171 Teri College Access Center located in the Boston Public Library. This service will answer questions concerning the completion of the financial aid forms and provide general financial aid information.
- 800-842-1531 Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA). State authority, non profit, low interest loans Extension 1 (Loans), Extension 2 (U Plan), Extension 3 (U-Fund).
- 800-433-3243 Federal Student Aid Information Center - Assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

### **Financial Aid Source**

The most complete and accessible source of financial aid is The TERI (Educational Resource Institute) College Access Center at the Boston Public Library. The center has counselors available and a great deal of reading material and a computerized financial aid search program (ESPAN). The reading materials cover a most complete range of publications, i.e., books, periodicals and brochures. The data retrieval capability consists of the Fund Finder which is the most up-to-date financial aid computerized program on the market. For more detailed information one may call the TERI at the Boston Public Library 617-536-0200 or on the internet [www.teri.org](http://www.teri.org). The Boston Public Library is located at 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA.



### **Ways to Weather the Financial Aid Season**

January often brings snow, ice, and the start of the financial aid season. That’s right – when the New Year begins families can apply for financial aid for their students who will attend college the following fall. Financial aid includes loans, grants and scholarships, and today’s parents are increasingly looking at alternative sources for funding such as home equity loans.

Here are some tips to successfully navigate the financial aid process from David Myette of Champlain College. With 33 years of experience in the field, Myette is the recent national chairman of the national Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

1. Apply for financial aid early, starting in January. With funding from the government and the colleges up for grabs, it’s better to be among the first in line.
2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically. It reduces errors because it edits your answers as you go along. Visit the web site at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
3. Depending on the college, there may be additional college-specific application forms to complete. Check with each of the colleges you are considering.
4. Watch out for application deadlines – they vary at different colleges. Consider writing out a schedule of each college dates.
5. You don’t have to have your federal tax return completed to apply. You can use estimated figures and then provide a copy of your final tax return to the colleges when it is completed.
6. You also don’t have to have to be accepted for admission to have your financial aid application sent to all of the colleges you are considering. Just list each of the college code numbers on the application. You can get these code numbers on the web site when you apply or you can call the schools. When you get accepted, you’ll get an award letter.
7. Communicate with your financial aid officer; they don’t have a crystal ball. If you have an unusual family or financial circumstances, they need to know that – put it in writing.
8. Finally, keep copies off all forms completed and correspondence sent.

### **Internship Program**

The second semester CCHS Internship Program is getting started for all interested juniors and seniors. Seminar meetings will begin on **Wednesday, January 11, 2006** during the lunch blocks. All students who would like more information or would like to join the program, need to see Ms. DiCesare in the guidance office prior to that day. We will discuss the program requirements and discuss a field of interest and placement at that time.

### **Freshman/Sophomore Parents Night**

Interested in how you can support a successful high school experience for your child? Want to know how to help your adolescent be on target for the college admissions process? Both of these questions will be answered in the ***Freshman/Sophomore Planning Night, Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the CCHS Little Theatre.***

CCHS Guidance counselor Bill Yunker will provide an overview of the timeline for college admissions, factors which impact on college admissions, and financial aid process. CCHS School Adjustment Counselor, Kelli Kirshtein, will discuss risk factors for adolescents, the influence of peers, and supports available to parents. While all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 grade parents are welcome to attend, the evening should be of particular interest to first time parents.

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**See You Next Month**