

CCHS NEWSLETTER

Published by CCHS and the CCHS Parents' Association

Volume 24 – Number 7

MARCH 2007



Parents' Association

News and Information

Emily Dickinson wrote that “**March is the month of expectation**” so I expect that this bitter cold, our first snowfall and first snow day of the year will be just a memory when you receive this newsletter. March is expected to be a busy one for students, parents, and faculty alike.

EVITA, the spring musical production opens on **Friday March 2**, with additional performances being held on **March 3rd, 9th, and 10th, at 7:30 p.m.** Matinee performances will be held on **March 4th and 11th at 2:30 p.m.** All seats are reserved and tickets may be purchased online at www.ticketstage.com.

On **March 5th**, as a follow-up to the very successful program we offered by Marilee Jones, the CCHS PA will sponsor a program on the topic of resiliency in the **CCHS Library at 7:30 p.m.** **Dr. Nadja Reilly**, who is with Children's Hospital in Boston and an instructor at Harvard Medical School, will speak on “*Building the Strength Within: Promoting Adolescents' Resilience and Emotional Well-Being*”.

The Class of 2007 is holding their annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon for all senior citizens in Carlisle and Concord on March 17th. This event promises to live up to expectations, starting at 11:30 a.m. with a delicious lunch followed by dessert, coffee and entertainment consisting of a step dancer and Irish music. Make your reservations and join this years graduating class of CCHS in celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

In February, we kicked off our **Annual Appeal Fundraising Campaign**. 100% of the funds raised through this Appeal are allocated towards school improvement - whether academic programs, new equipment, supplies or meeting other critical needs. We ask all of you to be as generous as you can and remember that all contributions make a difference. Thank you in advance for your support.

Speaking of money, the **Parents Association is currently soliciting grant proposals**. Proposals may come from any segment of the school community and may include funding for on or off campus activities, workshop conferences, educational materials or equipment, or pilot enrichment programs. Applications are available at the school office.

MCAS testing takes place this month, our Chorus and Orchestra are practicing for concerts, and the Repertory and Concert Bands are preparing for the MICCA festival to be held on the last weekend of the month.

Please also remember that the **Nominating Committee** has begun their search to replace several of us that will be moving on at the end of this year. We welcome and are actively seeking new members to fill next year's slate. Call me, or any member of the Executive Board, if you, or anyone you think, might be interested in Volunteering for any of the various positions available.

Carolyn Hoffman Higgins
CCHS PA President
978-369-9762



WHOM TO CALL IN THE EVENT OF AN ABSENCE

Any time a student is sick and not able to attend school; his/her parent is asked to call Mrs. Merry, our attendance secretary, at 978-341-2490 x7103 on the day of the absence. If the parent forgets, a note excusing the absence should be delivered to Mrs. Hammer in the main office the very day of the student's return. When possible the parent should contact Mrs. Merry in advance to excuse an impending, planned absence.



As I write this I have just returned from a fabulous February vacation, which already seems weeks ago. I hope you and your family enjoyed the break from normal routine as much as I did. At this time of year there is always a great deal happening at school. Let me share a few of these things with you.

You may know that at CCHS we now have a Student Senate, which is an active political body populated by thoughtful, and mature young people. As you might guess they do not lack for ideas. They have a mandate to consider student life at CCHS and make policy recommendations regarding student life. The process is that they meet, discuss, consider differing views, and vote. When they vote to propose any change to what we do they bring their issue to the Department Chair Group for consideration and input. If the Department Chairs agree with the students it gets sent to me with the recommendations. Such has been the case for a very controversial bill passed by the Student Senate that restricts the publishing of the Honor Roll to internal sources only. The Student Senate passed the bill and much to my surprise the Department Chairs agreed unanimously with the students. Frankly, I can see both sides of the issue but ultimately, after several days of consideration and after a meeting with Student Senate leaders; I decided to sign the bill "into law".

The reasons students gave for wanting the honor roll to be a school issue, and not a town-wide issue, were numerous. They included; Students believe they are subjected to excessive grade pressure and publication of the Honor Roll adds to that pressure. Students not listed are subjected to unfair criticism and scrutiny (from peers and parents). Grades should bear some measure of privacy. The publication of the honor roll can be unfair to certain students ranging from students who regularly face academic challenges due to their learning styles and high achieving students in the most challenging courses. Unlike the publishing of the Honor Roll the publishing of students' extracurricular successes does not innately exclude other students because all these activities are voluntary and optional.

Yes, I see the flaws in some of their reasoning. I also see their earnest and honest attempts to control some aspect of their academic environment. That, the Department chairs strong support, and my ultimate conclusion that the Honor Roll still bears honor and merit when published on our report cards and school walls even if not published in a local newspaper. As mentioned above, it is controversial. Without doubt some of you agree and some do not.

On other matters:

Within the past few weeks you and your child have begun to make course requests for next year's schedule. First I want to remind you that you should save the Program of Studies booklet. There is a great deal of information within that book that may be helpful to you in contexts other than simply choosing courses. Second, I want to remind you that you should look at the high school experience as a four-year journey. It is not necessary to take everything in one year, but it may be necessary to plan ahead to fit certain courses into one's high school experience. Along the same line of thought, when we are oversubscribed for a given course we prioritize starting with seniors.

Thanks to all of you who offered opinions about how the exam schedule was structured at the end of the first semester. We have some details to work on to make things run more smoothly, but the overwhelming response has been more positive than I expected. The Department Chairs are still talking about the June exams, but early indications are that they will follow the same basic structure as the midyears. Of course, I'll let you know the final decision in a timely way. But...speaking of June exams, I hope you remember that a snow day adds a day onto the end of the year. Thus, as of today, the last day of school will be Thursday, June 21.

You need to know that the MCAS exams begin March 20, 21, and 22 with the ELA portion of the exam. This affects all sophomores and a very small number of upper-class students who have not taken the test, have not passed a portion of the test, or are trying to do better on the test despite having passed. In reality, it affects the whole school because of the classroom disruption for H building courses and slight time adjustments we have to make to our schedule for the test. If your child is scheduled to take the test, please make every effort to have them present for those days. Make-ups, when necessary, must be given during school time, thus requiring more missed class time for these students. It is easier for everyone to take the test when it is scheduled. The Mathematics and Science (now required for graduation) begin on May 22 and extend beyond Memorial Day.

As always, thanks for all you do for us at CCHS.



SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS FEBRUARY 2007

Please mark your calendars with the following important dates:

Concord Public Hearings on School related articles will be held on **Wednesday February 28 at 7:30PM at the Alcott School Auditorium**

Concord Town Elections, including a debt exclusion question for CCHS, will be on **Tuesday March 27**. Polls are open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM. Absentee ballots are available 30 days prior to the vote. Please vote!

Concord Town Meeting in Concord will begin on **Monday April 23** at 7:00 at CCHS.

Carlisle Town Caucus March 12, Town Meeting April 30, Town election May 8

Why is it important to note these dates? The public hearings provide voters with an opportunity to both understand and comment on matters that will be put before the electorate at Town Meeting and/or the polls. There will be several important votes taken this spring.

At Town Elections in Concord on March 27 voters will have an opportunity to vote for a debt exclusion to fund \$1.25M worth of improvements at CCHS. The debt exclusion must be voted in the affirmative both at the polls and at Town Meetings in both Concord and Carlisle in order for the Regional School to be able to borrow this money. The town election is also an opportunity to vote for the re-election of Jan McGinn to the School Committee and the election of Fabian Fondriest to School Committee. They are running for office unopposed. We thank Jan and Fabian for their willingness to serve the community in this important role.

Town Meeting will have all articles affecting the schools, including the K-8 budget, the CCHS budget, a borrowing for CCHS improvements, approval of expenditures within the Town Manager's capital plan for CPS improvements, and an article related to the construction of fields at CCHS. There are also two articles by petition, one of which asks citizens at Town Meeting to vote on school budgets by secret ballot, and another which suggests that the Regional School Committee consider covering administrative costs of Adult and Community Education.

There will be no request for overrides in Concord this year to fund operating budgets for the CPS, CCHS, or town budgets. The anticipated vote on a new Willard School will be held in the fall of 2007, as designs are not far enough along to vote this spring.

Voting on the debt exclusion for CCHS on March 27, prior to Town Meeting, is happening in order to prevent the need for an election in June after the Town Meeting just for that one question. The \$1.25M request will allow the region to borrow money to make necessary improvements at the school.

The transportation building, better described as the old trailer, has to be replaced. This money includes the regional portion of the building plus septic design and installation (\$120,000), a double-wide modular classroom to provide more classroom space (\$150,000), software which will integrate human resources and financial management (\$175,000), heating system upgrades (\$285,000), science lab fume hoods (\$75,000), cafeteria and hall renovations including asbestos removal and new tables and chairs (\$120,000), fire alarm detection equipment (\$170,000), and upgrade existing lighting which is partially funded by a grant and has a short payback due to energy efficiency (\$150,000). The Regional School Committee has carefully looked at investing in CCHS only where necessary for safety and immediate needs of the next few years.

Again, please mark your calendars with the important dates mentioned. We look forward to your participation.

Thank you,

Betsy Bilodeau for the School Committee

**CCHS PROFESSIONAL DAY
IS
MARCH 15TH.
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

**Students should be checking
for missing items in the
Lost and Found Box in the
cafeteria and the box behind
Mrs. Hammer's desk.**



Global Warming Symposium

Coordinated by Concord-Carlisle Adult & Community Education

Saturday, March 24, 2007

9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Concord-Carlisle High School

Keynote Speaker: Marc Breslow
Director, Mass Climate Action Network

Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth"

Exhibitors - Demonstrations – Presentations - Information - Handouts

Contributors Include:

Concord Municipal Light Plant – Schools – Churches – Concord Public Works–
Town Businesses – Musketaquid Arts & the Environment and other community groups

- ✓ *Learn about the science and facts behind global warming*
- ✓ *Exhibitors and Vendors will help you become more responsible consumers.*
- ✓ *Learn about Hybrid Cars, "green" landscape design, recycling, energy audits, options for lighting and heating your home and more*
- ✓ *Discover simple ways to change daily habits and make an impact on global warming - save money too*
- ✓ *Discover how you can help Concord and Carlisle become model environmental communities*
- ✓ *Understand how land management, chemical fertilizer, emission controls, sophisticated thermostats, more efficient lighting, insulation for your hot water tank and more can make a difference*
- ✓ *Learn how to take advantage of the many opportunities offered by local government and organizations*

Community Education invites families and individuals of all ages to be part of this timely event. Each person can help make Concord and Carlisle "Green Communities" Don't miss it!

Contact CCACE, (978) 318-1540 days, 318-1432 nights, or Berni. Jenkins: berni.jenkins@verizon.net

CONCORD-CARLISLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Applications for the Concord-Carlisle Scholarship Fund are available online at ccsf@colonial.net. Students seeking support for the 2007-2008 academic year must submit their applications by April 1, 2007. A complete application must include a Student Aid Report (SAR) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The Concord-Carlisle Scholarship fund has been providing support to deserving local students for nearly 40 years. Applicants must reside in Concord or Carlisle or have attended school in one of these towns. METCO students are eligible.

The CCSF Scholarships are awarded strictly based on need not merit. However, applications are shared with many local organizations such as, the Concord Rotary, the West Concord Women’s Club, the Concord Women’s Club, the VFW, the Concord Public Library, Welch’s, Rivercrest Deaconess, the Concord Chamber of Commerce and the Carlisle Garden Club, which award merit and need based scholarships.

Please direct questions about applications or donations to ccsf@colonial.net.

Would you like to be in the Loop?

Subscribe to Teacher Notes, the e-mail newsletter of the Concord-Carlisle Teachers’ Association. Email cctabee@yahogroups.com to join, or for more information.



In this issue – **CPS/CCRS School Calendar** for 2007-2008. Print the calendar and keep it for a reference.

The **Honor Roll** has been posted on the window in the main office. Please check the list as soon as you can. If you feel your name should be on the list you must see Dr. Weinstein.



SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS



To find out whether school is in session, check the following: **RADIO STATION: WBZ (AM 1030), TV STATIONS: Channels 4, 5, and 7, or INTERNET:**

- <http://www2.whdh.com:80/stormforce/index.php>
- <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/closings/index.html>
- <http://cbs4boston.com/schoolclosings>
- <http://www.colonial.net/schools/cancellations.php>

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.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS– PLEASE TAKE NOTE

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



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.



DON'T FORGET MARCH 17 – ST. PATRICK'S LUNCHEON FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS OF CONCORD AND CARLISLE SPONSORED BY THE CLASS OF 2007.

'08, '09, '10 COURSE SELECTIONS ARE DUE ON MARCH 9th

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 9.**

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. CCHS counselors may be contacted at 978-341-2490 x7108/7109 if you would like assistance in working with your son or daughter to complete course selections for next year.

Class of 2011 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 2011 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



DON'T MISS THE CCHS MUSICAL

EVITA

PERFORMANCES SCHEDULED FOR

MARCH 2, 3, AND 4 ALSO MARCH 9, 10, AND 11.

★ 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 Mrs. Hammer **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 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 if you need assistance.

★ 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.



The **BAND CONCERT ON MARCH 20**, **CHORUS CONCERT ON MARCH 27** and the **ORCHESTRA CONCERT ON MARCH 29**. You don't want to miss the opportunity to see these fantastic singers and musicians perform.

Scholarship Info for Seniors

1. **CONCORD-CARLISLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND – DEADLINE IS APRIL 1ST.**
(Application on line or see Mrs. Tessari)
2. **ERIC R. COHN EDUCATION FOUNDATION – POSTMARK DEADLINE IS APRIL 2ND.**
(See Mrs. Coleman for an application.)
3. **MIDDLESEX WEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – ABSOLUTE DEADLINE IS APRIL 6TH.**
(See Mrs. Coleman for an application.)
4. **ALBERT B. & EVELYN H. BLACK FUND OF CONCORD – DEADLINE IS APRIL 20TH.**
(See Mrs. Coleman for an application)

☆ This application is for current seniors and past students who are in good academic standing at their graduate institution.



SAVE THE DATE

ARTHUR DULONG, PRINCIPAL at CCHS will be RETIRING in JUNE.

A RECEPTION HONORING HIM will be held on

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23 FROM 2:30 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

EVERYONE IS INVITED.

Sponsored by the CCHS Office Administration, CCHS Parents' Association, and CCPOPS.



Check out the library web page and see what CCHS is reading. Add your current favorite book!

Click on CCHS READS on the library web page.

WWW.colonial.net/cchsweb/Departments/library/Library.html

Or www.colonial.net -CCHS – Departments – Library

The next **Concord SPED PAC Meeting** is **Monday, March 26** from 7-8:30 at **Ripley Conference Room 1**.

See Article in this Newsletter

**CLASSES OF
2008, 2009, 2010
COURSE SELECTIONS
DUE ON MARCH 9.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION -

As voted upon by our Student Senate and Department Chairs, the Honor Roll lists will no longer be sent to the newspapers. They will, however, be posted on the main office window.

Concord/Concord-Carlisle Public Schools – Calendar for 2007-2008

<p>SEPTEMBER <i>September</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>TH</th><th>F</th><th>S</th><th></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>3 - Labor Day</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5*</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>4 & 5 Professional Days*</td></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>6 - CLASSES BEGIN</td></tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>13 - Rosh Hashanah</td></tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S						30	31	1	3 - Labor Day	2	3	4	5*	6	7	8	4 & 5 Professional Days*	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	6 - CLASSES BEGIN	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	13 - Rosh Hashanah	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		30								<p>FEBRUARY <i>February</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>TH</th><th>F</th><th>S</th><th></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>18 - Presidents' Day</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>18-22 -Feb Recess</td></tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>25 - Classes Resume</td></tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S							1	2	18 - Presidents' Day	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	18-22 -Feb Recess	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	25 - Classes Resume	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		24	25	26	27	28	29		
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***SEPTEMBER 5 – CCHS ORIENTATION FOR GRADE 9 AND NEW UPPERCLASSMEN**
FIRST DAY FOR GRADE 6 STUDENTS

SEPTEMBER 6 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS EXCEPT FOR GRADE 6



Tickets available for a "TASTINGS" TOUR OF ROXBURY

Thanks to Norma Dinnall and Diana Rigby, who have made the funding available for this excursion, we have 25 tickets available for a "tastings" tour of Roxbury on Saturday, March 10th, from 11:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon. The tour is one of a series of trolley tours that are part of the Discover Roxbury Organization (www.discoverroxbury.org). All of the tours are lead by people who have a lot of knowledge about Roxbury and an engaging style. They involve some time on a red Boston trolley as well as lots of walking around. This "Food Tour" will make stops for tastings at three restaurants -- Merengue (a Dominican restaurant), Haley House (a cafe in Dudley Square), and United House of Prayer (a soul food restaurant) -- and will also include a tour of a tropical food market. Candelaria Silva, the head of ACT Roxbury (The Arts, Culture and Trade Consortium of Roxbury), will be the guide.

Here are the specifics: The tour starts at 11:00 at the Dillaway Thomas House. The Dillaway Thomas House is at 183 Roxbury Street in Roxbury, MA. The tour ends there at 3:00. There is parking at the Dillaway Thomas House, both on the street and in a parking lot adjacent to the house. For those of you who would prefer to take the T, however, or to drive to Alewife, park, and then take the T, the trolley does a preliminary pick up at 10:30 at Back Bay station and then drops people back off at Back Bay at 3:30.

Our Metco students come from many different Boston neighborhoods; in fact, most do not live in Roxbury. Many of you have lived in the city yourselves. For those of us who spend most of our time in the suburbs, however, this is a nice chance to reverse the trip our Boston students make every day and spend some time in a more urban setting. It's also a nice chance to meet up with friends in the CCHS community and enjoy some good food!

If you're interested in coming, let Ingrid Sutter (isutter@colonial.net) know by the Wednesday after break, the last day of February (the 28th). I'll reserve spots on a first come basis. If you'd like to come but can't make it on March 10th, Taylor West is planning another tour of several Boston neighborhoods for May 12th. Her tour will be lead by Metco students and families, and she'll be sending out more information as the date approaches.

GOOD NEWS FROM *2volunteer*


As promised, the website is up and running, and contains a treasury of information about community service opportunities for students. The bulletin board at the main entrance will continue to be kept up-to-date, but the primary source of information about current and on-going opportunities will be contained in the website, which has links directly to the various agencies needing help. The site will be maintained regularly, and new postings and/or emergency requests for volunteer help will be noted. If incorrect or out-of-date information is noticed, please let us know at 2volunteer@colonial.net. The 2volunteer group would like to thank the Parents Association for providing some funding for the website development, and **SENIOR KRISTEN JOHNSON** for authoring the site, through **Ms. GUINTA'S DREAMWEAVER CLASS**.

Here is the link to the 2volunteer website:

<http://mail.colonial.net/~2volunteer/pages>

Alternatively, you can access it through the CCHS Guidance Department website, www.colonial.net/guidance, where you will find a link to the 2volunteer website within each class year,

Applications are now being accepted for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. See the details and download the application in the new website. The 2volunteer group processes the applications.



We had our first snow day on February 14th. Our last day of school will now be June 21st.

(*subject to change if we get more snow days.)

DANGERS OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

As the roads begin to get a bit icy, I wanted to relate how I spent the better part of the two weeks leading up to the holiday break as part of a jury asked to deliberate on a charge of vehicular homicide. The defendant had just turned 18 at the time of the accident. We've all heard of countless cases similar to this one. The young man had gone to a friend's house, had quite a few beers, then picked up a female friend his age, and ten minutes later slammed into a telephone pole at an estimated speed of 60 miles per hour around a curve on a residential street where the speed limit is always 30. Maximum safe speed around the curve is 40 mph. He evidently never applied the brakes nor tried to turn the steering wheel.

The jury believed that his blood alcohol level was about .14-.17, about twice the legal limit. (Of course, at 18 years of age, he was drinking illegally to begin with.) And, the jury found that he was guilty of driving recklessly and negligently. His Ford Crown Victoria (often used by police) had folded up like an accordion on the passenger side, and the passenger herself could not be seen by police when they looked inside the vehicle; her body had been enveloped by the dash board until the jaws of life extricated her.

The defendant, an apparently nice kid, lots of friends, has had panic attacks since the accident and has had to drop out of school. If this accident occurred today, the state would have to impose a mandatory 5 year sentence in a state penitentiary for vehicular homicide.

As an assistant principal at CCHS, I see my share of students involved with drugs and alcohol. In this regard, our school and our community is like so many others, except that there really is not too much for adolescents to do in Concord or Carlisle, or places for them to go, except to drive over to a friend's house, etc.

Although our school community has experienced a few recent automobile accidents involving parents of present and past students, I am relieved that we have not had to deal with this kind of case while I have been at CCHS (no correlation by the way). Here's hoping that our good fortune lasts, and that we can continue to impress upon our kids the dangers of driving under the influence, especially now that the roads may not be as safe as they were earlier this winter.

Alan Weinstein, Assistant Principal



DRIVER EDUCATION

DRIVING LESSONS OR OBSERVATIONS

Students must check in with the main office before they leave the building and check back into the main office with their card signed by their driving instructor when they return from a lesson/observation in order for an absence from study hall to be excused. No classes or MCAS test sessions can be missed for driving lessons or observations.

ATTENDANCE REPORTING

In order to keep students and parents informed of students' attendance records, an attendance report is computer printed every two weeks. This report, which indicates absence by class and by day for the preceding two weeks and total absence to date for all courses, is distributed in homeroom every other week. Distribution dates are noted in the calendar inserts in the monthly CCHS Newsletter mailed to all parents. Students are expected to take their attendance reports home to their parents. Copies of these reports are kept in the main office. If a student misplaces his/her report, a copy may be obtained from the main office for fifty cents. It is the student's responsibility to call any errors to the attention of the appropriate teacher and then report to the Attendance Office by Wednesday of the week following the week in which the report is issued. Otherwise, the record will stand and will be assumed to be correct. Please refer to the section on CREDIT REDUCTION, which follows for more information.

In addition to these attendance reports, the school can provide a daily report of attendance to parents by means of an attendance sign-in sheet that students may carry to each class/study hall to obtain teacher's signatures. These forms may be requested by a parent and/or student, or may also be instituted by an administrator.

Any questions regarding attendance/absence or the procedures and regulations governing attendance/absence may be addressed to an administrator.

HOW TO APPEAL CREDIT REDUCTIONS AND HAVE CREDIT RESTORED – THE ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD

A student and/or parent may appeal a credit reduction to the Attendance Review Board (a board composed of representatives of the student body, faculty and administration.) If a credit reduction took place during the fourth quarter, a student may submit an appeal during the first and second week of the first quarter only. All other credit appeals must be submitted before the end of the subsequent quarter. The student must submit an appeal to the Board before the end of the third quarter. Ms. Truslow and/or a student's guidance counselor can assist a student with the appeal form. After hearing the case, the Board will render a decision, and the student will be notified of the case's disposition. In order to encourage responsibility, a student is only allowed to serve three probationary periods during his or her tenure at CCHS. Any questions regarding appeals to the Attendance Review Board should be directed to Ms. Truslow.

MARCH CALENDAR



1. Math Team @ Canton
Musical Rehearsal
2. **Middle School Course Selections Due**
Homeroom/Attendance Reports
Junior Activity
Musical Performance
3. **Musical Performance**
4. **Musical Performance**
Sophomore Parent Social Off Campus
5. Concert Band Auditions
Parents' Association Meeting
Bake Sale all week – Cheerleaders
MCAS Retest
Principals Coffee – 8:30 a.m. room A-7
6. **MCAS Retest**
Concert Band Auditions
7. Musical Rehearsal
Concert Band Auditions
Private School Registrations – Library
MCAS Retest
Math Team @ Cambridge
8. Concert Band Auditions
MCAS Retest
Multi Cultural Food Night
9. **CCHS COURSE SELECTIONS DUE**
Musical Performance
Homeroom
MCAS Retest
Concert Band Auditions
10. **SAT**
Musical Performance
11. **Musical Performance**
Strike Musical
12. Strike Musical
Rep Band Auditions
Attendance Review Board Meeting
13. Rep Band Auditions
Newsletter Deadline
14. Private School Registrations Back up Date
Rep Band Auditions
MMEA Senior District Rehearsal
15. Rep Band Auditions
MMEA Senior District Rehearsal
PROFESSIONAL DAY – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
16. Rep Band Auditions
Movie Night – Class 2010
MMEA Sr. District Rehearsal
Homeroom/Attendance Reports
17. **Frosh Trivia Night**
Senior Citizen St. Pat's Lunch
18. Frosh Parent Social – off campus
19. Free
20. **Bands Concert – Auditorium**
MCAS Exam
21. **MCAS Exam**
SAC Meeting
22. **MCAS Exam**
MMEA – Boston
23. MMEA – Boston
Homeroom
Battle of the Bands Reunion – Class 2008
24. MMEA – Boston
25. Free
26. Chorus Dress Rehearsal
27. **School Committee Meeting**
Chorus Concert – Auditorium
28. Orchestra Rehearsal
29. **Orchestra Concert – Auditorium**
30. **Homeroom/Attendance**
MICCA Concert/Chorus Festival
31. **MICCA Concert/Chorus Festival**



EARLY DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL - END OF YEAR

All students are expected to remain in school through the last day. There is no early dismissal. Parents and guardians are requested to do everything possible to avoid the need to remove a student from school before the regular school year has finished. Any questions may be directed to the Principal.



FAMILY VACATIONS AND END OF YEAR

Parents and students are reminded that Massachusetts Law requires compulsory attendance for students. We strongly discourage family vacations when school is in session. In addition to compromising the attendance law, family vacations interrupt the educational process of each course in ways that make-up work cannot reverse. Any questions may be directed to the Principal.



CENTER FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

120 Meriam Road
Concord, MA 01742
Tel. 978-202-1146

☑ March 1, 2007 CMS PTG Program 9:15-11:00 AM
From Vulnerability to Maturity: Some Ideas on How to Raise Safe and Healthy Adolescents
Rick Irving, LICSW

Adolescence is a period of enormous and sometimes overwhelming challenge. Teenagers experience physiological and emotional changes that often throw them off balance. It is a time when they need our help and yet seem almost desperate to reject it. We will look at both healthy and maladaptive coping skills and defenses common to this age group. Throughout the presentation, we will cover ways parents can help their children develop the self-esteem skills necessary to navigate safely toward maturity. Please bring your questions or concerns.

Location: Concord Middle School Peabody Forum, 1231 Old Marlboro Road, Concord.
Free. No registration required.

☑ March 5, 2007 CCHS PTG Program 7:30 to 9:00 PM
Building the Strength Within: Promoting Adolescents' Resilience and Emotional Well-being
Dr. Nadja Reilly

In her presentation, Dr. Reilly will define "resilience" and share why this trait is crucial to a teenager's mental health and well-being. She will:

- Review the two diagnoses frequently seen in adolescents: anxiety and depression, and how to detect their manifestations at home and school.
- Explain how to distinguish typical or transient mood disturbances from clinically significant distress.
- Discuss the different types of clinical help available to teens and their families.
- Offer helpful tips and exercises on what the family can do to build resilience;
- Provide ideas on how teens can respond to and help friends who are in distress.

Location: Concord Carlisle High School Library, 500 Walden Street, Concord.
Free. No registration required. *This program is funded by the CCHS Parents Association.*

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Workshop offered by the Center for Parents and Teachers - Register now!
Pre-registration required by emailing amartinez@colonial.net or by calling 978-202-1146.

☑ College 101: Parenting from a Distance with Sara Lane, Ed.M. and Master's in Counseling Psychology
Wednesdays, April 25, May 2, May 9 and May 16 from 7:30-9:00PM
at
Concord Carlisle High School.

Is your child heading to college in the fall? This 4-session workshop will address areas of concern including letting go, becoming independent, housing issues, campus drinking, sexual relationships, communication and stress.

\$40 for all 4 sessions.

This program is made possible through a grant awarded by the Northwest Suburban Health Alliance/CHNA 15vDoN funds from Lahey Clinic.



CONCORD SPED PAC "OUTS" IMPERFECTION!

Are you the parent of a "special" kid? Tired of hearing about other kids' "amazing" achievements? Whether or not your child has an IEP, 504, or just marches to their own beat, you'll want to check out this presentation:

"SHUT UP ABOUT YOUR PERFECT KID!" on Monday, MARCH 26 FROM 7:30-9 at the RIPLEY BUILDING.

Two hilarious sisters, moms of their own "special" kids (one with Aspergers, one bipolar) will share their uplifting and humorous experiences about what it means to have imperfect kids in a "perfect" world. Their book of the same title will be available for sale after; check out their website, www.shutupabout.com.

This presentation is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE.

Sponsored by your Concord SPED PAC (www.concordspedpac.org).

The SPED PAC business meeting scheduled for that night will take place immediately beforehand, from 7-7:30.

Class 2007

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. If you are not planning on participating in the graduation ceremony, please see Mrs. Coleman. If you have a cap and gown from a previous graduate that you will be using, please see Mrs. Coleman to have your name taken off the list. You will still need to purchase a 2007 tassel. Remember, without a Cap and Gown you will not be allowed to participate in Graduation.

Seniors will be given their temporary records in June when they pick up their cap and gown. Keep these records in a safe place; you may need them in the future.

Second-semester seniors, and their families, take note. Though it is hard to believe there are just over 14 weeks until graduation, there's still lots coming up for this class before they march out of CCHS on June 9. This is a wonderful class and we want to make the most of the time that remains before graduation. There are plenty of ways for students and their families to say "thanks" to those who have made their education possible, whether since kindergarten or just this year. A preview of coming attractions follows:

- ❖ **Saturday, March 17:** CCHS Class of 2007 will host the annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon for Concord's seniors. Students, these are the people who, with their tax dollars, have supported YOU for 13 years. Show your appreciation – come volunteer to assist with this luncheon. Community service credits available, for those of you still scrambling on that front! We need help with set-up, with food service, with clean up, and with entertainment. **WE NEED YOU.** Students willing to lend a hand should contact volunteer coordinators Paula Casey (978-371-1842 or caseypaula@comcast.net) or Jane Turner Michael (978-369-7626 or jtmconcord@aol.com).
- ❖ **April 23 – 30:** The Class of 2007 will staff a refreshment table at Town Meeting at CCHS. Again, another way to thank the many people who have supported you along the way with their votes to support your education. More information on staffing will come in a separate email to the class.
- ❖ **May 18:** Staff Appreciation Luncheon: The class plans and furnishes a luncheon for faculty and staff at CCHS. Plenty of volunteer opportunities available, **INCLUDING AN EVENT COORDINATOR.** More information on staffing will come in a separate email to the class.
- ❖ **Senior Week Activities:** Several parents and students have asked for dates and times of activities during senior week. While many events remain in the planning phase, please note the following tentative dates. A separate flyer and email on these activities will follow later in the spring:
- ❖ **Monday, June 4:** Last day of class for seniors. Assembly. Barbeque (location TBD) Possible date for aerial photograph of Class of 2007.
- ❖ **Tuesday, June 5:** Graduation rehearsal – **MANDATORY**
- ❖ **Wednesday June 6:** Possible class outing – time and location TBD
- ❖ **Thursday, June 7:** Senior Prom, Boston Park Plaza Hotel
- ❖ **Saturday, June 9:** Graduation at 2:00, seniors assemble at CCHS by 1:00; All Night Live in evening until 5:00 AM on Sunday morning

Class 2008

NO NEWS THIS MONTH

Class 2009

We hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing February vacation.

- On **Wednesday, March 14 (the eve of the professional day)** the **Class of 2009 is sponsoring a student dance**. Parent volunteers are the key to making this event run smoothly and we appreciate all those who have responded to our call for assistance. (Please stay tuned to the class emails, in case more help is needed).

Have the winter doldrums set in at your house? Feeling isolated? Mark your calendar and plan to catch up with your friends:

- **Saturday, March 24th from 4:30 til 6:30pm - Dessert Pot Luck** at Pam and Ted Brewster's home at 120 Davis Road, Carlisle.
- **Also save the date on Saturday, May 5 – Come to a parent social** at Patty and Ken Hecht's home on Brister's Hill Road, close to the high school, while the sophomore semi is in full swing.

Last but not least, a very sincere thank you goes out to the many parents who continue to volunteer every time assistance is requested. You have been just terrific in your support of the **MARCH 14 DANCE**, the **SENIOR CITIZEN EVENT ON APRIL 29**, the **SOPHOMORE SEMI IN MAY**, and the **JUNIOR PROM RECEPTION ON MAY 18**. Many thanks; these events would not happen without you.

Stay warm!

Claudia Feeney, Cathy Galligan, Patty Hecht, Anne Marks, Kathy Robey
Class of 2009 Parent Representatives

Class 2010

The Class of 2010 hosted its first All School Dance on Saturday, February 10, 2007. Over 200 students from all classes had a great time dancing to an eclectic mix of contemporary music played by the DJ, Andrew Leavitt, a CCHS senior!

Andy Sapp, co-advisor to the Class of 2010, and former advisor to the Class of '03 said "It was one of the most enjoyable dances he'd ever chaperoned. While dancing styles have certainly changed over the years, it's still a pleasure to see teens enjoying themselves in a safe & supportive environment."

THANK YOU very much to the parents who graciously helped chaperone the dance - **Brenda Deslner, Elaine Dreher, Ara Gechijian, Ruth Herman, Brooks Stevens, Kevin Taylor and Patti Worth with Assistant Principal Jess Truslow** supervising. Your support and dedication are greatly appreciated!

Proceeds from the dance go into the Class of 2010's account for future class activities including their rapidly approaching Junior & Senior Proms.

Welcome Class 2011 – 8TH GRADE

As part of our orientation/welcome to the **Class of 2011**, eighth grade parents will receive the **CCHS Newsletter** beginning with this 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 should note that there are a number of public events that take place at the high school and you are most welcome to attend any of these events announced in the newsletter.

Each year at this time we begin to ask for **parent volunteers** to help organize the **Class 2011 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 2011 Parent Group include helping the freshmen class get organized, helping with traditional class activities, fund raising, social events for 2011 parents, newsletter reporter, and more.

Please contact, Carolyn Hoffman Higgins, President of the Parents' Association at 978-369-9762 if you are interested.

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“Counselor Bulletin”

March 2007

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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 Counseling 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 12, 2007**. 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 **Naviance**, 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.

- 1) 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 is available on their own college web site. A student may still take an SATII in October in time for early decision should the need arrive.
- 2) ACTs – If you would like to take the ACT in addition 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



SAT Workshop

Very early (6 A.M.!) on the mornings of **Thursday and Friday, March 8th and 9th**, English teacher emeritus Mr. Angney will offer a two-part SAT strategy and preparation workshop for the test administration Saturday, March 10th. Students will study multiple-choice questions and write a sample “timed” essay which Mr. A. will score and comment upon. Students should sign up in the English Office earlier that week; no walk-ins, please! There is no fee, but there will be juice and donuts. (Note: These workshops will be repeated later in the year prior to later administrations.)



College Board Test Info

the May



April 3, 2007 and April 27, 2007 are the regular deadline dates for juniors to register for exams.

To register for the SAT or SAT Subject Tests, go to www.collegeboard.com

March 9, 2007 and May 4, 2007 are the regular deadline dates for juniors to register for the April 14, 2007 and June 9, 2007 ACT or ACT w/writing exams.

To register for the ACT, go to www.actstudent.org

Those juniors taking any SAT or ACT exam must bring a picture ID with them to the test site. Counselors can provide an alternative form of identification before any of the tests if students do not have a picture ID.

Remember to include the CCHS school code (220645) on your registration.

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 16, 2007**. The cost of each exam is **\$83.00**. 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.

From the School Adjustment Counselors: Adolescent Depression

In March, the School Adjustment Counselors will be visiting 9th grade Health and Fitness classes to show a film, Day for Night, about teen depression. We will talk to the students about signs and symptoms of depression and what to do if they think a friend might be depressed or having thoughts of suicide. The 2006 Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that 7.8% of CCHS students taking the survey had serious thoughts of suicide in the year prior to the study and that 2.7% (approximately 28 students) had actually made a suicide attempt. Fortunately, none of these students completed a suicide; however, the risk is clear so that, as a community, we must raise our awareness of the signs and symptoms of depression. Studies show that a student suffering from depression and/or suicidal thinking may confide in another student more often than they will confide in an adult. We teach our students to reach out for help when they are worried about a friend, and we help them understand, through education and dialogue with us, what teen depression looks like so they can intervene appropriately should the need arise.

Depression is the major risk factor for suicidal thinking and attempts. Around 8% of adolescents may be expected to suffer a depressive episode (defined as a period of more than two weeks during which the teen experiences a pronounced change in mood, experiences feelings of hopelessness, irritability, sadness, withdrawal from and lack of enjoyment of usual activities, and is often marked by disturbance of appetite and/or sleep). Depression in teens often looks like bad behavior—cranky, irritable, often hostile mood at home while the teen often seems alright when he or she is with friends. Unlike adults who, when depressed, seem depressed all the time, teens frequently experience rapid shifts in mood and frequently function well in low-pressure social situations (for a while) even as they lash out or withdraw at home and/or at school. Depression causes difficulty in several areas of cognitive control, notably concentration and memory. Depressed kids may have difficulty achieving goals and difficulty understanding and completing school work. Many teens experiencing depression attempt to self-medicate with drugs and/or alcohol, which, for individuals prone to addiction, may lead to much larger problems than were generated by the initial bout of depression. For all these reasons, if you suspect that your teen might be depressed, it is crucial to work with your medical provider to evaluate the situation. Your child's Guidance Counselor or one of the School Adjustment Counselors can help you locate appropriate professionals in the community or in the greater Boston area to help assess the nature and extent of your teen's

difficulties and make recommendations. Partnering with professionals in the school when you are concerned about your child will also help you and the medical consultants you work with to have complete and accurate information about how your child is doing in school academically and socially, aiding in diagnosis and treatment. CCHS's School Adjustment Counselors offer support to students and their parents when depression or another mental health diagnosis is made. We help make school work for a student undergoing difficulties and we help the student find ways to adjust to their diagnosis in their role as student. If you have questions about teen depression, or want to discuss any of the issues we have raised in this or other guidelines articles, please call us—**Kelli Kirshtein, LICSW** or **Dan Simone, LMHC** at **978-341-2490 X7108**.

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.

COLLEGE CAREER MINI FAIRS

**These mini fairs are for
CCHS Students Only.
Students should watch for flyers and
upcoming announcements.
Dates: April 5, 12, 26 & May 3.**

See You Next Month