

NOTES FROM JUNIOR CLASS OF 2011 MEETING

SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

Next meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 20th at 7 p.m. in the MLK Room.** The topic is College Testing and an Overview of the College Process- Naviance, ACT/SAT - Panel will include Dean Mims, and guidance counselors Kathy Whelan and Eric Schiff.

Our following meeting on **Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium** will be Financial Aid Night, a combined meeting with the Senior parents. Learn about college financial aid options and process for obtaining student loans and aid.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Joel Sklar, Marsha Zierk and Faith Segal, the Junior Class Representatives, organize the monthly meetings, take notes and post them on the website. The purpose of the meetings is to facilitate communication between school and parents and provide a forum for parent discussions of issues of general concern. We want parent input into agendas and feedback. This is a big college prep year and, according to last years junior student panel, the most stressful school year. Our schedule of meetings will attempt to address these issues for parents on a timely basis. Please contact us with any questions or input.

SIGN UP FOR PSAT- DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009.

The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Qualifying Test) will be administered in Saturday, October 17, 2009. Registration Forms (on pink paper) are available in the Main Guidance Office, Room 168. A check for \$28 or a money order should be made payable to Brookline High Guidance. No Cash is accepted.

Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2009. Please bring baked goods to drop off, that evening or by 7 a.m. the following morning in the MLK Room, for the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast scheduled for Friday, October 23, 2009.

Adelaide Ketchum, PTO Co-President, welcomed our class back to school. Please remember to make a **donation to the PTO**. Donations are the primary source of fundraising for the PTO. The money is used for teacher grants, enrichment programs, the freshman barbecue, senior college essay program, honor society induction, just to name a few. There is a link on the PTO website, www.bhs-ptd.org/home.htm, for making donations or you can mail your donation to the attention of the PTO at BHS. Also, please remember to **sign up for the e-mail list on the PTO website** and encourage anyone you know who has not yet done so. There are also many **volunteer opportunities** available offering many options to get involved. Check out the PTO website !!

A representative from the **Sagamore**, Boyana Georgeive, encouraged parents to buy a subscription for \$20. Get the Sagamore delivered right to your home and catch up on what is happening at BHS. There is a link to the Sagamore on the BHS website that will

lead you to a link for the subscription form.

Hugh Hough, Friends of Performing Arts (FOPA) also welcomed parents to a new exciting year filled with interesting and diverse music, dance and theater productions. Remember to support the performing arts program by donating and becoming a volunteer. There is a link for the Performing Arts on the BHS website that will lead you to the PTO e-mail sign up where you can check a box for the FOPA e-mail list. Keep up to date on all the great performances this year and volunteer!

June Harris, BCASA (Brookline Coalition Against Substance Abuse) and Brookline Parent Education Network, discussed the resources and support that are available to parents. Get informed, involved and connected. Parent groups can be formed depending on the interests and concerns or questions you have, whether you want to discuss curfews, Facebook, texting, parties or substance abuse. Groups with a facilitator can be set up for all interested parents. For more information go to www.bcasa.org.

Associate Dean, Scott Butchart encouraged all Juniors to sign up for the PSAT. It is an opportunity to get detailed feedback about areas of strength and weakness in preparation for the SAT. He also discussed the Junior Semi, which is scheduled for March 5 at the Colonnade Hotel in Boston. All kids will attend by buses that will leave from BHS at a designated time and return to BHS for pick up by parents. More information will be forthcoming about cost. The dance is chaperoned by the deans team and teachers.

Dean of Students, Adrian Mims spoke about the challenge of Junior year in general. There is more at risk academically as students are more aware of the college process. He also emphasized that parents should encourage sign up for the PSAT. He encouraged students to join clubs. There are many varied clubs available for students to try out. He shared the sad news about a Junior who passed away in his sleep of natural causes right before the first day of school. This is the loss of a member of the BHS family. The school honored his memory with a big poster in the atrium where students could write something. Social workers were available and a gathering, attended by staff and students, was held at the family's home. Hold slips were discussed. A fee needs to be paid for lost text books, uniforms and library books or a student will not have the privilege of open campus. Those students who owe money have been sent letters and have the opportunity to make payment.

Attached to this e-mail is the Junior Year sheet that lists important dates and activities that take place this year.

Headmaster, Dr. Robert Weintraub welcomed parents and again offered BHS decals for all who contribute to the PTO. The teachers this year are excited and dedicated to working with all students. They are the best. The first assembly at the beginning of the year featured a program by Mike Fowler, a performer who did a provocative presentation about diversity and tolerance. The theme was you don't know me until you know me. The message was don't judge me until you know me. It was very well received by all. The Junior class did so well on the MCAS last Spring that they have won the coveted ice

cream party for beating the scores of rival, Newton North! The National Honor Society Induction for Seniors is coming up in November. It is anticipated that the names of those who qualify will be announced soon. Historically over 40% of the class has qualified in recent years. This year there are 10 semifinalists for National Merit Scholarships. All in all, we are looking forward to a very good year!

Junior Class Reps: **Marsha Zierk** marsha_zierk@mad.uscourts.gov

Faith Segal fsegal@rfglawyers.com

Joel Sklar jsklar@samuelsre.com

JUNIOR YEAR

OVERVIEW:

- ENJOY HIGH SCHOOL.
- Work hard in class.
- Participate in activities inside and/or outside of school.
- Make friends.
- Balance the “HYPER” about junior year with the reality:
 - You need balance in your lives.
 - You need to become invested in your own learning.
 - Activities matter only if they are meaningful to you.
 - College is about being successful and happy once enrolled, not about getting into the school that sounds the most prestigious!!!
 - There are 4,431 degree-granting colleges in the country; there is one for you.

Practice Scholastic Aptitude Test: PSAT's – October 17, 2009

- Students interested in college admission should take the PSAT.
- Sign up in main guidance office, 9/21 – 10/9, fee \$28.00, no cash accepted.
- PSAT scores begin conversations about college; about SAT's and ACT's, and about the need for SAT preparation or not.
- Counselors will discuss scores with students individually when they arrive, usually in December.

Financial Aid Night, November 4, 7PM in the auditorium.

February 3, 2010: Junior Parent Night, Auditorium, 7PM

- Overview of college process
- Group meetings with your son's/daughter's guidance counselor

Guidance Seminars:

- Begin in March
- Small group meetings with students and Guidance Counselor to explain and begin college process

Individual Meetings with Counselor:

- Throughout the spring
- Consider visiting colleges in the area during the spring to explore your son's/daughter's general preferences: large vs. small; urban vs. suburban vs. rural

Naviance:

- A computer program that enables students to view college acceptances for BHS students.
- With GPA's (grade point averages) and SAT scores, students can explore their own acceptance possibilities at specific schools compared with previous year graduates

Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT's and subject tests)

- Most Juniors take an SAT or ACT by the end of Junior year providing the possibility of a second test administration early in senior year if desired. Time for maturation and SAT preparation may improve scores with the second administration.
- Check with the schools that might interest your son or daughter for SAT/ACT/Subject Test requirements. Many colleges do not require any SAT subject tests.
- Consult with your counselor and teachers regarding courses which correlate with subject tests.