



News & Views

www.bhs-pto.org/NewsandViews.htm

November 2011 – Issue 3

FROM THE PTO CO-PRESIDENTS

FROM THE ASSISTANT HEADMASTER

The most important thing the PTO does is facilitate connections between school and home. Many parents connected in October—volunteering for important PTO-sponsored events and showing their support for the high school. In addition to our gratitude for volunteering, we would like to thank the many families who have already made their annual contributions to the PTO. Remember that you can donate by mail or online. Early funding allows us to plan for the year more effectively.

On Back-to-School Night, the parent body voted for their School Council representatives. We would like to thank all six parents who volunteered to run. They are an impressive group, and the results were very close. However, there are only four seats to be filled, so this year's School Council members will be Beth Miller, Bob Cook, Marcia Hertz, and Susan Sturman.

Another opportunity for parents to be involved with the school is by showing their appreciation to BHS' outstanding teachers and staff. This year, our new special events coordinators, Georgia Moridi and Danit Ben-Ari, organized a spectacular Teachers' Appreciation Breakfast the morning after Back-to-School Night. It was well planned and beautifully executed. The parent's sign-up provided ample supplies of bagels, coffee, smoked salmon, quiches, fruit, frittatas, ham, baked goods, and many other delectables. Georgia and Danit would especially like to thank Mimi Levine, Jacque Francona, Aline Hillman, Marla Engel, Lynn O'Kelley, Hayley Greenberg, Lisa Bariss, Cassia Wyner, Priscilla Wren, Betsy Jacobs, Marina Brodskaya, Christina Suh, Beth Harris, Jamie Lee, and the many others

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In keeping with Dr. Bob's never-ending "ship" metaphors, the Great Ship BHS—which has been sailing along beautifully under the watchful eye of Interim Captain Dr. John Ritchie—will shortly be boarded for inspection. For the past year and a half, BHS has been engaged in a self-evaluation prior to our accreditation visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). NEASC is the organization charged by the Commonwealth with granting (or withholding) certification to public schools and colleges. In order to do so, the NEASC sends a visiting committee to each school every 10 years. The Visiting Committee is comprised of educators from the region—teachers, department heads, and principals—who volunteer to spend three and a half days at a school conducting a rigorous (and quite formulaic) assessment. A Visiting Committee will come to Brookline High School on Sunday, November 13 and depart on Wednesday, November 16.

Preparing for this NEASC accreditation has been a major undertaking, both under Dr. Bob's supervision and more recently Dr. Ritchie's. Brian Poon, director of OFC, and I have been co-chairs of the accreditation self-study, but credit for most the work over the past year and a half goes to the 20 committee chairs and steering committee members as well as the rest of the staff at BHS who have contributed as committee members during this time. Parents and students are also a part of the self-assessment—they have provided input in the form of surveys, and they will be interviewed during the accreditation process. In preparation for the November visit, we have written a very detailed self-study that assesses practices, protocols, procedures, and levels of achievement within seven specified standards: Community Resources, Core Values, Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, School Culture

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BHS PTO NEWS & VIEWS

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Send comments to:
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News & Views is also available on the PTO website, www.bhs-pto.org

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and Leadership, and School Resources for Learning. The BHS committees have done research and evidence-gathering around each of the strands and over the course of the past 18 months have written narratives detailing the school's level of congruence with the NEASC standards. From this narrative, each committee has developed a list of perceived strengths and needs in each area. These have been further refined into an overall, school-wide list of strengths and needs. The Visiting Committee will not be conducting a general or loosely defined analysis of the quality of the institution. Rather, having read our self-study, they will rigorously assess whether the evidence presented by the school confirms the conclusions drawn in the self-study for each of the seven standards. The examination of evidence takes place in many ways, including examining student work; interviewing parents, teachers, students, and the School Committee; and visiting classrooms. Some months after the visit, the school will be given a report by NEASC (which becomes a public document) that includes Commendations and Recommendations. In areas where recommendations have been made, the school is required to follow-up with the NEASC on steps that are being taken to address any concerns or recommendations. As in past NEASC visits, we know that this outside inspection will be something that makes our ship even stronger and more seaworthy.

If you have any questions about the NEASC visit, please don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail.

—Hal Mason,
Assistant Headmaster

who donated food to this event. In addition, we would like to thank Finagle A Bagel, the Starbucks on Boylston Street, and Winston Flowers for their contributions.

The best way for parents to connect with their children's school lives is to attend the monthly PTO meetings for their grade. Last month, freshmen parents learned "What is going on and who is available to help?" Parents from the class of 2014 attended a presentation by their dean and staff about "Extracurricular Opportunities for sophomores," to learn about how their children can become more involved in activities outside of school. The junior parents heard a panel of experts explain the map of tests for college in, "SAT/ACT preparation strategies: How to help your child achieve the best outcome." And finally, the senior parents packed the auditorium to see a presentation by the guidance department for an "Overview of the college admissions process."

This month there are some important dates coming up. On Monday, November 7, the National Honor Society ceremony takes place in the Atrium. On November 9, junior and senior parents have a combined meeting in the auditorium to learn about "Financial aid in college." The first quarter report cards are issued on November 22, which you will be able to see on the new parent portal. The annual Powder Puff football game between junior and senior girls will be held on November 23, directly after the noon dismissal school. On Wednesday, November 30, junior and senior parents have another combined meeting, "How Athletics can help BHS students get into college."

We hope you all have a safe Thanksgiving!

—BHS PTO Co-Presidents
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Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day a Success

Thanks go to all families who contributed to the Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast on October 14. This annual event went flawlessly, the room looked beautiful, and we had plenty of delicious food and great volunteers. It was a great pleasure working with my co-chair, Danit Ben-Ari, and we appreciate her devotion and hard work to make this event a success.

A special thank-you to local vendors for their support: Both Starbucks and Finagle A Bagel donated their coffee and bagels for free. Good friends Winston Flowers gave us a 50% discount.

Thanks to all the volunteers: Mimi Levine, Jacque Francona, Aline Hellman, Marla Engel, Lynn O'Kelley, Hayley Greenberg, Lisa Bariss, Cassia Wyner, Priscilla Wren, Betsy Jacobs, Marina Brodskaya, Christina Suh, Beth Harris, and Jamie Lee.

—Georgia Moridi,
PTO Special Events Chair

BHS Intramurals Schedule for Fall 2011

(For students who are not on BHS teams)

Join us! Relieve some stress and have some fun!

October 3–November 17, M, W, Th,
3:00-4:30 p.m.

Indoor Soccer and Frisbee	Pavilion
Fitness Center	Tappan Building
Basketball	Tappan Gym 1
Rock Climbing	Tappan Gym 2 (starts November, days TBD)

Interested in winter and spring intramural activities? Announcements are placed in the bulletin and broadcast before activities begin. Also, check with the Health and Fitness Office (Room 291, above Schluntz Gym).

Friends of Performing Arts

A Midsummer Night's Dream

This year's Shakespeare play transforms the Bard's world of fairies and sprites into a spirited other-world of vampires. This entertaining show is appropriate for 7th graders and up.

Wednesday, November 2, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 4, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 5, 7:30 p.m.

Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

\$10 Adults, \$5 Students (8th graders get in free)

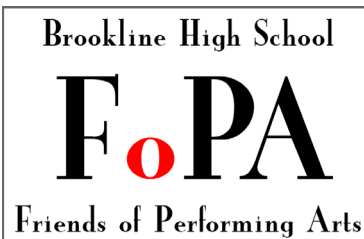
Camerata & Orchestra Concert

The BHS Orchestra and the Camerata honors choir join together for a lively evening. The Camerata will sing the spiritual, "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord," Lassus's "*Mon coeur se recommande a vous*," and Gershwin's "But Not for Me." Students Eagon Meng (piano) and Fred Metzger (bass) will accompany the choir on a Manhattan Transfer arrangement of "Tuxedo Junction." The Camerata joins the orchestra for Mozart's celebratory "Regina Coeli" and the Beatles' lyrical "Blackbird." The orchestra alone will play dance-based music from three centuries, by Handel, Beethoven, Shostakovich, and Copland (his ever-popular "Hoedown").

Friday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.

Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

Tickets \$5 (All elementary students get in free)



Save the Date

Moonlighting, the BHS Faculty/Staff Variety show, will be held December 2.

How to Be a Friend of Performing Arts

1. Come to a performance...and bring a friend!
2. Volunteer at a performance (box office, usher, etc.)
3. Encourage your kid(s) to take a music, drama, or dance class
4. Print out and post the Performing Arts calendar on your fridge
5. Sign up for FoPA's email list for the latest Performing Arts Updates

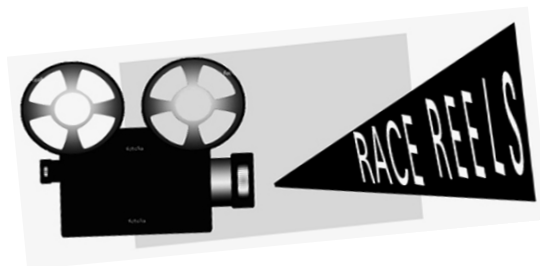
If your child is taking any performing arts classes or is involved in a production in any way, you are already a Friend of Performing Arts. Join us at FoPA as we work behind the scenes to provide essential support for box office/concessions, communications, publicity, special events, and fund raising. We meet several times a year to brainstorm projects and organize volunteer opportunities. Our next meeting is Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Staff Lounge next to the MLK Room. For more information, contact Karen Campbell at karencampbell4@rcn.com and visit our website: www.FoPA.weebly.com.

Film Series Updates

The Race Reels Film Series documentary club meets once a month as a mix of in-school field trips and after-school events. The goals of Race Reels are to provide a common experience and a jumping off point for conversations around race that are difficult to start and to develop an audience that is comfortable talking about race issues.

- The November event features a new film and a new date. "Ethnic Notions," (a classic documentary tracing the evolution of the deeply rooted racial stereotypes which have fueled anti-black prejudice) has replaced the originally scheduled film, "Bamboozled," and will now be shown on 11/22, rather than 11/15, during T & C Blocks.
- The February film, "Freedom Riders," has been rescheduled and will now be shown on 2/13 rather than 2/14.

Please see the revised Race Reels calendar. ([click here](#))



November Is Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month

In accordance with a national campaign to prevent teen dating violence and promote healthy relationships, BHS Peer Leaders are currently training in the REACH (Refuge, Education, Advocacy, CHange) program, which is dedicated to building healthy communities by preventing domestic violence. After training, the teens will be giving presentations to the middle school grades in Brookline.

Community Planning Meeting on Teen Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

As part of a two-year campaign to address teen prescription drug abuse, B-CASA invites parents, students, and community members to attend a planning meeting on Thursday November 10, 8–10 a.m., at BHS in the MLK Room. This meeting will follow up with the recommendations from B-CASA's spring forum on the issue and begin developing specific action plans. Strategies will target four different sectors: teens, parents, health professionals, and law enforcement. To RSVP, contact Mary Minott at mminott@brooklinema.gov.

Forum Addressed “Cyberspace—The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly”

B-CASA's “Coffee & Conversation” breakfast forum on October 27 invited BHS students, staff, parents, police, and members of the community to address the different ways teens use today's technology—from the productive to the dangerous. Six mini-presentations were scheduled to illuminate what we need to know about the issues, followed by group table discussions to craft action plans addressing problem aspects. Keep an eye out this month for the *Parent Network Newsletter* on cyberspace, which

will report on the brainstorming sessions and summarize some of the ideas the community hopes to put into place.

House Parties in the News

What would you do if you came home from a night out of town to find that your unsupervised teen's invitation to a few friends had spiraled into a full-on house party, complete with alcohol, marijuana, and noticeable damage to your house? It may seem far-fetched, but it happened just a few weekends ago to one BHS family and it continues to occur in our community on a fairly regular basis. If you haven't had the conversation with your teen, start it now. Emphasize respect and responsibility, and convey the message that hosting and attending unsupervised house parties is not allowed and carries strong consequences, both at home and at school. Experts recommend that if there is any doubt as to whether a party will have appropriate supervision, call the parents. To find out what other parents are thinking, join the conversation at www.B-PEN.org and on our Brookline Parent Education Network Facebook page.

B-PEN Parent Advisory Committee

Brookline Parent Education Network is guided by input from the Parent Advisory Committee, a volunteer group of parents that meets monthly to brainstorm ideas and provide insight into ways of reaching parents with helpful information on issues ranging from common stress to substance abuse. New participants are always welcome. Our next meeting is November 14, 7 p.m., at 51 Rawson Rd. For more information, contact coordinators June Harris, june_harris@brookline.k12.ma.us, or Karen Campbell, karencampbell4@rcn.com.

IMPORTANT DATES (LINK TO BHS PTO CALENDAR)

November

- 1: Freshman PTO meeting*
- 5: SATs
- 8: Sophomore PTO meeting*
- 9: No school – Professional Day
- 9: Jr/Sr Financial Aid Night
- 11: No school – Veteran's Day
- 23: Noon dismissal
- 23: Powder Puff football game
- 24-25: No school – Thanksgiving Break
- 30: How Athletics Can Help BHS Students Get into College

December

- 1: Freshman PTO meeting*
- 3: SATs
- 5: Sophomore PTO meeting*
- 7: Junior PTO meeting*
- 8: Senior PTO meeting*
- 10: ACTs
- 14: Early dismissal
- 14: PTO Executive Board meeting
- 24-1/2: No school – Winter Vacation

* See the 2011-2012 PTO Meeting Calendar for details

**Donate
Now**
to the PTO

Two Great Events to Celebrate Dr. Robert Weintraub, Former BHS Headmaster and Founder of the 21st Century Fund

Don't miss your opportunity to support the 21st Century Fund and to say thank you to Dr. Bob for his extraordinary leadership, vision, and commitment to excellence.

The 11th Annual Gala Celebration

Saturday, November 19, 6:30 p.m.–midnight
Dinner and Dancing
Brookline High School, Schluntz Gym
Black Tie

Tables, tickets, and program tributes may be purchased at our website, www.BHS21stCenturyFund.org.

BHS 21st Century Fund LIVE: Pursuing Your Passion

A complimentary afternoon event, also honoring Dr. Bob, with inspiring leaders talking about the values he instilled that are a part of the school's DNA: Academic excellence for every student; hard work over time; embracing diversity; civic responsibility and social justice.

Saturday, November 19, 1:00–2:30 p.m.
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium, Brookline High School
Admission is free

Panel Speakers

Gaston Caperton: President, The College Board, and former Governor of West Virginia

Katie Johnson: Former Personal Secretary to President Barack Obama, currently attending Harvard Law School

Liz Walker: TV Journalist, documentary film producer, and humanitarian

Bob Weintraub: Professor of Practice in Educational Leadership, Columbia University's Teachers College

Not able to make either event but would still like to honor Dr. Bob and continue his legacy? Donations in his honor can be made on our website, www.BHS21stCenturyFund.org.

For more information, please contact Jessica Conaway, at 617-713-5201; jessica_conaway@brookline.k12.ma.us.



About BHS 21st Century Fund

Inspired by the tradition of excellence at BHS, The Brookline High School 21st Century Fund was created as venture capital for public education. The fund, comprised of private donations, enables BHS to develop new approaches and innovative curriculum that can enhance each BHS student's educational experience. The Fund has invested \$8 million to launch 16 programs, seven of which have been fully integrated into the BHS curriculum. To learn more about the fund, visit our website: www.BHS21stCenturyFund.org.

During this time of end-of-the year giving, what better way is there to honor a teacher than with a donation to the Brookline Education Foundation. Let your child's teachers know that you recognize their efforts by giving to the organization that seeks out and supports innovation and leadership among teachers and administrators from preschool through grade 12. Your gift enables us to provide educators with opportunities for continued professional and personal development and touches the teachers you honor in a very special way. In the words of a Brookline High School teacher:

"The BEF has helped me feel proud (OK, even MORE proud than usual) of working in a community that so honors teachers and teaching."

Please visit www.brooklineeducation.org to honor a teacher today!



Celebrity Series Performances 2011–2012

The Celebrity Series of Boston *Take Your Seat* Performances have started, providing BHS families with the opportunity to see world-class performing artists at incredibly reasonable prices. The tickets are available for \$10 and historically are on a first-come-first-serve basis. Because tickets are very limited (see ticket limit on attached schedule), some of the more popular events (e.g., Mark Morris, Itzhak Perlman, Soweto Gospel Choir, Alvin Ailey, and Jazz at Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis) will be sold out quickly, so it is important to get your orders in early. We require advanced submission of all ticket requests.

The Celebrity Series calendar for the 2011–12 season is posted below. It will also be available at <http://www.bhs-pto.org/> for your reference. The

calendar is divided into thirds and has set deadlines for ticket requests for each third. Now is the time to plan ahead and get your ticket request in for processing. If events are sold out, your check(s) will be returned.

The deadline for ticket requests is October 29 for events taking place November–December; request deadline is December 1 for January–February events; and request deadline is January 5, 2012, for March–June events. Please look ahead at the calendar and consider the events that you may want to attend. Send requests to Marilyn Tressel, 260 Summit Ave, Brookline 02446, with your checks made out to Celebrity Series of Boston and one self-addressed, stamped envelope for EACH event. Both check and SASE(s) must be marked for the event and

number of tickets requested. Please provide a phone number as well, in case we need to contact you. If this information is not included, we will not be able to process your order!

Because of the deep discount and focus on education for students, families are asked to maintain a four-students-to-one-adult ratio in requesting tickets. Although we recognize this ratio is not always possible, please try to include more children. Be creative—invite some friends or classmates of your children along. This may be their chance for exposure to these incredible performances. The program is not intended to subsidize adult attendance, so please do not abuse the system. For further information, please contact Marilyn Tressel at 617-731-0168 or pagetressel@rcn.com.

Artist	Date and Time	Venue	Ticket Limit
Aszure Barton and Artists	Fri 11/4 7:30pm	Tsai Performance Center	5
Aszure Barton and Artists	Sat 11/5 8pm	Tsai Performance Center	5
Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band	Sun 11/6 7pm	Berklee	20
Angelika Kirchschrager, soprano	Friday 11/11 8pm	NEC's Jordan Hall	25
Orion String Quartet	Sat 11/12 8pm	NEC's Jordan Hall	10
Garrison Keillor	Sun 11/13 3pm	Symphony Hall	10
Itzhak Perlman, violin	Sun 11/20 3pm	Symphony Hall	10
Angela Hewitt, piano	Fri 12/2 8pm	NEC's Jordan Hall	5
Vijay Iyer Trio and Migeul Zenon Quartet	Fri 12/9 8pm	Berklee	15
Kathy Mattea	Sat 1/21 8pm	Sanders Theatre	10
Roby Lakatos Ensemble	Fri 1/27 8pm	Sanders Theatre	10
Lise de la Salle, piano	Sat 1/28 8pm	NEC's Jordan Hall	10
Pieter Wispelwey, cello	Fri 2/3 8pm	NEC's Jordan Hall	15
Inbal Pinto & Avshalom Pollak Dance Co.	Fri 2/3 7:30pm	Paramount Theatre	5
Inbal Pinto & Avshalom Pollak Dance Co.	Sat 2/4 8pm	Paramount Theatre	5
Sergio and Odair Assad, duo guitar	Fri 2/10 8pm	NEC's Jordan Hall	5
Soweto Gospel Choir	Sun 2/12 3pm	Symphony Hall	10
David Finckel, Wu Han, Philip Setzer	Sun 2/19 3pm	NEC's Jordan Hall	5
Hagen Quartet	Sun 2/26 3pm	NEC's Jordan Hall	5
Circa's "Circa"	Wed 2/29 7:30pm	Paramount Theatre	5
Max Raabe and the Palast Orchester	Sun 3/4 3pm	Symphony Hall	5
Ballet Hispanico	Fri 3/9 7:30pm	Cutler Majestic Theatre	5
Ballet Hispanico	Sat 3/10 8pm	Cutler Majestic Theatre	5
Ballet Hispanico	Sun 3/11 3pm	Cutler Majestic Theatre	5
The Chieftains	Wed 3/14 8pm	Symphony Hall	10
Jazz at Lincoln Ctr w/ Wynton Marsalis	Sun 3/18 3pm	Symphony Hall	10
Sandrine Piau, soprano	Sat 4/21 8pm	NEC's Jordan Hall	20
Maurizio Pollini, piano	Sun 4/22 3pm	Symphony Hall	10
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre	Fri 4/27 8pm	Citi Wang Theatre	10
Jane Monheit	Fri 5/5 8pm	Sanders Theatre	10
Mark Morris Dance Group	Thu 5/17 7:30pm	Cutler Majestic Theatre	15
Mark Morris Dance Group	Fri 5/18 8pm	Cutler Majestic Theatre	5
Mark Morris Dance Group	Sat 5/19 8pm	Cutler Majestic Theatre	5
Mark Morris Dance Group	Sun 5/20 3pm	Cutler Majestic Theatre	5

Brookline's Unsung Heroes

The Brookline Community Foundation (BCF) is excited to announce the winners of the *6th Annual Unsung Hero* awards. These awards celebrate community members who work to make Brookline better without calling attention to themselves or seeking recognition; they work hard to make a difference in our town and inspire others to give back.

This year we have three winners:

- Scott Hillman & George Vien, Founders of Brookline Youth Lacrosse. With a love of the game and a shared vision of making athletics accessible to any child who wished to participate, Scott and George have given much time, energy, and enthusiasm to creating an amazing lacrosse program that has served over 1,000 boys and girls since it started 10 years ago.
- Frank Caro, Brookline Community Aging Network, is a tireless and dedicated community volunteer/organizer for senior citizens in Brookline.

Please join us to celebrate! Wednesday, November 2, 6:00–7:30 p.m., in the Arcade Building, 318 Harvard St.

Awards ceremony and refreshments. Free.

Buy a House and the PTO Will Benefit

Howard Koor, a Brookline Village Realtor and parent of a senior at BHS, has generously offered to donate 10% of his commission to the BHS PTO, earned from a transaction with a family that buys or sells real estate with him. Contact Howard at 617-257-3868 or howard@vanguard-realty.com.

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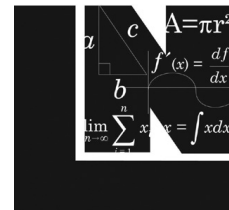
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The Brookline High School PTO reserves the right to edit, categorize, revise, or refuse any classified advertisement. In addition, the Brookline High School PTO has the right to terminate any ad at any time for any reason.

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2011-2012 PTO MEETING CALENDAR

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Room, unless otherwise noted.
For meeting topics and updates, check the PTO website (www.bhs-pto.org).

Freshmen Class of 2015

Tuesday, 11/1
Understanding the HS Social Scene

Thursday, 12/1
Stress & The City: Grades and Dealing With Them

Tuesday, 1/10
Navigating Mid-Terms

Monday, 2/6
Sophomore Year

Tuesday, 3/13
Summer Options

Sophomores Class of 2014

Tuesday, 11/8
Risk-Taking & Adolescence

Monday, 12/5
Sophomore Year Testing: MCAS and PSAT

Wednesday, 1/18
Sex and Health of the Sophomore

Wednesday, 2/1
Junior Year Classes

Tuesday, 3/6

Juniors Class of 2013

Wednesday, 11/9
Financial Night Auditorium

Wednesday, 12/7
Fostering/Nurturing your Child's Independence

Tuesday, 1/17
The Best Colleges You Never Heard Of

Wednesday, 2/8
Junior Guidance Night Auditorium

Seniors Class of 2012

Wednesday, 11/9
Financial Night Auditorium

Thursday, 12/8
Stress and Family Dynamics

Thursday, 1/12
College Freshmen Discussing College Life

Thursday, 2/9
Dealing with acceptance and rejection; sorting through the results