

GRADE 9 PA NEWSLETTER
November 2009

We hope you and your children have all settled into the routine of the school year and are figuring out how to manage sometimes-tricky schedules and competing demands for their (and your!) time. How quickly they seem to be in the thick of it in just a few short weeks after life, learning, and latrines in the New Hampshire wilderness!

Below are some dates to note in November; several pertain to community-wide and community-building events. Participating in these events is a great way to strengthen your connection to the school and to other parents and we hope you will come to as many as your schedules allow.

GRADE 9 ANNUAL PARENTS POTLUCK DINNER!

Wednesday, November 4th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Upper School Commons

With special guests, 9th Grade Dean, David Strodel, and Dean of Students, Rory Morton, who will share the secrets of how to be good parents of high schoolers

This is always a fun evening of connection and community building for parents! Please RSVP and let us know what you are willing to bring using this Doodle event planning link:

<http://www.doodle.com/pbipzfi4ch6q8y58>

The link takes you directly to the BB&N 11/4 Grade 9 Potluck sign-up page (if the link doesn't work on your computer, just cut and paste in the whole address.) Please sign on and enjoy this evening with other Grade 9 parents! We do especially need entrees, if you can help with this! If you need to drop off your food contributions earlier in the day, please just wrap them and label them "9th Grade Pot Luck" so they can be stored (and refrigerated, if necessary) until set-up time (food can be warmed at school.)

US MOTHER-DAUGHTER DINNER

Tuesday, November 10th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Upper School Commons

Sponsored by the Women's Issues Group

Contact Debra Dzierzak at Debra_Dzierzak@bbns.org for more information.

ALL SCHOOL GRANDFRIENDS BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 11th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Upper School Commons

Welcoming remarks by Rebecca T. Upham

Contact Jo-Ann Lovejoy at jo-ann_lovejoy@bbns.org for more information.

**ONE SCHOOL-ONE WORLD, a biannual, multi-cultural event
Saturday, November 14 from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Upper School Athletic Center

Your contributions of food, performances, and time on the day of the event (and the day before) are all requested and welcome! Please contact Kate Doyle at klokd@yahoo.com to help or for more information.

MUD WEEK -- NO US SPORTS!

Week of November 16th

Pick up at 3:20 M, T, Th, F

Pick up at 1:10 on Wednesday unless your child is participating in:

US COMMUNITY SERVICE AFTERNOON

Wednesday, November 18th 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Student sign-up sheets will be posted November 2nd

Contact Lynda Ceremsak at ceremsak@comcast.net for more information.

**US WINTER SPORTS PARENT INFO/MEET THE COACHES NIGHT
Tuesday, November 17th, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Upper School Athletic Center

Come and meet your child's winter sports coach and learn about the program!

WINTER SPORTS BEGIN!

Monday, November 23rd

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY EARLY DISMISSAL (ALL CAMPUSES)

Pick up your child at noon on Wednesday, November 25th

And have a GREAT, restful, and happy Thanksgiving break!!!

And some thank you's: Thank you to Willa Chamberlain for giving us a great overview of the language program at the school, including options for adding a second language in future years and for school-arranged (and often language-based) travel. Most trips are open to all and happen in March and June; contact Willa for more information at willa_chamberlain@bbns.org. Thank you to the organizers of the terrific US/MS "Risky Behavior" talk and thank you to all the parents who helped with chaperoning at the Back From Biv dance and who brought food and came to the Back From Biv parents' social. Thank you for the help of so many parents with the faculty Bivouac thank you gift (which was s'mores cupcakes!) We have a great class and a great group of parents!

For those who have a few more minutes for reading, we're including below part of Jack Knapp's remarks from Meet the Deans night on September 14th. It's a modified (by Jack) excerpt from Richard J. Light's book, Making the Most of College, suggesting ten things students can do to take full advantage of their time at BB&N.

Ten Things Students Should Do to Make the Most of Their Time at BB&N

1. Keep a personal time-log for a week toward the beginning of the school year. Record what you do half-hour by half-hour. Then evaluate what you do and how important it is to you, eliminating that which is truly wasted. Texting a friend or watching a favorite television program is not truly wasted time, for example.
2. Find an activity or activities in which to engage. This should consume ten hours a week. Social isolation is a major reason for both unhappiness and not taking full advantage of the opportunities available. Participation in the arts and various service endeavors correlate closely with contentment and academic success.
3. Seek out and learn from a student or students who come from different backgrounds than your own. This extends beyond the classroom to eating lunch with someone with very different views from your own, inviting her/him to your house, etc.
4. Constantly seek to refine your critical thinking skills in an atmosphere where conversation can be so rich. Try to synthesize arguments for yourself, drawing evidence from multiple sources.
5. Advocate for yourself and, when you seek extra help, be prepared to ask specific questions about that which you do not understand. "Why" is a very powerful word.
6. Take a course in which you think you have no interest; try an extra- or co-curricular activity where you have no experience.
7. Join a support group. This group can be based on gender, ethnicity, or a host of other circumstances but it is important to realize that others share your experiences.
8. Remain true to any religious convictions that you find important. Belief almost always inspires respect among peers, even if it is accompanied by social sacrifice.
9. Find a mentor, a member of the faculty who will take particular interest in you and your activities while you are at BB&N. This need not be a formal relationship with a teacher or advisor, just a special sense that you have a "go to" person at the school.
10. In working toward these goals, recognize that the beginning of the school year is the ideal time.

Happy November to everyone!

Please contact Nancy Baskin or Melanie Shaw with your questions, concerns, or suggestions. We are happy to try to help in any way and look forward to your emails or calls at nfbaskin@baskinfamlaw.com (617-266-1820) or melanie_shaw@bbns.org (617-800-2472.)