

## GRADE 9 PA NEWSLETTER

Dear 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

We bring you calm and tranquil thoughts as your children prepare to take their first Midyear Exams at BB&N! Take a deep breath, and remember, it's almost over! For those of you who look to the folks at "Google" for insight and wisdom, you might want to tell your children that a recent study found that people who get *8 hours of sleep before taking a math test* were nearly **three times more likely** to figure out the problem than the people who stayed awake all night! If you've been impressed by all the hard work and preparation that your kids have displayed getting ready for their exams, and you'd like to help reward the class with a special treat, it's not too late to get involved. Just email [Kasey.Kaufman@comcast.net](mailto:Kasey.Kaufman@comcast.net) or Suzi Johnson at [SFrescojohnson@aol.com](mailto:SFrescojohnson@aol.com) and we'll fill you in on our top secret plans!

On the bright side, the days are getting longer and there is a three-day weekend next weekend and a four-day weekend coming up. We have some fun, school-wide events about to take place (from Spirit Day on January 31st to the Mystery Dinner on February 7th!) and several 9th Grade 'Happenings' that you won't want to miss, so let's get busy!

### SAVE THESE DATES

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Coffee

**Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-9:30 a.m. in the Stonestreet Lounge in the Nicholas Athletic Center.**

Ross Clark, Academic Dean will talk about course selection for next year. Reassuring, isn't it? Just thinking ahead to next year....

**9<sup>TH</sup> Grade Parents' Book Group: Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. at the home of Carly Berk, 10 Channing Place, Cambridge.** We will discuss *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Please RSVP to Barbara Berenson at [Barbara@Berenson.info](mailto:Barbara@Berenson.info). We hope to see you there! New members welcome! The Amazon review begins: *In the troubled years following the Civil War, the spirit of a murdered child haunts the Ohio home of a former slave. This angry, destructive ghost breaks mirrors, leaves its fingerprints in cake icing, and generally makes life difficult for Sethe and her family; nevertheless, the woman finds the haunting oddly comforting for the spirit is that of her own dead baby, never named, thought of only as Beloved. A dead child, a runaway slave, a terrible secret—these are the central concerns of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning Beloved* and hey, doesn't that synopsis put test anxiety in perspective?

### HEARTFELT THANKS

Those parents who ventured out on a chilly night in January to hear Upper School Counselor Doug Neuman talk about *9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Beyond* enjoyed an illuminating conversation and delectable raspberry bars. Our warm thanks to Doug for making the Parent to Parent Program so memorable. And, thanks too, to Lisa Henske for hosting the January 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Book Club.

### LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Once again, we encourage all of you to get involved at BB&N! Our goal continues to be to create a warm and inclusive experience for the families of the Class of 2012. We look forward to planning a Spring Social for parents. If you're interested in helping organize the get-together, please feel free to contact us. And finally, a reminder: for those of you with children who plan to head to Loon for the **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Ski Trip on February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, don't oversleep and miss the bus!

Wishing all of you a successful end of exams, and hopefully, a return to normal (whatever that is!) life,

With warm regards,

Kasey Kaufman  
617 739 3745  
[Kasey.kaufman@comcast.net](mailto:Kasey.kaufman@comcast.net)

Suzi Johnson  
781 449 1346  
[sfrescojohnson@aol.com](mailto:sfrescojohnson@aol.com)