

Upper School PA Newsletter

October 2009

Dear Upper School Parents:

The school year is off to a great start and the USPA is no exception! We just co-hosted with the Upper School our first meeting, 'Meet the Deans and Transitions and New Beginnings'. Each Upper School Dean spoke on their respective areas, highlighting upcoming events and expectations for the year. Then, Upper School Director Jack Knapp spoke, customizing Dr. Richard Light's ten tips for the successful student in the BB&N environment. Head of School Rebecca T. Upham closed the evening praising the work of Dr. Knapp after he announced his retirement at the end of this school year. The room was overflowing with parents and was a great kick-off to the myriad events we have scheduled this year.

Sincerely,

Lisa Aulet, Tammy McLeod, Maureen DiChiara, and Kasey Kaufman
Your USPA Leadership Team

Show Your School Spirit and Support the Financial Aid Program!

[Click Here to Shop BB&N Products](#)

Next USPA Event: Thursday, October 22nd at 7pm

"Checking the Box: Changes to the Common App & How Your Child's Risky Behavior Might Affect the College Process"

Dr. John Knight, the Director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research (CeASAR) at Children's Hospital will talk about "Why Smart Kids Make Risky Choices: How Parents can Protect Your Teen's Life and Future". Please plan on joining us for another terrific evening.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Calling all volunteers for **One School-One World**.

This fabulous multicultural event, linking all three campuses will be held Saturday, November 14th at the Upper School from 11am-2pm. If you missed the first one, held in November 2007, it was a wild, colorful, exciting day, with hundreds coming together to be part of our extraordinary and diverse BB&N community. For this event, we need volunteers to do the following:

- One (or two) parent/s to work with Upper School Art Department exhibit
- Parents to organize Upper School food station
- A parent to help identify student performance pieces for Upper School center stage (we need three performances per campus).
- To encourage and identify parents who wish to have a cultural table at the event. (Examples: we had a Japan table, an India table, and a Mideastern table headed by parents. They had maps, photos, music, food, crafts.)

Please email Kate O'Kelly at klokld@yahoo.com if you can volunteer. Thanks.

Upcoming Events

10/22 (Thur) USPA Event:
Risky Behavior and the College Process

11/12 (Thur) USPA Event:
State of the Upper School: How far we've come and where we are going

11/14 (Sat.)
One School-One World

Please see our website for more details

9TH GRADE OCTOBER PA NEWSLETTER

Our freshman students are back from Bivouac and, we hope, ready to engage fully in academic classes, sports and other extracurriculars! This is our first monthly Parents Association newsletter and we want to welcome all parents of 9th graders and encourage everyone to find ways to get involved here at the Upper School. Please contact Melanie Shaw or Nancy Baskin with your questions, concerns, suggestions, or offers of help for student and parent events! We look forward to your emails or calls at melanie_shaw@bbns.org (617-800-2472) or nfbaskin@baskinfamlaw.com.

Below are some calendar dates covering key 9th grade/Upper School student and/or parent events this autumn. BB&N is strengthened through community support, and one of the best ways to show support is by making the commitment to attend important events in the life of the School. We do know how busy everyone is, which makes your attendance at events all the more meaningful!

GRADE 9 PARENT ORIENTATION PROGRAM Preceding Upper School Back to School Night Wednesday, September 30, 6:00 PM Upper School THEATRE

Get your 9th grade packets at this preliminary event held especially for 9th grade parents! After orientation, move on to meet your student's advisor and attend classes according to your student's schedule (which you will receive from your student's advisor).

GRADE 9 BACK FROM BIVOUAC STUDENT PARTY Friday, October 9, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Upper School Community Room (off academic building main lobby)

Postcard invitation mailed to students. Casual attire. \$10 per student at the door. Students with BB&N sports game allowed entry after 7:00 upon return from their games. Pizza, snacks, a great DJ and lots of fun! This is one of the major on-campus social events this year for 9th graders and we hope for the majority to attend! (And it comes at a great time -- before homework and tests/papers, etc. are in full swing . . .)

Grade 9 PARENT GATHERING before student pick-up from party Friday, October 9, 9:30 PM Tentative Location: Upper School 2ND FLOOR RECEPTION AREA

Parents who are coming to collect their students after the party, please consider arriving at 9:30 for dessert and some social time to chat with other parents in a location separate from the party area but in the academic center and convenient for student pick-up.

PARENTS, PLEASE RSVP! Online at:

<http://www.doodle.com/ngrdrwxix4yvv47q>

Just click on the link or type it in, then click on the RSVP column and any volunteer options in which you are interested!

"LANGUAGE PROGRAMS AND TRAVEL AT BB&N"

Grade 9 Parent Coffee

Featured speaker: US Language Department Chair, Willa Chamberlain

Thursday, October 15, 8:00 - 9:00 AM (Speaker 8-8:30)

Upper School Athletic Center STONESTREET LOUNGE (off main lobby)

Please note that morning coffees begin promptly due to faculty/administration speaker schedules! Parents are welcome to socialize and/or continue discussions after 8:30 AM.

Four 9th grade morning coffees are scheduled for this school year, in October, December, February and April, each with a different topic and speaker. For those who cannot attend, we will provide meeting summaries and copies of any handouts via email request to Melanie or Nancy. Stay tuned for more information!

SAVE THE DATE!

"Checking the Box: Changes to the Common App & How Your Child's Risky Behavior Might Affect the College Process."

Thursday, October 22, 7:00 PM

Upper School Community Room

Hosted by the USPA, Dr. John Knight, Director of Boston Children's Hospital's Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research (CEASAR), discusses: "Why Smart Kids Make Risky Choices: How Parents can Protect Your Teen's Life and Future."

SAVE THE DATE!

GRADE 9 PARENT POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesday evening, November 4

Upper School Belmont Street Campus (location to be confirmed)

46 Belmont Street (off Mt. Auburn St. just past Star Market on left)

The date is set, but we will get back to you with more details on the venue and menu. We're hoping for another great turnout for this purely social evening!

SAVE THE DATE!

ONE SCHOOL-ONE WORLD FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 14, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Upper School Athletic Center

We are relying on your attendance and participation at this enthusiastic celebration of the BB&N community. If you have specialty food to share, or performances or information to present, relating to your family's heritage, traditions, and/or culture, please let us know. Much more information to come on this one!

AND A FINAL CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

If you want to help with any of the above events, please contact Melanie or Nancy (or use the Doodle link, provided above, for October 9). Thank you!

**GRADE 10 PA NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2009**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Morning Coffee for 10th Grade Parents!

Thursday, October 8, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Stonestreet Lounge

Peggy Payne, our Grade Dean, will be speaking about "what's ahead in 10th grade". Thank you to Carly Berk, who is organizing five morning coffee meetings this year for parents/guardians. In addition to providing a welcome opportunity for community building, the coffees will also aim to feature speakers on topics relevant to the BB&N journey.

Book Group Meeting for 10th Grade Parents:

Thursday, October 15, 7:30 p.m.
Barbara Berenson's house in Newton

The 10th grade Book Group will be meeting to discuss the book *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz. The book won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2008. Everyone is welcome, (even if you have not read the book).

Please note: For our next book, *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout has been recommended. This book won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize.

Please RSVP to Susie at smagdanz1@me.com <<mailto:smagdanz1@me.com>>

Director's Chat with 10th Grade Parents

Thursday, October 29, 8:00 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Please plan to attend this informative coffee with Upper School Director Jack Knapp, for parents/guardians of 10th grade students. Beverages will be provided by BB&N.

**First 10th Grade Parent Pot Luck Dinner
November 7**

We are looking for 8 more families to host our first potluck dinner, which we are planning for November 7th. (We already have 2 families who have volunteered their homes). Remember, host families are not providing the food! We hope the rest of you will plan on attending. In the past this has proved to be a fun event.

MARK YOUR 10th GRADERS' CALENDARS!

GRADE 10 REQUIRED TO TAKE PSAT AT BB&N

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 at 8 a.m.

From the College Counseling Office: BB&N requires sophomores to take the PSAT, a practice test for the SAT, on campus at BB&N on Saturday, October 17 at 8 a.m. Sophomores are automatically registered for the test.

Please keep in mind that the goal of this test is to allow the students a chance to practice for the SAT in a low-stakes environment. We cannot emphasize enough that there is no need to take a preparation course or hire a tutor for this test. PSAT scores are not sent to colleges. Juniors who score extremely well on the test may be chosen for the National Merit Scholarship Competition or the National Achievement Scholarship Program, but the scores for sophomores are only for the student's use. In mid-December, we will receive the results of the PSATs and send them home along with a detailed letter about the standardized testing that will be on the horizon for your son or daughter. The results will allow students to see their strengths and highlight the areas that may need some work so that they may prepare for the SATs more efficiently.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GRADE 10 PA EFFORTS:

We're off to a strong start, with the whole grade having already come together for FCD Night on September 16. We are still looking for parents to help with miscellaneous parent/student events.

If you would like to help:

- 1:) We would like to put together a planning committee for future 10th grade parent potluck dinners.
- 2:) Two volunteers are needed to organize the faculty appreciation breakfast on December 3
- 3:) Additional volunteers are needed to help with smaller, miscellaneous parent and/or student events.

Please contact: Laura Ulvestad ruelalo@msn.com <<mailto:ruelalo@msn.com>> or Susie Magdanz smagdanz1@me.com <<mailto:smagdanz1@me.com>>
Grade 10 co-head representatives

LAST BUT NEVER LEAST: THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of the Grade 10 parents who contributed snacks and treats for the Grade 10 FCD Night. The students were very appreciative, as were the adult attendees!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please let us know!

**GRADE 11 PA NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2009**

Dear Junior Parents:

What a great showing at the Jeffrey Wolfsberg event! Junior Class Dean, Beth McNamara, would appreciate any feedback.

Join us for an **11th Grade Parent Coffee on Thursday, October 22, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.** in the Stonestreet Lounge, Nicholas Athletic Center. Beth McNamara will talk about what's coming up in Junior Year: history paper, junior profile, junior prom, etc. We hope to see you there. Thanks to Nancy Trautman and Anna De Souza for coordinating the parent coffees.

Every year, it is a BB&N Upper School tradition for the Parents' Association to coordinate several faculty appreciation breakfasts throughout the year. The faculty and staff enthusiastically look forward to this break in their routine. Each class is in charge of one breakfast. The date of the **Faculty Appreciation Breakfast** hosted by the 11th grade parents is quickly approaching. It will be held **Thursday, October 1**. Cheryl Cronin has graciously offered to chair the event.

Please click on this link for more details and to sign up for your contribution:
<http://www.doodle.com/ru2itfy89bqhpgh8>

Thank you for generosity.

Please join us in welcoming the new 11th grade students and their families:
Thomas Balanda, Dorothea Bamfo, Eric Bertino and Robert Pease.

We invite your questions and comments and look forward to working with you.

Suzanne Panico - sjpanico@aol.com
Lori Slavin - lorislavin@aol.com
11th Grade Head Reps

OCTOBER 2009

GRADE 12 PA NEWSLETTER

Dear Senior Parents,

We hope that you and your seniors are getting off to a wonderful start! We enjoyed seeing most of you at the recent Lift Off dinner and look forward to seeing more of you at the various parent and student events. Many parents have volunteered to help but we will need more volunteers for such a busy year. It's not too late to be involved, even if you only have a small amount of time to contribute. Please don't hesitate to sign up when you get a link to an event Doodle.

Senior Portraits:

You recently received a letter from Pierre Chiha, the photographer in charge of taking the Senior portraits. The photo sessions started last week - Senior Dean Louise Makrauer has sign up sheets on her door for the sessions. Each student is responsible for signing up for a 15 minute sitting time. Times are available throughout the day until the end of the day, **Wednesday, October 1st**. There will be retake sessions available at a later date. Please note that sitting for a photo does not obligate parents or students to make a purchase and financial aid is available for the photos. Ask Louise about this option. You can find information about the photographer at www.pierre.com. Photos will be posted to his website usually the day after the sitting. In order to access them go to the proofing session and enter the session ID: lastnamemmdd_bbn (mmdd is the student's birth month and date). You can order photos online under a secure link.

Yearbook:

Soon you will be receiving a letter from the yearbook staff explaining the process of submitting senior parent ads for the class of 2010. These ads underwrite a substantial amount of the cost of the yearbook and offer parents an opportunity to acknowledge their child's BB&N years. Jostens Publishing is the company that produces our yearbook. We will include instructions from them for submitting an ad online. Alternative instructions for submitting ads to the yearbook staff at BB&N are also included.

Seniors are also preparing their individual page for the yearbook. Their deadline is **TUESDAY OCTOBER 20**.

Save these dates in October:

Monday 5th 8 AM Senior Parent Coffee Stonestreet Lounge Amy Selinger and John Merrill will be available to answer college-related questions.

Saturday 10th SAT I & II at BB&N

Monday 12th No School Columbus Day

Tuesday 13th College Visiting Day. No Classes for Seniors.

Friday 23rd Parent Potluck in Cambridge. Details to follow.

Saturday 24th ACT. Also Homecoming Celebration

Friday 30th TREATS! Halloween BBQ sponsored by senior parents