

# for the WRECKORD

**Staples High School PTA**

70 north avenue, westport, connecticut 06880

## FROM THE DESK OF JOHN DODIG

The leaves have turned, the air is crisp and clear, and most of us have begun wondering how long it will be before we wake up to a blanket of snow making it difficult to get to work but providing entertainment for the skiers among us. At this time each year, I try to think of something new to share with you as we approach Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday. Each year my message contains the same theme which is that we are fortunate to have people we love in our lives and should use this holiday to make sure that they know we love them.

For all you moms, especially, out there who have seniors at SHS and have recently realized that after the college application process and making decisions about what to do after high school there isn't much high school time left. I want you to know that I understand very well how you are beginning to feel. Recently, I read something written by a Staples mom in 1995 and sent to me by a former English teacher that describes perfectly what it means to be a parent of a high school student preparing to leave home for the next chapter of her/his life. She captured the feeling so beautifully and perfectly, I asked if I could share it with you. Mrs. Barnard, whose son Chris graduated in 1995, agreed. So even if you have a freshman, sophomore or junior, what she describes will have meaning to you soon. I hope reading it does for you what it did for me. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,  
John Dodig, Principal

+++++

Senior year is a poignant time for senior moms---senior moms being defined not as "old mothers," though some of us certainly are pushing some ugly numbers, but as "moms of seniors," both boys and girls (the seniors, that is---the moms are all girls). And girls describes us perfectly, in spite of our age, for we are manifesting some decidedly girlish symptoms. Girlish in the most pejorative, non-20<sup>th</sup> century, or at least non-late 20<sup>th</sup> century, terms.

We cry. We cry at the drop of a hat. We cry washing uniforms. We cry driving down the Post Road. We walk through the halls of Staples High School, dodging the hall patrols and those alert teachers who look at us curiously and say, "May I help you?" No, you may not help, because we are looking one last time at Staples High School. We are walking through the halls where our children walked, and talked, and lounged---sometimes it was several children, since for a large number of us in this class, this year's child is the last child to go through. We are looking and breathing one last time the chalk dust and smell of rugs, we are listening to the sound---or the hush---of kids doing what they do in school, because, before too long, ours will not be here. They will be gone, and all the games we cheered, and the plays we applauded, and the papers we proofread, and the concerts we enjoyed will be over. We may come again. We may, in our new lives, join the Board of Ed., we may come to the concerts or the games or the plays, but we will come as "members of the community," not as someone's mom.

## NOVEMBER

Mon	2	1st Quarter Ends
Tue	3	<b>No School For Students</b> - Election Day/ Staff Development Day
Wed	4	2nd Quarter Begins
Sat	7	SAT: SHS is a Test Site
Tue	10	Evening PTA Coffee w/ John Dodig, 7:00 pm (note special time), SHS Library
Fri - Sun	13-15	Staples Players Musical "Guys and Dolls"
Thu - Sat	19-21	Staples Players Musical "Guys and Dolls"
Sat	21	Western Region HS Auditions - Danbury HS
Wed	25	Alumni Gathering, 10 am
Wed	25	Alumni/Senior College Session, 11 am
Wed	25	<b>Early Dismissal</b> - 11:40 am
Thu - Fri	26-27	<b>No School</b> - Thanksgiving Recess

This is a beautiful time. Everything we have worked for, and our mates and spouses have worked for, either with us or apart, has happened, more or less, and our children are grown. They will graduate, in some ceremony that will involve pomp and circumstance and Block Ss and mortarboards (and even more so in other ceremonies behind closed doors that they and their peers will design just for themselves), and then they will be gone. In our new lives, some of us will take up birdfeeders, birdhouses, lawn care, or golf. Those of us who already play tennis will play more tennis. Those of us who need a little space or a little time will have it. Those dear voices, those dear impositions, those socks, will be gone. They are ready. We are not.

Well some of us are, perhaps. And those of us who are not are getting ready. As my son said to me, "Mom, are you going to be able to get through Senior Night?" (Senior Night being a certain sports ritual that comes at the end of sports seasons.) Yes, I'll be able to. At least I'm practicing up for it right now. Driving down the Post Road.

What are the stages in getting ready for the big goodbye? Well, one of them is the wonderful feeling of pride and fulfillment one experiences seeing four years, and more, of effort on the part of a son or daughter blossom in the form of accomplishment, satisfaction and mature style. Another is the glow of shared love and companionship with the other "moms" and "dads"---and teachers and coaches and principals---as we contemplate these lovely forms. A third is the joint march with the child/young adult across the minefield of college application/college admission/college choice/after-high school experience, a weaning process that only God could have designed in his ingenious, inscrutable wisdom. Each of those tests, each of those trips, each of those applications or interviews a test of the liveness and land-on-his-or-her-footness of the youngster and the ineffable cool of the parent. One last huge chance to get to know each other and hopefully like it.

The beautiful time that high school is, for both parent and child, is almost over. The last best way to say goodbye, to it and to the child living it, is to enjoy it, every second of it, as if it were a very good meal cooked by a fairy godmother who was going to disappear any second. So every time I wash uniforms these days, I smooth them lovingly. I look at the satin. I think of all the effort, the hours of practice, and the cries of the crowd. And as I hang them, slightly wet, so that sometimes they drip on the cool grey concrete floor of the basement, I hear the music of life and of high school that is playing, right now, full loud.

## *A Message From our Co-Presidents...*

As the end of October approaches and we are writing our November President's letter, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Principal John Dodig for the letter he sent to SHS parents immediately following the events of Homecoming weekend. This letter reached the hands of many as it was printed beyond our own school community, in local newspapers and on websites, which led our townspeople to take action to hold a much-needed conversation on the topic of underage drinking. We applaud him for his honesty and his willingness to ask the hard questions. We expect John Dodig's Community Conversation along with Joseph Califano's talk to both be worthwhile and we are hopeful that many community members will attend at least one, if not both.

These conversations should continue as we strive as a community to understand our young people and to help them as they grow into young adults. Once such happening is the annual Risky Behavior Forum, sponsored by PYD and the SHS PTA. This is scheduled for Thursday, March 4 at 7:30 pm in the Staples HS Cafeteria. Please save the date!

In late October, you should have received this link <http://research.zarca.com/k/SsOQQUsWVsPsPsP> to fill out a survey on how you receive your communications from the SHS PTA. Please take a few minutes to let us know how you feel about the monthly For the Wreckord, the Weekly Emails and the Staples website. We need everyone's input.

Please be on the lookout for a letter in the mail regarding the PENS program at SHS. This is our annual **Parents ENhancing Staples**, a non-event activity! With the funds raised, our school will benefit with the purchase of new technology enhancements.

Lastly, please set aside the evening of Tuesday, November 10 for our only evening PTA Coffee of the school year. It begins at 7 pm in the Staples Library. Principal John Dodig will catch us up with the current SHS happenings.

Lee and Sandy,

*Lee Saveliff*

[poley@optonline.net](mailto:poley@optonline.net)

*Sandy Rappaport*

[slrapp@optonline.net](mailto:slrapp@optonline.net)

## THANK YOU !

- Thank you to the PYD Reps, Kathy Clair and Debbie Fritz-Bradeen, for providing coffee at the four School Psychologists meetings, and for arranging these valuable sessions on topics our children are facing.
- Thank you to Chris Buchner at Athletic Shoe Factory, who has generously made a \$200 donation to the SHS PTA in support of Staples. Please stop by the store to see "the store within a store" and to purchase Wreckers Logowear for the upcoming holidays.

## SHS PTA BOOK FAIR AT BARNES & NOBLE, 12/15 – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The SHS PTA is trying something new this year. Staples High School PTA will be sponsoring a one day Book Fair at Barnes and Noble on Tuesday, December 15 to benefit the Wrecker Mini-Grants Program. **So please save your last minute holiday shopping for us!**

Books of course, are just the beginning. There's music and movies, games and magazines! There are even technology gifts, like the brand new eBook reader, the Nook. You can buy Godiva, whole Cheesecakes from the Cheesecake Factory, even a latte. All you need to do is tell the cashier that your purchase is meant to support Staples and we will get the credit. Your friends and family can support Staples too. When they shop in any Barnes and Noble across the country on December 15, they simply supply our code number to the cashier: #10060531.

At the store, you will be treated to an exhibit of mixed media pieces of art from some of our many talented students. In addition, author Rozanne Gold will introduce her brand new cookbook, "Eat Fresh Food: Awesome Recipes for Teen Chefs" that evening. This book was developed together with her all-star team of teen chefs, several of which are current Staples students! Look for our featured Wishlist Table, too. We will have the second semester core reading books for each of our English classes (in case your student wants to get some required reading done over the break).

With each purchase that day, you will be supporting the Wrecker Mini-Grants Program. Wrecker Mini-Grants is the go-to program for our teachers when they have a great idea to enhance the curriculum that is not covered in the budget. This program is the reason that the Marine Biology and AP Environmental Science teachers have a special cooler in which to hatch salmon eggs and trout eggs respectively that are then released by the students into local rivers. Our award winning student newspaper, *Inklings*, received a Mac laptop that enables it to include multi-media presentations on its website in the form of video. We really need this program to enable Staples to continue to be the excellent high school that it is. Supporting this Book Fair will make a difference for our teachers and our students.

To wrap things up, bring your purchases to the wrapping table. A Better Chance of Westport will be gift wrapping from 7 - 10pm. Please support their efforts generously! We look forward to seeing you on December 15.

## WRECKER MINI GRANTS

The SHS PTA has earmarked a portion of the money it raises through membership and donations to fund enrichment projects proposed by the school community. These grants are called SHS PTA Wrecker Mini Grants. The potential projects should enhance the current curriculum and student development and cannot already be part of the current school budget. In general, funds will be used for start-up, pilot projects or special events on a one-time, annual basis.

This past month, the SHS PTA Executive Board granted a request by Dan Geraghty of the English Department to purchase a Macbook Pro to incorporate technology into the study of Shakespeare. The goal is to create and design lessons focused on how Shakespearean texts can be read closely through the use of technology. Students will perform video scenes, remix existing film versions of the plays and create new interpretations of the texts.

If you want to apply for a Wrecker Mini Grant, please go to the PTA website at [shs.westport.k12.ct.us](http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us) and TAB to PTA Forms to obtain more information about the program and an application. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Grundei at [Grundei4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Grundei4@sbcglobal.net) or 227-0333. Please email the application to Jackie at [Grundei4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Grundei4@sbcglobal.net). Thank you.

## STAFF APPRECIATION HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Would you like to show your appreciation for all our fabulous teachers and staff at SHS? On Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:45am-12:30pm, the SHS PTA will be hosting a Staff Appreciation Holiday Luncheon. If you would like to be a part of this special Staples tradition, we would love to have you assist us in providing 250 individuals with a memorable luncheon. For **donations of food and beverages** contact: Sue O'Halloran at 255-4727 or [sjtoole@optonline.net](mailto:sjtoole@optonline.net). If you would like to **volunteer to assist with setup or clean up**, contact Kelly Copeland at 341-9912 or [kellycope@mindspring.com](mailto:kellycope@mindspring.com). Those who signed up for this event through our online volunteer survey, will be receiving an email shortly with food/beverage requests and/or shift opportunities.

If you are unable to donate an item or participate in the event, a monetary donation to help defray our costs would be greatly appreciated. Please send your **check made payable to: SHS PTA** c/o Lisa Krakoff, 64 Old Hill Road Westport, CT 06880.

Thank you in advance for your support of this beautiful event!

The Staff Appreciation Holiday Luncheon Committee  
*Kim Cooper, Kelly Copeland, Lisa Krakoff, Sue O'Halloran*

## 'TIS THE SEASON

November is the month of Thanksgiving and the calm before the holiday storm! As we look ahead to the holiday season, please consider making a donation to the 'Tis the Season holiday program starting Monday, November 2 and continuing until Friday, December 4. This is a town-wide initiative, and a wonderful way to help sponsor Westport families in need. There are several ways to help:

- **Adopt a family or individual:** You can choose to shop for a family or individual from wish lists provided by the Department of Human Services (they are looking for people to spend approximately \$100 per individual). If you are interested in adopting a family or individual, you can contact the Westport Department of Human Services at 341-1050.
- **Purchase a gift card:** Buy a gift card from local stores such as CVS, Barnes and Noble, Walmart, Gap, as well as grocery cards or much needed gas cards. Gift cards are not only easy to purchase, but they also enable the parents to shop for their own children! Grocery and gas cards are also appreciated \* Drop off the gift cards in the decorated box at the front desk at the school's main entrance. Please make sure the value of the card is visible somewhere on the card.
- **We will also be collecting gift cards and monetary donations** at the Staples Players performances of Guys and Dolls: November 13,14,15,19,20 and 21.
- **Make a donation:** You can make a tax-deductible donation payable to Families in Need, and mail it to Town Hall, Room 200, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT 06880

In closing, we'd like to share one of the many thank you notes the Department of Human Services received last year. "Thank you so much for all the help you've given to me and my family. We've had some difficult times and we appreciate everything you've done for us. Please send the enclosed card to the wonderful family that provided us with the generous Christmas gifts.

If interested in participating or if you have questions, please contact Mary Carroll at: 222-0321 or [marecc6@aol.com](mailto:marecc6@aol.com) or Mary Harris at: 454-2944 [douglasharris@e-mail.com](mailto:douglasharris@e-mail.com) Your help is greatly appreciated.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SHS PTA received a handwritten note from Karen Center and Wendy McKeon, the chairpersons of the Westport Woman's Club Food Closet. "On behalf of the Westport Woman's Club we would like to thank the Staples community for their generous donations to our food closet. We are grateful for Staples PTA's continued support in helping us provide emergency food for Westport families in need. As you know demand increased dramatically over the summer so your contributions were greatly appreciated."

If you ever find you have extra non-perishable food to donate, please call the Westport Woman's Club at 44 Imperial Avenue, to find out when you can drop food items to them. There is always a need for more items especially in these challenging economic times. The number is 227-4240. They appreciate all donations.

## **TICKETS FOR CANDELIGHT CONCERT 2009**

The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Concert will be presented at Staples High School on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> in the Staples High School Auditorium. Friday evening there will be one performance at 7:00 pm and on Saturday, two performances at 7:00 and 9:30 pm. The Staples Chorus, Choir and Chorale, Symphonic Orchestra and the combined Symphonic and Sophomore Bands will present an exhilarating evening of holiday music. Along with individual performances by the ensembles, all of the singers and orchestra students will join forces for the traditional processional "Sing We Noel" and a community sing-along to Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

General seating tickets are available beginning Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, a short note listing your first and second choices of the concert you would like to attend, and the number of tickets desired. A maximum of eight tickets will be honored for each request. Requests should be mailed to Staples High School, 70 North Ave, ATTN: Dianne Clark.

The Candlelight Concert is presented as a gift to the Westport community; however your tax-deductible donations are gratefully accepted and may be sent along with your ticket requests to the Staples HS Music Department. In addition, ads are being accepted for the Candlelight programs. For more information, please see the information included in this newsletter, the link on the SHS Music Department page on the SHS website, or call the SHS Music Department at 341-1307.

## **ATHLETICS**

### **Accountabilities:**

Just a reminder as our fall season winds down. Each athlete is responsible for returning uniforms and equipment to their coach. At the end of the season, unreturned items will result in an accountability restricting access to the Home Access Center on Blackboard. If an item has been lost, please contact the Athletic Department for the replacement cost.

### **Tryouts:**

Before you know it, tryouts will be here for our winter season. Girls Basketball tryouts begin Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and the remaining sports begin on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. In order to participate, each athlete must have a current sports physical as well as an emergency permission form filled out.

Visit the athletics link on the Staples High School website at <http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/staples/athletics/adownloads.html> for the necessary forms and information. Return the completed forms to the nurses' office or to the Athletic trainer. Questions? Call Sue Skutnik, Athletics, 341-1260.

## **DIRT RETURNS TO WESTPORT**

The Teen Awareness Group (TAG) of Staples High School (SHS) would like to invite parents and students of Westport to a special performance of DIRT on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:30pm to 9pm in the Town Hall Auditorium.

DIRT is the highly acclaimed one-man show of substance abuse and choices performed by actor John Morello. Proclaimed as "Mordantly Funny" and "a new weapon in the war against bad choices" by The New York Times, Morello tells a compelling and unique story about drug and alcohol abuse which is unfortunately familiar to far too many young people. Morello's characters speak honestly about their experiences to help the audience understand how seemingly disconnected lives are tied together and influence each other.

Two years ago, Morello gave a performance of DIRT that is considered to be one of the most powerful, entertaining, and influential awareness and prevention presentations ever experienced at SHS. In response to feedback received from students who attended the performance, and from parents who did not have the opportunity to attend, TAG proudly sponsors the return of DIRT to the Westport community.

## **REPORT CARDS**

First Quarter report cards will be available on Blackboard's Home Access Center (HAC) on Wednesday, November 13th at 1:00 pm, unless your child has an accountability. In that case, the HAC will be turned off and parents will not be able to view grades or attendance. To clear their accountabilities, students should see:

LMC for LIBRARY BOOKS  
Class Teacher for TEXTBOOKS  
Meryl Silverstein for PARKING  
Sue Skutnik for ATHLETICS  
Mari Carroll for ANYTHING ELSE

## **SIEMENS COMPETITION**

Matthew Greenberg and Naveen Murali, seniors at Staples High School, were selected as semifinalists in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology. Matt spent the last two summers at Rockefeller University studying a new way to generate gene expression profiles of characterized and uncharacterized neuronal subtypes. Naveen was a member of a group at Harvard University that examined nanoscale protein detection. The Siemens Competition is a very prestigious competition that attracts the brightest minds in high school. A record 1,348 projects were submitted by 2,151 students, and 318 students were chosen as semifinalists. Congratulations to Matt and Naveen for a job well done!

## **CANDLELIGHT CONCERT PROGRAM ADS**

Orders are now being accepted for ads to be placed in the program for the highly-popular and long-traditional **69<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Concerts, to be presented December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>** in the Staples High School Auditorium. The public is invited, and approximately 3,000 Westport residents attend these concerts each year. Advertising revenue from the programs is a major source of fund-raising for SHS Music Department activities.

- Prices for advertisements, or for the popular seasonal greetings, based upon an 8 1/2 x 5 3/8 inch full page, will be:
  - o \$300 for a full page
  - o \$175 for a half page
  - o \$100 for a quarter page
  - o \$50 for an eighth page (Business Card)
  - o \$25 for a listing only
- Please send your layout (specifying size of ad desired), in a PDF file attachment, to Theresa at [ConnerPrinting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ConnerPrinting@sbcglobal.net) or fax your business card or layout to Conner Printing at 203-925-0160.
- At the same time, please make your check out to "SHS Music Department" for the appropriate amount, and send to: "Music Department, Staples High School, 70 North Ave, Westport CT 06880".
- If you were an advertiser in last year's program (thank you!) and you wish your ad to remain the same, just call or email Theresa at Conner Printing (203-929-2070, or email above), send your check to Staples High School as above, and your ad will be renewed.
- For questions, please contact the SHS Music Department office at 341-1307.

**The deadline for placing ads in the program is November 15.**

# News from the Guidance Department...

## **COMMENDED STUDENTS**

Congratulations to the following students for receiving commendation by the National Merit Scholarship Program: Robinson Batteau, Alec Bernard, Cameron Bruce, Hilary Campbell, Collin Carroll, Paul Chandler, Constance Chien, Matthew Colodny, Kevin Copeland, Catherine Coughlin, Michael Friedson, Natasha Gabbay, Scott Grundei, Victor Hollenberg, Alexandra Koenig, Karen Lively, Sitara Mahtani, Kevin McDonald, Lauren McLoughlin, Jenna Pan, Alexandra Preiser, Grace Shay, Andrea Sherman, Alan Southworth, Derek Zwyer.

## **JUNIORS: PSAT RESULTS**

PSAT results are due in our office the week before the holiday break. We will mail them home.

## **KEY DATES TO REMEMBER**

The following are key dates for upcoming Guidance Department programs. (Dates are subject to change based on snow days, etc.)

### **2009**

- November 25: Alumni Gathering and Alumni/Senior College Seminar – 10:30 a.m. This is a gathering of freshmen, usually 10-12 panelists from a diverse spectrum of schools who share their college experiences and answer questions from the audience. We welcome the entire class of '09 to meet their friends and mingle with students even if they are not panelists.
- December 1: All initial transcript requests due that have a Jan. 1 or Jan. 15 deadline.

### **2010**

- January 7: Junior Parent Night, 7 p.m. (Snow date: Jan. 14 in the SHS Auditorium)
- January 21: Eighth Grade Parent Night, 7 p.m. (Snow date: January 28th), in the SHS Auditorium.
- April 28: Sophomore Parent Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. in the SHS Cafeteria (attend only 1)
- April 29: Sophomore Parent Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. in the SHS Cafeteria
- May 13: College Panel Night, 7:00 p.m. in the SHS Auditorium

## **SENIOR CHECKLIST FOR COMPLETING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**

- Make a separate file folder for each college you are interested in and to which you may be applying.
- Visit college if possible, or online tour; plan interview if necessary.
- Sign or if under 18 have your parent sign Transcript Release Form and turn in to Mrs. Ketley in Guidance along with the Staples H.S. Secondary School Report form, the Colleges to Which I Am Applying sheet from Naviance and \$5.00 per college.
- Complete Senior Activity Sheet, have parent complete "Brag Sheet" and return to Mrs. Ketley.
- Determine if you need to retake any SAT or ACT tests(s).
- Students are responsible for having SAT/ACT scores sent directly to colleges (www.collegeboard.com: 609-771-7600 or www.actstudent.org: 319-337-1270)
- Know the deadlines for submitting applications to EACH of your colleges. It is to your advantage to submit at least one transcript request to Mrs. Ketley in Guidance on or before December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## News from the Guidance Department Con't...

- If a teacher recommendation(s) is required, provide the teacher with a stamped addressed envelope and the deadline date. Give your teachers **at least 4 weeks** before the due date.
- **Write thank you notes to the people who wrote letter(s) of recommendation for you and helped you with your essay(s).**
- Make and keep a copy of all applications and essays submitted to your colleges.
- If you are planning on applying for financial aid, complete:
  1. The FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)). FAFSA cannot be mailed prior to January 1, 2010.
  2. The CSS Profile, if required by individual colleges ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)). (Refer to list in the CSS Profile).
  3. Additional forms required by individual colleges.
- See your counselor for any assistance.
- Students must remember to request 1<sup>st</sup> marking period grades to go to Early Decision/Early Action colleges if you wish, from Mrs. Ketley.

### **COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER**

The College & Career Center will be open on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 8 pm. Please call Susan Fugitt at 341-1424 to make an appointment. Susan and Shauna Flaherty, can assist with the Naviance programs which does college searches and scattergrams. They have scholarship information and can discuss the upcoming college visits. Various college books and career catalogs are accessible. Interest Inventories are available as are working papers and job opportunities through the Job Bank. Students are always welcome all day. Counselors are available to assist students on a walk-in basis Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during lunch periods.

**Check out our new "College & Career Center News" on the SHS website, under Student Services.** Get the latest updates on college information sessions, open houses, seminars, workshops, scholarships, etc.

#### **Scholarships Search Engines:**

**National Scholarship Research Databases:** [www.fastaid.com](http://www.fastaid.com)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), [www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/Scholarships.pdf](http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/Scholarships.pdf)  
and check [www.FinancialAidPodcast.com](http://www.FinancialAidPodcast.com) for useful tips and advice about financial aid.

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS:**

**AXA Achievement Scholarship:** To qualify you must demonstrate: ambition and drive, determination to set and reach goals, respect for self, family and community and ability to succeed in college. Go to [www.axa-achievement.com](http://www.axa-achievement.com) to learn more. Download application. **Apply by: December 15, 2009**

**Elks National Foundation – 2009 Most Valuable Student Scholarship** (leadership and financial need) from \$4,000-\$60,000. Visit [www.elks.org/enf/findalodge.cfm](http://www.elks.org/enf/findalodge.cfm). **Deadline: November 2009.**

#### **Boston University Scholarships:**

- **Trustee scholarship:** Boston University's most prestigious scholarship: recognizes outstanding academic performance and leadership ability. For more information visit: [www.bu.edu/admissions/trustee](http://www.bu.edu/admissions/trustee).

## News from the Guidance Department Con't...

- **Alexander Graham Bell:** Designed to recognize students with a strong math and science background. **Deadline: December 1, 2009.**
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship** – for those students who have embraced the ideals of one of the University's most prominent alumni, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For more information about these scholarships, visit: [www.bu.edu/admissions/apply/scholar\\_mlk.html](http://www.bu.edu/admissions/apply/scholar_mlk.html) . **Deadline: December 1, 2009.**

**SAE Engineering Scholarships:** All applicants must intend to enroll in an engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) (scholarships@sae.org).

**Big Y Scholarship** awards over 300 scholarships each year totaling more than \$250,000,. They are merit based scholarships, for students in the Big Y market area. Applications are in the College & Career Center. **Deadline:** February 1, 2010.

**Stamford Symphony Orchestra/ 2009 Instrumental Scholarship Competition.** First Place: \$10,000 (\$2,500 annually) , Second Place: \$7,000 (\$1,250 annually), Third Place: \$4,000 (\$1,000 annually). Visit: [www.stamfordsymphony.org](http://www.stamfordsymphony.org) **Deadline: December 1, 2009.**

**2009 Gates Millennium Scholars Program** – For African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American, who have a 3.3 GPA, have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities, meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria. GMS has funded over 12,000 students and awarded over \$425 million in scholarships since its inception. **Submit online application by: January 11, 2010.** [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org). If you have any questions, 1-877-690-GMSP (4677) or email: [info@gmsp.org](mailto:info@gmsp.org)

### **2010 Big Sun Scholarship**

\$500 award to help an athlete succeed in their academic pursuits. Essay question: How has your participation in sports affected the person you are becoming? Visit [athleticawards@bigsunathletics.com](mailto:athleticawards@bigsunathletics.com) **Deadline:** June 24, 2010.

Stop by the College & Career Center for more information about any of the above scholarships.

## **NOVEMBER COLLEGE VISITS:**

Southern Connecticut State University – 11/2, 1:00 p.m.

Denison University – 11/4, 12:30 p.m.

Simmons College – 11/5, 11:30 a.m.

Ohio State University – 11/5, 1:00 p.m.

Norwalk Community College – 11/10, 9:00 a.m.

St. John's University – Manhattan Campus, 11/10 – 10:00 a.m.

University of Delaware – 11/11, 12:00 p.m.

Lehigh University – 11/11, 1:30 p.m.

York College of Pennsylvania, 11/12, 11:30 a.m

Syracuse University – 11/17, 10:00 a.m.

The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University – 11/20, 8:21 a.m. \*\*Art Room #1009

Remember to check Naviance for latest updates on college visits. <http://connection.naviance.com/staples>

## News from the Music Department...

The Staples High School Music Department is humming and buzzing with musical energy! The many, many talented and motivated students enjoying the extensive array of high-quality learning experiences are busy as ever.

In addition to the daily classes and in-school rehearsals, the Staples Bands continue to entertain and inspire at home football games. They also played at the Pep Rally held on September 25th. Many students who make up the pit orchestra for "Guys and Dolls" are busy rehearsing after school with the help of Ms. Valovich and Mr. Mariconda. After school rehearsals also have begun for Ms. Lipson and the students performing for the Candlelight Concerts in December, and the Chamber Orchestra has begun its after-school musical excellence with Mrs. Valovich.

The world-famous Synergy Brass will be spending the week of November 9-13<sup>th</sup> in the Westport schools, playing concerts in all schools and giving clinics for our student musicians. Here at Staples, the Brass will perform for our Music students on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-8:20 am, followed by a clinic for our brass players. This wonderful opportunity is sponsored by the Westport Cultural Arts and the Staples Music Department.

Please join us for our **Fall Concert on Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:30 PM**, featuring the freshman and sophomore Bands and Orchestras. Among the wonderful music recently studied that will be performed for this concert will be pieces by composers David Holsinger, George Frederick Handel, Anton Dvorak, a wonderful concert march, and much more!

Be on the lookout for announcements about the upcoming Candlelight Concerts to be held December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Ticket information will be posted on the Staples Music Department page, in this newsletter, and in other venues as well. Special student rehearsals are scheduled in the evenings: December 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> for Symphonic Band and Orchestra; December 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> (7-8:30 PM) for Chorus and Chorale; December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (7-10 PM) for Choir.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH FITNESS TIDBIT OF THE MONTH:**

For those of us who aspire to get back track with our fitness and health - 10 minutes of activity a day is a *great* way to start as opposed to getting caught in the perpetual planning cycle and end up not being active at all (we've all been there). This approach may be physically and mentally more appealing than an all or nothing approach that many take by joining a fitness club, buying an expensive diet plan, or trying the latest "fad program" to lose weight and get fit. So take time to get up and be active by yourself, with your family, or with your friends; you will think more clearly, feel better, and want to eat more healthy as a result!

"Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity."

- John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States of America

# STAPLES PLAYERS PRESENTS

## “GUYS AND DOLLS!”

The Award-winning Staples Players will this fall present the ever-popular musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls!*  
With Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser and Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows,  
this family favorite is one you'll not want to miss!

Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, this oddball romantic comedy - considered by many to be the most perfect musical comedy written - soars with the spirit of Broadway as it introduces us to a cast of vivid characters who have become legends in the canon: Sarah Brown, the upright but uptight "mission doll," out to reform the evildoers of Time Square; Sky Masterson, the slick, high-rolling gambler who woos her on a bet and ends up falling in love; Adelaide, the chronically ill nightclub performer whose condition is brought on by the fact she's been engaged to the same man for 14 years; and Nathan Detroit, her devoted fiancé, desperate as always to find a spot for his infamous floating crap game.

Mail in order forms must be received by us no later than 2 days prior to the performance you wish to attend. If the tickets you desire are not available, we will attempt to contact you by phone or email. Walk-up sales will be **Nov. 9 thru Nov. 13, 12:30-2:00 pm** in the main lobby of SHS (**cash or check only**). Tickets will also be sold on those dates to students (during the SHS lunch periods), just outside the Cafeteria. Visit our website ([staplesplayers.com](http://staplesplayers.com)) after Oct. 20 to purchase tickets online. Use the E-Ticket option for convenience! Call 341-1310 for further information. Performances @ Staples High School, 70 North Ave., Westport, CT.

### Staples Players Ticket Order Form

<u>Performance</u>  <u>Dates</u>	Number of regular Adult \$15 tickets	Number of Student \$10 tickets *Or Sun. Matinee Sr. Citizen Tickets	**Number of 11/19, 7PM Adult \$10 Tix	**Number of 11/19, 7PM Student & Sr. Citizen \$5 Tickets	Seats Assigned: (Box Office use only.)
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>11/13 – 7:30 pm</b>					
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>11/14 – 7:30 pm</b>					
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>11/15 - 2:00 pm</b> <small>+Senior Citizen Discount</small>					
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>11/19 – 7:00 PM</b> <b>**Early start and reduced admission!</b>	<b>Attend at “stimulus” prices!</b>				
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>11/20 – 7:30 pm</b>					
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>11/21 – 7:30 PM</b>					
	# of Adult Tix	# of Student/Sr. Tix	# of Adult Tix	# of Student/Sr. Tix	<b>Include Check for this Amt:</b>
	@\$15 ea. =	@\$10 ea. =	@ \$10 ea. =	@ \$5 ea. =	
	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

**Check in order of preference: 1st to 4<sup>th</sup>**    \_\_\_ Front Orch.    \_\_\_ Front Orch. Side    \_\_\_ Mid-Orch. Center    \_\_\_ Balcony  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print!)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Do you get Staples Players' emails?** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** May we send you E-Tickets at the above email address? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ If no, you will receive an email confirmation once your order has been processed, and your tickets will be held at the box office under your name to be picked up beginning 30 minutes before curtain. No refunds or exchanges. **If you don't receive an email by Nov. 10 call 341-1310!**

Make checks payable to: **Staples Players**. Mail payment & Order form to:  
**Staples Players Ticket Sales, 70 North Avenue, Westport CT 06880**

**+Senior Citizen Discount available for Sunday Matinee (@ \$10 ea.) and Thurs., 11/19 (@ \$5 ea.)**

# Community Bulletin Board...

## **OUTWARD BOUND**

The Connecticut Council of Outward Bound is holding an information session regarding its elite Youth Leadership Corps (YLC) program on Monday November 30th at Toquet Hall from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. All Westport high school juniors, sophomores and their parents are invited to attend and learn about this exciting leadership opportunity.

The YLC program is a wilderness expedition that builds young leaders using service, community and diversity. Students applying for this selective and prestigious program must demonstrate leadership potential in their academic, athletic, and/or social lives. Course activities will include backpacking, canoeing and rock climbing. No previous experience in these activities is necessary to participate in the program.

The Connecticut Council of Outward Bound will select 40 students from throughout the State of Connecticut to participate in the YLC program. Participants are selected based on individual merit and will receive full scholarship support to attend the program. Students from Staples High School have chosen to participate in each of the last three years, with as many as four students receiving scholarships in a given year. The Outward Bound Youth Leadership Program will be held early in the summer, shortly after the end of the school year.

Applications for this exciting and prestigious leadership program will be handed out at the information session on November 30th. Further information about this event can be obtained from Staples High School Student Outreach Counselor Chris Lemone, by phone at (203) 341-1285 or via email – [mrcounselorguy@yahoo.com](mailto:mrcounselorguy@yahoo.com). Information about Outward Bound is available online at: [www.outwardbound.org](http://www.outwardbound.org).

## **TEAM-UP FOR THE GREAT LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT—NOVEMBER 6**

Like books? Like playing games? Why not team-up and test your sleuthing skills and knowledge of Westport Library at the Great Library Scavenger Hunt on Friday, November 6, starting at 6:00 pm in the Library's Main Lobby. Your team will scurry around the Library and discover unknown nooks and crannies. For ages 8-108, register your team (\$15 for a team of up to 6 members) online at the library's web site ([www.westportlibrary.org](http://www.westportlibrary.org)). For more information, contact Sandy Young at 291-4829 or [syoung@westportlibrary.org](mailto:syoung@westportlibrary.org).

## **UKRANIAN EXCHANGE STUDENT NEEDS TWO HOST FAMILIES**

Each year the Westport Rotary hosts a foreign exchange student to attend Staples and live with three families for three months each. James Pendry is the new Youth Exchange Officer for the 2009/2010 school year, and hosted, along with the Honigsteins and Brumits, the 2008/2009 exchange student, Raul Oliva, from Ecuador. They all had a rewarding, memorable and learning experience for their families.

This year's student, Roman Smolyar, is from the Cherkasy region of the Ukraine which is about 130 miles south of Kiev. He is 17 years old, has three siblings and both his parents are professors at the local university. Roman arrived in the U.S. this past fall and has had a few months to experience and is enjoying Westport and Staples High School.

The Gillespie/Taylor's family graciously hosted Roman for the fall. But, we still need two more families for late December to early March and from March to the end of the school year. The expectation is that you provide room & board and treat Roman as your own child. The Rotary provides a monthly stipend. He can take the bus, make his own lunch, do his own laundry, etc.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact James Pendry at [jamesmacp@aol.com](mailto:jamesmacp@aol.com) or call 203-913-8137 as soon as possible. Thank you.



## **CMS PLAY**

Tomorrow is here at Coleytown Middle! Don't miss Coleytown Company's spunky new musical the whole family will love. Featuring a colorful cast of characters including Little Orphan Annie, Miss Hannigan, Oliver Warbucks and the beloved Sandy (woof!).

Performances: Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00 PM, Friday, December 4th at 7:00 PM, Saturday, December 5th at 1:00 & 7:00 PM. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Ticket Sales in the CMS Cafeteria: Monday November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th from 11:00 - 1:00 PM, Monday, November 30th through Friday, December 4th from 11:00-1:00 PM. Tickets also available at the door, assuming availability 30 minutes before curtain time. Tickets are \$10 each; please make checks payable to Coleytown Middle School. Payment required at time of purchase; all sales final.



**PTA EVENING COFFEE  
WITH  
JOHN DODIG:  
Tuesday, November 10th  
7:00 PM in the  
SHS Library**

FTW DECEMBER DEADLINE  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20th  
5:00 PM  
Submit articles to:  
[shs\\_pta@westport.k12.ct.us](mailto:shs_pta@westport.k12.ct.us)

## **DECEMBER**

- 2 SHS Gr. 9/10 Fall Concert (Band 9 and Orchestra 9 & 10) 7:30 pm, SHS Auditorium
- 3 End of IPR's: 2nd Quarter
- 4 Reflections Submissions Due, 2:15 pm
- 5 SAT: is a Test Site
- 12 ACT: SHS is NOT a Test Site
- 18 Candlelight Concert, 7 pm, SHS Auditorium
- 19 Candlelight Concert, 7 pm & 9:30, SHS Auditorium
- 23 **Early Dismissal** - 11:40 am
- 24 - 31 **No School** - Holiday Recess

### **PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY!**

To fill out the survey go to the link:  
<http://research.zarca.com/k/SsOQQUsWVsPsPsP>

**for the WRECKORD**  
Staples High School PTA 70 north avenue, westport, connecticut 06880

11/09