



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Principal Guenette's April 2017 News

Spring has sprung and as buds are sprouting on our trees, and flowers begin to bloom in vibrant colors. For some of us at Old Colony, **April** brings a **fresh start** or a **new beginning**, and yet a promise of the **home stretch** of our **third trimester** to the school year. I would like to extend "**special congratulations**" to the **Cosmetology team** who **won** and **all of the students and staff** who participated in our **senior class fundraising** presentation of "**Family Feud**" last week. We had a **great turn out**, and the audience had a **memorable time** interacting with each other and with Supt. Polansky who's role mimicked Steve Harvey's.

Congratulations to our Skills USA District Competition Medalists who will be advancing to the **State Competition** at the end of this month **from Thursday, April 27- Saturday, April 29th**. **Four gold medalists and seven silver medalists** will be **representing Old Colony** in carpentry, electronics, nail care, technical drafting, automotive service technology, cosmetology, culinary arts, and web design. We also had **seven bronze medalists at the district** competition level. Additionally, we have a **junior student** who is **running for a State Officer's position** for the 2017-18 school year. **We are very proud of these students and their accomplishments and wish them good luck!**

There will be a **Skills USA fundraiser on Friday, April 7th at 6:30 p.m.**, which will be a **Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game** in the **gymnasium**. **Tickets** can be bought **at the door** and are **\$2 for students and \$3 for adults**. Come **join us** for this **fun-filled fundraising event!**

Last week, through the Guidance Dept., Old Colony sophomores from **Health Careers, CADD and CIS** attended a **STEM Career Day** at **Bristol Community College**. The students participated in **hands-on laboratories** and learned about **career opportunities** and **postsecondary pathways** in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Bristol Community College's Office of Admissions, in conjunction with **Financial Aid, Assessment Testing and Academic Advising** are collaborating with **Old Colony Guidance Office** to offer an **Enrollment Palooza** this month at Old Colony. All **seniors** who plan on **attending BCC** in the **Fall of 2017 will be attending**. Enrollment Paloozas combine the **initial stages of a student's college enrollment** into a one-day opportunity hosted at Old Colony.

Attention Seniors! The Old Colony **Academic and Vocational Scholarship Applications** are **available in the guidance office**. All applications **must be completed and turned in** by this year's **deadline on Monday, April 24, 2017**, in order to be considered for this year's scholarship awards.

Old Colony is continuing its **School-based Peer Mentoring Program** during **Trimester 3** for a small group of **grade 9 students** who will be **paired with grade 11 students**. Peer mentors have been

trained to **support at-risk students** and **improve their self-esteem** by nurturing **one-on-one matches** to form a positive relationship.

The **Mentees** will be provided an **introduction to the mentoring** program and will have **ongoing support** by school staff. **Year-end evaluations** will be conducted to **gather input** from mentors, mentees, and school staff including guidance counselors, classroom teachers, and parents. Please **contact Mrs. Lacroix**, School Adjustment Counselor, at slacroix@oldcolony.us or **508-763-8011 x-263** if you are a **parent of a grade 9 student** and are **interested in learning more** about this program.

This group is holding its **first fundraiser with Savers of New Bedford! Are you Spring cleaning over April vacation?** If so, please **drop off your bagged donations** in the school's lobby between **7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. during the week of April 24-28, 2017**, or **drop off your donation to Savers in New Bedford between 1 – 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 29th**. Savers will give Old Colony **20 cents per pound**. Items that they/we accept: **clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, CDs, DVDs, books, small electrical items, toys/games, small kitchen items, knick-knacks, and sporting goods**. Please **contact Al Amaral** in CAD at **x184** or email him at amaral@oldcolony.us for more information.

The **Old Colony Wellness Committee** and **Mrs. Lacroix** are sponsoring another **“Walking Club”** this year **starting on Tuesday, April 4th**. This is **open to all faculty, students, and parents** within our Old Colony community to **support and offer a healthy and active lifestyle**. The **“Walking Club”** will **meet in the school's lobby** beginning on **Tuesday, April 4th from 7 – 7:30 a.m.** This group will **meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, rain or shine, until Thursday, June 15th**. All anyone needs to do is wear their sneakers and be ready to walk. **Mrs. Lacroix, OC School Adjustment Counselor, will lead the walks**. Please **contact her at x-263** if you would like to **sign up**, have any **questions**, or need **more information**. We **hope you can join us** in this health/fitness opportunity for our OC community!

The **Cougar' Den** has a new offering, **“Dinner from the Den,”** in addition to our breakfast and lunch offerings. These are **family-sized dinners** that are already **prepared for you**. They just need to be reheated and served on your dinner table. The **menu is posted for the public on Mondays** under the Cougar's den Menu Page on the school's website. All orders can be taken by **phone (x168) or email cougarsden@oldcolony.us by Wed. at 1 p.m.** Orders must be **picked up on Thursdays between 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.** and **cash payments are required**. As always, please join us for **Breakfast - Tuesday through Friday 8:30-10 a.m.** for **walk-ins** and no reservations are needed and **Lunch - Wednesday-Friday 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.** **Reservations** are required, and the menu is posted every night on the school's website. Orders can be phoned or emailed into the Cougar's Den. **We look forward to serving you!**

Mrs. Murray, yearbook advisor, would like to announce that the **2017 yearbook ordering deadline** is fast approaching. Orders **must be received by Monday, April 10th** at Jostens.com/yearbook or see **Mrs. Murray** in the **Graphics** shop.

Nancy Bernard of **Bernard's Driving School** will be at Old Colony on **Wednesday, April 5th,** during all lunch shifts in the **cafeteria** for **student sign-ups** for the April vacation **Drivers' Ed class**. These **classes** will be **held at Old Colony from Tuesday, April 18th through Friday, April 21st from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Students will have a ½ hour lunch during this time. This **course will continue on Monday, April 24th through Wednesday, April 26th from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. in Room 2.** The next **Parental Informational Class** will be held at the **Bernard Driving School office, 345 Union St., New Bedford, MA, on Thursday, April 13th from 6-8 p.m.** If this course is not convenient for your schedule, please call **Nancy Bernard at 508-994-4375.**

Do you have **boxes of memories** stored with hopes that one day they will make it into a **scrapbook**? Have you always wanted to create a scrapbook but didn't know **how to get started**? Now is your chance to get organized and motivated! **Join Old Colony's Scrapbooking Club** that will be **run by**

Mrs. Tammy Hoyle, cosmetology instructor. **Bring in your supplies and pictures** and join us for this month's meeting on **Friday, April 7th from 5-9 p.m.** and is open to **all Old Colony staff, students, and their families**. If you would like more information, please contact thoyle@oldcolony.us.

Calling all of our talented OC students! The **Old Colony Student Council**, along with Ms. Thompson, are hosting an **April "Open Mic" fundraiser** on **Thursday, April 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria**. Students can **practice/rehearse** during the **Music Club after school on Thursdays** with Mr. Robidoux. **Tickets can be purchased at the door.**

Athletic Director Matt Trahan and **Coach Brandon Mendez** are once again hosting the **Mr. Cougar** competition. **Senior contestants** have already begun rehearsals for the annual competition with a **1980s theme**. The **funds raised** will go to the **athletic programs**, and this event will be held on **Friday, April 28, 2017, at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium**. **Tickets are \$10 each**. Students can purchase them **during all lunch shifts** beginning April 3rd, **contestants have tickets to sell**, and tickets will also be **sold at the door**.

Our **school nurse**, Mrs. Humphrey, has partnered with the **Mattapoisett Lions' Club** and their **EyeMobile** to provide an opportunity to **assess our Grade 10 students' vision** with a very sophisticated new tool. This **Spot Camera** is an extensive, **state-of-the-art technology** to **conduct a vision screening** exam. This is a wonderful opportunity to **create community collaboration** and utilize such a sophisticated technology **tool for our students**. The **EyeMobile** will be **at Old Colony on Thursday, May 4, 2017, from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** The students will go **into the van to have their vision screening** administered. As in the past, you will **only be notified if there is a problem**, and a **staff member** will be **with the students** at all times. If your son/daughter **wears glasses**, they will need to **bring them on the day of the screening**. Please **contact Mrs. Humphrey at x130** if you have any **questions** or if you prefer to **opt out of this screening** for your child, please **write a note or email Mrs. Humphrey** stating that you do not want your child tested.

The **13th annual OC Golf Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser** will take place on **Sat., May 20, 2017, at Acushnet River Valley Golf Course at 1 p.m.** All monies raised will go towards supporting our senior scholarship awards. If you would like to volunteer for the event, please contact **Kathy Peterson** at kpeterson@oldcolony.us. **Donation forms** for any type of donation (tee-box or tee-shirt advertising, or gift certificate, gift basket, etc.) were **mailed home** with your child's trimester 2 report card. We **appreciate any offer to assist us in this fundraising event**. If you are **interested in playing** in this year's tournament, please **contact Kathy Peterson** for a **golf-team application**. It is filled on a **first come, first serve basis**, and the **deadline** for entry is **May 1st**, if there is still availability. Last year, teams were filled within 3 weeks of sending out applications.

The **National Honor Society (NHS)** has partnered with **GiftsToGive's** amazing program called, **"Cinderella's Closet,"** which **assists girls** who would not be able to afford a **formal dress for their prom, quinceanera, or formal event**. The **NHS** will be **collecting new or gently worn dresses until April vacation** and storing them in **Mrs. Gifford's room**. Gently used **high-heeled shoes** will also be collected. Please **reach out to your families and friends** to make this a **super-successful collection!**

Old Colony's 1st Summer Discovery Program will run from **July 10-14, 2017**. This five-day experience is **open to any students entering grades 5-8** with options for career exploration, sports and recreation, and other exciting opportunities. Please visit www.oldcolony.us for more information or email summerdiscovery@oldcolony.us to receive further information for some incredible opportunities to explore building, cooking, creating, designing, etc. **Become part of the OC Creates movement** as middle school students get to explore opportunities to **ignite their passion for learning**.

The following are a list of dates and events for the month of April at Old Colony:

- Tuesday, April 4 - 7- 7:30 a.m. – Walking Club begins with Mrs. Lacroix, front lobby, rain or shine, every Tuesday/Thursday until June 15
- Tuesday, April 4 – 7:45 a.m. – Accuplacer Testing with the Guidance Dept. in the cafe
- Wednesday, April 5– 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Southcoast Mobile Health Van on OC campus; students can make an appointment with Mrs. Humphrey, School Nurse
- Wednesday, April 5 - lunch shifts – sign-up for driver’s education w/Mrs. Bernard in cafe
- Wednesday, April 5 – 6 p.m. – General Advisory Board Spring Meeting with Mrs. Machamer in the Library
- Wednesday, April 5 – 6:30 p.m. – Vocational Shops Spring Advisory Board Dinner (café) and Meetings (shop)
- Friday, April 7 – 7:45 a.m. – Mare Studios at OC for Junior senior pictures presentation in café
- Friday, April 7 – 5 – 9 p.m. – Scrapbooking Club w/Mrs. Hoyle in the café
- Friday, April 7 – 6:30 p.m. – Skills USA Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game Fundraiser in gym
- Tuesday, April 11 – 2:30 p.m. – GSA Club meeting w/Mrs. Lacroix in cafe
- Tuesday, April 13 – 6:30 p.m. – Student Council “Open Mic Night” fundraiser in cafe
- Thursday, April 13 – 6 p.m. – Outstanding Vocational Student Award Banquet in Worcester, MA
- Friday, April 14 – Friday, April 21 – Spring School Vacation Week
- Tuesday, April 18– April 21 - 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Bernard’s Driving School’s Drivers’ Ed course at OC in Room 2
- Monday, April 24 – Wed., April 26 – 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. – Bernard’s Driving School’s Drivers’ Ed course at OC in Room 2
- Tuesday, April 25– 5:30 p.m. – Lacrosse Girls’ & Boys’ Teams Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser in café
- Wednesday, April 26- 10:48 a.m. – Student Dismissal for Early Release Day
- Thursday, April 27 – Sat., April 29 – Skills USA State Competition in Marlboro, MA with Mr. L’Heureux and Ms. Couto
- Friday, April 28 – all day – NHS & United Way’s Youth Day of Caring – Volunteer Opportunity
- Friday, April 28 – 7 p.m. – Mr. Cougar Competition Athletic Fundraiser in gym
- Saturday, April 29 – 1-2 p.m. Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Fundraiser at Savers of New Bedford – drop off donated items, if not brought to OC from April 24-28 and left in the lobby.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Karen Guenette, Principal
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