



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Principal Guenette's February 2017 News

It's hard to believe that we have completed half of the 2016-17 school year already, and our students are in the **middle of Trimester 2!** **All grades** have been **updated** into our Schoolbrains software program, and **parents will receive an email** reminder on their **user names and passwords** to check their child's current grades. **Progress reports** for students whose **grades are in jeopardy** for this trimester **were mailed home**. If you have any **questions** or concerns, please contact the guidance department at **x-126** to speak with **your child's guidance counselor**.

January 2017 Junior Class Calendar Raffle winners were: Jan. 2-Ashley Demakis; Jan.4-Beth Jupin; Jan. 6-Patricia Neil; Jan. 9-Rosa Lewis; Jan. 11-Amy Littles; Jan. 13-Christopher Greene; Jan. 16-Laurie Smith; Jan. 18-Michelle Humphrey; Jan. 20-Doris Cabucio; Jan. 23-John Abaray; Jan. 25-Steve Gonsalves; and Jan. 27-Erin Taylor. Junior Class Advisors, Kathy Peterson and Samanda Clarke, want to **thank everyone who participated and supported the junior class**.

The Gay-Straight Alliance (**GSA**) **Club**, along with Mrs. Lacroix welcome **guest speaker, Jeff Perrotti**, from the MA Dept. of Education this month for a **staff professional development** afternoon on the **LGBTQ community**. **Students are selling "pins of support"** during this month as a **fundraiser** for the club. The **pins are \$1** and are **sold during lunch shifts** and **OC sporting events** throughout the month.

The **Cougar's Corner**, school store, is thriving thanks to **Mrs. Soucy and the CIS students!** The **store will be open** for the month of February **during the boys' home basketball games** in the school lobby on the following dates/times: **Friday, Feb. 3rd from 6-7:30 p.m.**; **Wednesday, Feb. 8th from 4:30-6 p.m.**; **Tuesday, Feb. 14th from 6-7:30 p.m.**; and on **Friday, Feb. 17th from 6-7:30 p.m.** There are several sizes available in an extensive variety of OC apparel. If you would like to inquire about a particular item, **please contact Mrs. Soucy at x-123**.

On **Sunday, February 12th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**, the **Cosmetology Shop** at Old Colony **will be open!** A **field trip to New York City** for the International Beauty Show has been arranged. The senior class is holding this **fundraising (donation) event** and will offer **manicures, haircuts, and facials** to our **entire OC community**. **Refreshments** will be served and many **items will be raffled** off, so please come **join us** for an exciting event! Appointments can be made by calling **x-137**, but **drop-ins are welcome**.

In partnership with **Bristol Community College**, guidance counselor, **Mrs. Abaray**, will offer **ACCUPLACER Placement Testing** during the school day **for seniors on Tuesday, February 14th**. The ACCUPLACER Placement Test **assesses skill levels in reading, writing, and mathematics**. The results of

the assessment are **used** by BCC academic advisors **to assist students with their course selections**. ACCUPLACER Testing is **required for all students who plan to attend BCC**. Students should take advantage of this early opportunity to test. Future BCC students who are interested in testing need to **register in the Guidance Department by February 1st**.

Through our partnership with **Bristol CVTE Secondary/Postsecondary Linkages**, our OC students are being **offered a free college-level Spanish course (SPA 101/ 3 credits)**. This Bristol Community College **web-based course** is scheduled to **start in late February**. Planned accommodations for the course include supplemental instruction (SI). This person will be available online, and in person, to help support students. Although the **course is free**, students are required to **purchase a book** that costs approximately **\$170.00**. For more information, students should **see their guidance counselor**. **Spots are limited** and available on a **first-come-first basis**. Registration for this course is **open until February 3rd**.

Old Colony has been fortunate to collaborate with **Junior Achievement** for a "**Job Shadowing Program**." We will be planning for **all grade 10 students** to "shadow" at local businesses arranged by J.A. **during the week of February 6th**. **What is the JA Job Shadow?** The JA Job Shadow program provides students with the opportunity to **visit local businesses** where they can **observe a professional work environment**, learn about the careers that are available, and talk to employees about their jobs and experiences. Students also learn **what skills are needed for a career in a particular industry** and the importance of educational attainment in achieving their goals. In addition to visiting a local business, the JA Job Shadow program includes **three additional classroom sessions** (two before the field trip and one after) that reinforce important concepts such as career research and preparation, job-hunting skills, and professionalism and ethics in the workplace.

The **Science Department** is offering the following courses for the 2017-2018 school year: **Core Lab** offerings: **Biology, Chemistry, and Physics and Science**; **Elective** offerings: **Forensics & Marine Biology**. Students are reminded they **need to successfully complete three lab sciences to fulfill Old Colony's graduation requirement in science**. **Technology & Engineering (grade 9)** is considered a **core lab science**. Grade **9, 10 & 11 students** will be given a **course selection sheet** during their **next academic cycle by their science teacher**. We ask that you **read the course descriptions**, have a discussion with your child and **prioritize the student's first three choices**. Students are to **return these selection sheets to their science teacher**. Failure to return this sheet to their science teacher **by March 1st** will result in the administration making the choice for the student. Efforts will be made to schedule students in their choices will be made, but this is **not guaranteed**. The **number and types of courses** will be **determined by student interest and teacher availability**.

Old Colony and the **Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board** partner to **welcome Dr. Temple Grandin to the Old Colony campus on Saturday, March 11th at 9 a.m.** Tickets are **\$25** and can be **purchased online** and for more information please visit <http://bit.ly/2isRAyB>.

Dr. Temple Grandin, named one of **TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people**, is the **most accomplished and well-known adult with autism in the world**. Dr. Grandin has been **featured on NPR** (National Public Radio), **ABC's Prime Time Live**, **The Today Show**, **Larry King Live**, **48 Hours and 20/20**. Dr. Grandin has been featured in **Time magazine**, **People magazine**, **Forbes**, **U.S. News and World Report**, and **The New York Times**.

This month, the School Adjustment Counselor, our intern, and the physical education/health instructors will **conduct an Old Colony Youth Risk Behavior Survey** for all of **our students**. The **purpose** of the survey is to **better understand youth risk and protective healthy behaviors** as they are related to student health, educational success, and student problems. Data generated from this survey is intended

to help inform and support students and parents and provide direction for revising our health and wellness curriculum. The **survey is posted** for viewing on the **OC website** under the **“news” section**.

The students who participate in the survey will be asked to **complete a confidentially-administered electronic survey with no names or identification numbers. Proctored by the PE/health teachers** during either a PE or health class. This survey is **completely voluntary** and will take about **40-45 min. to complete**, and student **privacy will be strictly protected**.

The survey **asks personal questions** about topics **such as cell phone use while driving, texting and substance use, as well as study habits and family/friend time**. If there are any questions on the survey your child does not wish to answer he/she is **free to skip questions** and they **may stop** taking the survey **at any time** they choose. Students who did not wish to participate, changed their minds, or whose parents chose to deny permission will need to notify me. The staff members who will proctor the survey will remind students of these rights before the survey begins. The survey **results will be shared later in the school year**.

Mrs. Murray, yearbook advisor, would like to announce that the 2017 yearbook must go to production by March. **Yearbook supplements will be created and printed by the Graphic Communications shop and mailed to seniors after graduation**. The supplements will include all of the **spring sports, events, proms, and graduation**. A letter and **order form will be mailed soon**, and the **deadline** for orders will be on **May 1st**. **Regular yearbook sales** can be ordered through **Jostens.com/yearbook**, and the **deadline is March 31st**.

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

- Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017 – Southcoast Mobile Health Van at OC from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 6, 2017 – Grade 10 “job shadow” week begins
- Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017 – BCC Accuplacer Testing in the library with guidance counselors
- Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017 – GSA Club meeting at 2:20 p.m. with Mrs. Lacroix
- Wed., Feb. 15, 2017 – Early Release Day – 10:48 a.m. student dismissal
- Mon., Feb. 20 - Fri., Feb. 24, 2017 – February vacation week
- Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 – All OC classes resume

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

Karen Guenette, Principal
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