



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Principal Guenette's January 2017 News

Happy New Year! As I reflect on 2016 and set some new goals for 2017, I am hopeful that writing my newsletter has increased communication between myself and my OC families. I am always welcome to new ideas and suggestions, so **please feel free to drop me an email or call with your feedback** on ways to improve this process.

I would like to **welcome new staff members to our OC school community**: Ms. Deb Silva is the new **Health Careers** instructor, Mrs. Michelle Humphrey is the new **school nurse**, Mr. Andre Arsenault is the new long-term substitute teacher for the **culinary arts** program, Ms. Gracie Thompson moved from a paraprofessional to a **long-term English substitute teacher**, and Ms. Megan Kootz is fulfilling Ms. Thompson's position as a **long-term paraprofessional**. I would also like to say **goodbye, good luck, and thank you to Ms. Sarah Machado**, paraprofessional, who leaves Old Colony on Jan. 6th to pursue another career.

Thank you to all who donated to the **"We Care Kits" project** that the **National Honor Society (NHS)** successfully sponsored again this year. We **reached our goal of collecting over 300 gift bags** that were filled with toys and essentials for our **local underprivileged children**.

Beginning **Thursday, Jan. 5th at 2:20 p.m. in the CIS shop**, Ms. Metivier (CIS instructor) will host an **Upcycle Art Club**. Students will work on several projects, using different materials and for different reasons. Some possible examples are: plan **blankets for the homeless using recycled plastic bags** (community); create a **greenhouse using recycled and strung water bottles** (school); using **other "trash" items from our school and homes for a possible Upcycle Art Show**. The **goal of this Club** is to **identify areas** within our school, community, and homes and **learn how to recycle items** using our imagination and problem-solving skills and have a little fun while **crafting old, unused items into something new and usable**.

This month, Old Colony will begin hosting a **weekly Music Club**. The Club's goal is to **provide students a space** to have fun while **learning, practicing, and performing music**. **All are welcome** regardless of experience or instrument of choice. We **encourage all students and staff to join Mr. Robidoux** (CIS instructor) on **January 12, Thursday, at 2:20 p.m. on the stage!**

Please consider joining us on Saturday, January 21st at 9 a.m. for a Private Screening of Star Wars: Rogue One. Computer Recycling USA has donated a Dell Latitude 3550 laptop that will be raffled off for one lucky attendee the morning of the movie. We have reserved theaters at **Flagship Cinemas, 39 Doty St., West Wareham** for our Old Colony community. **Tickets are \$10/person** and funds raised as a result of this effort will **benefit Old Colony**. Tickets are **not available at the door** for this event. A maximum of 397 attendees can be accommodated. We look forward to a fun morning. **To purchase tickets, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2h0XTJO>** You will receive your laptop raffle ticket at the door. **Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.**

Old Colony RVTHS is holding its annual **Frosty Runner Road Race, a 10.5-mile road race on Sat., Jan 28, 2017, to benefit our Cross Country Team and National Honor Society.** In combination with this race, we are also offering a **3.1-mile run and walk**. Register on-line at <https://www.runreg.com/the-frosty-runner-road-race> or download the form at <http://www.oldcolony.us> and mail it to us. **Frosty Runner t-shirts are available to runners & walkers who are pre-registered by January 13th.** Options for the Frosty Runner include **a 10.5 mile run and a 3.1 mile run/walk.** All races **begin and end at the school** located at 476 North Avenue, Rochester, MA. Race maps are posted on the Old Colony website at <http://www.oldcolony.us/frosty-runner-road-race/> . **Registration and number pickup begins at 7:30 a.m.** on the day of the race. **Post-race food and refreshments will be served** to all registered participants. **Awards for top and divisional finishers.**

As we embark on our winter months, I want to give you **some inclement weather information.** Our primary concern when winter weather strikes is our students and their ability to safely travel between home and school. OC serves students from 6 towns, and as an independent district, OC renders cancellation decisions that apply to all Old Colony students, regardless of their town of residence. Superintendent Polansky must consult with local officials and consider the latest conditions from all sending districts. **Key factors in determining a potential closure or delayed start include road conditions, timing of the storm, and how much snow is expected.** The condition of **school parking lots** and **whether or not the school has power** are also important factors.

Superintendent Polansky makes every effort to notify students and faculty of a **cancellation by 6 a.m. to local TV and radio stations,** which will broadcast announcements when school is closed or a one or two-hour delay in opening. When there is a delay, buses will run one or two hours later than their normal scheduled pick-up times.

Old Colony also **provides an automated phone and email message** to every faculty and student's household **for school closings, delayed starts, or unexpected releases.** Closings will be listed on the **Old Colony website,** as well.

Superintendent Polansky **may release students early if conditions will decline** before 2:16 p.m. If there is an unexpected release, the school will **notify parents via automated message, email sent, and local TV and radio stations, as well as posted on the school's website.** Students who normally take the bus to and from school will be able to do so.

If a junior or senior student is scheduled to be out at their **co-op site** on a day that school is closed or released early, **employers should remember that they are new drivers,** and should allow students to **follow the school's protocol.** Slippery roads are a challenge for even the most experienced driver. Co-op students and their parents should closely monitor weather forecasts and determine if their teen will be able to safely travel to and from their job site. **The student must notify their supervisor**

when school is closed. If the student and supervisor decide the current conditions are too treacherous for travel, they can re-evaluate a few hours later if there has been improvement. **In the event of a mid-day storm,** if there is concern for deteriorating road conditions, **check the school's release status,** and alert your employer/supervisor to **discuss an early dismissal** from the co-op site.

New Commonwealth Commitment for Seniors: Governor Baker has a message for **graduating high school seniors and their families:** The state will help them **save an average of 40%** off the cost of a traditional **bachelor's degree** if students can attend college **full-time and graduate within 4 ½ years.** Students **start** at one of Massachusetts' 15 **community colleges,** then **transfer to a state university** or UMass campus and **continue full time.** Students who enroll **receive a 10% per-semester rebate, a tuition credit worth an average of \$1,200, and a freeze on mandatory fees** — leading to an associate degree and a bachelor's degree at an average cost of \$28,618 before financial aid. For more information about this program, go to: <http://www.mass.edu/masstransfer/macomcom/home.asp>

The following are a list of dates and events for the month of January 2017 at Old Colony:

- Monday, Jan. 3 - School is back in session at Old Colony
- Wednesday, Jan. 4 – Southcoast Mobile Heath Van at OC from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 5 – Upcycle Art Club at 2:20 p.m. in CIS shop with Ms. Metivier
- Tuesday, Jan. 10 – GSA Club meeting at 2:20 p.m. in the café with Mrs. Lacroix
- Wednesday, Jan. 11 – Early Release Day – 10:48 a.m. student dismissal
- Thursday, Jan. 12 – Music Club at 2:20 p.m. on the stage with Mr. Robidoux
- Friday, Jan. 13 – Freshmen Shop assignments – all Gr 9 students will meet in the cafe
- Monday, Jan. 16 – No school in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 – School Council Meeting at 2:45 p.m. in the office conference room
- Wednesday, Jan 18 – School Committee Meeting at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Friday, Jan. 20 – OC Skills USA School Competition Assembly at 1:30 p.m. in the gym
- Saturday, Jan. 21 – Star Wars – The Rogue at 9 a.m. at Flagship in Wareham
- Thursday, Jan. 26 – Old Colony tours from 2-3 p.m. with the guidance staff
- Saturday, Jan. 28 – OC Frosty Runner Road Race at 10 a.m.
- Monday, Jan. 30 – Juniors (who are OSHA trained) eligible for co-op placements

Thanks in advance for your OC support! My best wishes for a happy, healthy new year! As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Karen Guenette, Principal
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