



# OLD COLONY

## REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Principal Guenette's November 2016 News

It's **hard to believe** that at the end of this month, grades will close for the first trimester, and we will already be **one-third through the 2016-17 school year**. Every parent can **check your child's grades** through the Old Colony website at [www.oldcolony.us](http://www.oldcolony.us) and clicking on the Schoolbrains link. If you have **any questions**, please **call the guidance office** at x-126 or email Mrs. Sherman at [Isherman@oldcolony.us](mailto:Isherman@oldcolony.us). Please **encourage your child to finish this 1<sup>st</sup> trimester with a strong outcome** in both academic and shop cycles.

On **October 31, 2016, Supt. Frank Cote retired** from Old Colony, and we sent him off with well wishes as he begins this new chapter in his life. **On November 28<sup>th</sup>**, we warmly **welcome** our **new Superintendent Aaron Polansky** to Old Colony RVTHS, and we look forward to working with him and growing our school and programs into the future.

Beginning this **first week of November**, it is **mandatory** that **all students wear their lanyards and IDs**. During the first period, while teachers are taking attendance, students must display their IDs on their lanyards. They are allowed to take them **off while they are working in shop**, if there is a safety hazard. **Students who lose their ID and lanyard will be charged \$5 for a replacement**. If a student **forgets to wear** his/her ID, **or loses it**, they will **report to the front office** and will be issued a **temporary one to wear** for the day. After **three offenses**, a **detention** will be **issued** to serve after school on a Tuesday or Thursday.

Last month, I informed you that our **school's voice mail**, within our phone system, was **no longer working**. **Please be patient with us, a part was ordered**, and we are still **awaiting its arrival and installation**, but we have made **some progress**. When trying to reach someone at the school, the **front office staff is available to answer calls** and take messages **from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Additionally, **all staff are checking their emails** throughout the day. Please check our website [www.oldcolony.us](http://www.oldcolony.us) for our directory. We are **expecting a few more weeks of being inconvenienced**, so **thank you for your understanding**.

We are in the midst of our **8<sup>th</sup> grade Career Awareness Days** (see dates below), and any **8<sup>th</sup> grade student** can now **begin their application for admission to OC for the 2017-18 school year online!** Visit [www.oldcolony.us](http://www.oldcolony.us), click on **"Online Application"** link, and complete the online registration application with your child. When the registration is complete, you will be **contacted by email for the next steps**. We will keep you updated on your application status!

Again this year, the **Rochester Lions' Club** has contacted me about **offering Thanksgiving food baskets** for any **family in need** of a complete holiday meal, who **lives within our sending districts**. They are able to supply a limited amount of food baskets that can be **picked up from Old Colony on Tuesday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> before 2:30 p.m.** Please **call the front office at x-111** if you would like to be **placed on the list for this year**. I am hopeful that there will be enough food baskets to fulfill the requests. I am always **very thankful for this community partnership** and their **generous donations**.

**Senior News! Mare Studios** will be available at their **studio in New Bedford** for seniors who still need to be photographed for the yearbook. **Mrs. Murray** has a list of these names, so please **check with her** at x-197 or email [emurray@oldcolonyus](mailto:emurray@oldcolonyus) if you have any questions about your child's **senior photo**. The **studio will be open on November 3 & 4, 2016, from 4-7 p.m. for walk-ins.**

Ms. Murray would also like to remind senior parents/guardians that on **Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> yearbook prices will be \$72 until Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> and then \$75 until Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. The final price after Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> will be \$80.** It is very important to **order early** and take advantage of the **lower price. Baby picture submission deadline is on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.** Please contact her if you have any questions or concerns.

**Class of 2017 FAFSA Night** hosted by the **OC Guidance Dept.** will be held on **Wed., Nov. 9, 2016, by appointment only.** Appointment times range from **2:30 – 6:30 p.m.** and are **scheduled every half hour.** Several advisors from the **Educational Opportunity Center** will **work one-on-one** with parents/guardians and students to **complete the FAFSA form online.** This application is **required** to be considered **eligible to receive college financial assistance.** Please **RSVP to the Guidance Dept. by Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>** at x-126, 127, 128, or 129.

**Contact Mrs. Darcy** x-154 [hdarcy@oldcolony.us](mailto:hdarcy@oldcolony.us) or **Mrs. Robert** x-166 or [drobert@oldcolony.us](mailto:drobert@oldcolony.us), **senior class advisors,** for more information about the **senior class fundraisers on Sat., Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.** They are planning a **volleyball tournament** and a **craft fair** during that time.

**The ALICE School Safety Practice Drill for All Old Colony students** will be held on **Tuesday, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>,** and **led by the Rochester Police Department and two certified trainers** employed by Old Colony. The ALICE training offers school districts options that mitigate liability, assume less risk and, most importantly, equip students and faculty with life-saving skills.

**Congratulations to our student athletes at OC!** Our school has earned a place on the **2015-16 MIAA Sportsmanship Honor Roll.** **Athletic Director Matt Trahan,** along with student-athletes, will be **recognized** when they attend the **MIAA Sportsmanship Summit on November 18<sup>th</sup> at Gillette Stadium.**

The **OC National Honor Society (NHS)** will again be **collecting holiday gift donations** from **Nov. 7 – Dec. 12, 2016,** to be given to children attending **the Headstart/PACE program.** Items will be collected in the **main office, library, and Room 3** (Mrs. Gifford's class). During this collection time, a **"giving tree"** with children's specific sizes, items needed, and age-appropriate toy ideas will be set up in the school's lobby. **If you take a tag, please tape it to the item** when dropping off at the designated locations. **Thanks, in advance, for your generosity** in supporting this **special project.**

At a recent principals' meeting, I learned that **some MA high-school students** have been **severely affected by K2/synthetic marijuana.** This drug, **sold in convenient stores,** is depicted as a legal all-natural alternative to marijuana. However, it is just the contrary. The drug **is illegal,** but it is **difficult to ban** due to a lack of clear regulations. The drug also contains arsenic and other "natural" poisons, which are not natural items anyone should be putting into their bodies. There is an **upcoming free event for parents** that also **offers free childcare, "First Annual Parent Summit: My Choice Matters-Parenting to Prevent Substance Use,"** to be held on **Sunday, November 20, 2016, from 12 – 3:30 p.m.** at the **Cape Codder Hotel, 1225 Iyannough Rd., Hyannis, MA.** To **register online** for the event, here's the link:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ed76h0wl86c2f2e6&llr=myornedab>

Once again, our OC students have shown a great desire to have an **OC Drama Club!** Students interested in acting, but also producing, creating/designing props, lighting, sound, hair/makeup, etc. **can sign up with Ms. Guy** in the **Library/Media Center.** More information about a spring **production in March** will be forthcoming. Ms. Guy can be reached at x-120 or [cguy@oldcolony.us](mailto:cguy@oldcolony.us).

**School Store is Open!** The newest addition to OC is its very own school store, **“The Cougar’s Corner!”** Open in the cafeteria, it’s **available for students, teachers, and parents** to purchase various items of “cougar” clothing. We carry such clothing and accessories such as **beanies, shirts, hoodies, sweatpants, key-chains, and more.** The “Cougar’s Corner” **is open on every lunch shift, on either Tuesdays or Thursdays,** and our **prices are very affordable.** More information on the **Old Colony website** and **a link to purchasing items will be coming soon.** Please contact **Mrs. Soucy** in the Computer Information Systems (CIS) Dept. at x-123 or email her at [ssoucy@oldcolony.us](mailto:ssoucy@oldcolony.us) for **more information or to place an order.** A special **“thanks”** to the **former Booster Club members** who **donated items** to get the store started. **This was greatly appreciated!**

Please **mark your calendars** for **OC’s Nontraditional Club fundraiser, “School Spirit Tastes Great”** at **Chipotle Restaurant located at 349 State Rd., N. Dartmouth, MA, on Thurs., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 9 p.m.** A **flyer** will be attached to the **December newsletter** to show the wait staff and **50% of the proceeds** received, during that timeframe, will be **donated to our Nontraditional Club.** What a great way to **have dinner together, support our school,** and maybe even **get some shopping in** during the holiday season.

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

- Monday, Oct. 31<sup>t</sup> – Happy Halloween and all OC students must wear lanyards with IDs displayed
- Monday, Oct. 31 – Balfour Company for class rings taking orders through all lunch shifts
- Tues., Nov. 1 - Career Awareness Day for Acushnet and ORR 8<sup>th</sup> graders to Old Colony
- Wed., Nov. 2 – MCAS Retests for ELA composition; Southcoast Mobile Health Van at OC from 8 – 11 a.m.
- Thurs., Nov. 3 – MCAS Retests for ELA reading parts 1 & 2; Career Awareness Day for Carver 8<sup>th</sup> graders to OC
- Fri., Nov. 4 – MCAS Retests for ELA reading part 3; Reliable Bus Company bus evacuation safety practice with Mr. Harrison from 7:30-8:00 a.m.
- Sun., Nov . 6 – Parent/Student Career Awareness Day for 8<sup>th</sup> graders from 10 a.m. – noon at Old Colony (open for all students and parents to tour the school and shop settings)
- Tues., Nov. 8 – Student Council Fall Conference at Taunton High School w/Ms. Thompson; ALICE training and practice drill; Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Club Meeting w/Mrs. Lacroix at 2:20 p.m. in café; & Voting Day
- Wed., Nov. 9 – MCAS Retests for Math; Balfour Company for class rings taking orders through all lunch shifts
- Thurs., Nov. 10 – MCAS Retests for Math; Balfour Company for class rings taking order through all lunch shifts; Mare Studios at OC for senior pictures; Senior college application day w/guidance dept.
- Fri., Nov. 11 – Veterans’ Day – No School
- Wed., Nov. 16 – 7:30-8 a.m. – Student Advisory Council to the School Committee Meeting w/Mrs. Guenette in the front office conference room; 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. – School Council Meeting with Mrs. Guenette in the front office conference room, and 6 p.m. School Committee meeting in the OC cafeteria.
- Fri., Nov. 18 – Culinary Arts Dept. to Rochester Senior Center and Mr. Trahan and selected fall captains to Gillette Stadium to receive District D Sportsmanship Award
- Sat., Nov. 19 – Senior Class Fundraisers at OC: Volleyball Tournament and Craft Fair 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Tues., Nov. 22 – Grade 9 assembly for non-traditional careers at 1:30 p.m.; Trimester 1 ends, report cards mailed shortly thereafter
- Wed., Nov. 23- Fri., Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving Recess – no school
- Mon., Nov. 28 – Trimester 2 begins; Wellness Committee meeting w/Mrs. Guenette @ 1:15 p.m., & Superintendent Aaron Polansky’s first day at OC
- Wed., Nov. 30 - Early Release Day with student dismissal at 10:48 a.m. & Faculty meeting

As always, thanks in advance for your support! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, and I wish you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Karen Guenette, Principal  
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