



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

476 North Avenue, Rochester, Massachusetts 02770-1899

Telephone: (508) 763-8011

Fax: (508) 763-9821

www.oldcolony.us

Aaron L. Polansky
Superintendent-Director

Karen J. Guenette
Principal

Jackie Machamer
Assistant Principal/CVTE Coordinator

Krystla Fay
Special Services Coordinator

Linda Deady
Academic Coordinator/Data Analyst

Sarah Griffith
Business Manager

Principal Guenette's January 2018 News

Happy New Year! As I reflect on 2017 and set some new goals for 2018, I am hopeful that writing and posting my monthly 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 have also created a Twitter account, so feel free to follow me on Twitter @OCPrincipalKG.

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**.

Again this year, I would like to **thank the Rochester Lions' Club for their generosity in donating 33 Christmas food baskets** for our **Old Colony families**. I'd also like to offer a **special thanks to our Old Colony staff, John Mare, Crystal Andrade, and Donna Abaray** who work together, behind the scenes, as they coordinated the **success for this program**.

Join us and see our remodeled and updated salon! **"Locks Training Salon's" grand re-opening** is scheduled for **Monday, Jan. 8, from 9 a.m. until noon**. The **cosmetology students** are offering a **free paraffin dip with hand and arm massage** service during this time. **Giveaways, raffles, and prizes** will be given out, so please mark your calendars for this **exciting event!**

The **Freshman Exploratory process is completed**. All freshmen students were asked to complete their **shop-selection packet** that was **due to the guidance office by Jan. 2nd**. All freshmen students will be informed of their shop assignment at an **assembly on Friday, Jan. 12th** and will **report to their newly assigned shop on Tuesday, Jan. 16th**.

The **Guidance Dept.** is **partnering with Junior Achievement** again this year. A representative will be at Old Colony on **Tuesday, Jan. 9th (8-9 a.m.)** to offer a **workshop on job interviewing, job searches** and the **application process for seniors**.

The **10th grade Job Shadow** program workshops are scheduled for **Tuesday, Jan. 30, Wednesday, Jan. 31, & Thursday, Feb. 1**. Similar to last year, there will be a **series of 3 programs (one for each day)** that students will attend. **Junior Achievement** is working with the guidance counselors on

scheduling our "shadow" days with area businesses for the week of Feb. 6-9th. More information will be forthcoming from the guidance office about this program.

Old Colony RVTHS is holding its annual **Frosty Runner Road Race**, a **10.5-mile road race on Sat., Jan 27, 2018, at 10 a.m.** 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**. **Inclement weather date is February 3rd**. Registration is open and we're **hoping for 200 participants** this year ---so **PLEASE spread the word!!** Here are the **links to all of the information**: <http://www.oldcolony.us/community/frosty-runner-road-race/> or <https://www.runreg.com/frostyrunner>. **Post-race food and refreshments** will be served to all registered participants, and **awards** will be given for **top and divisional finishers**. Although we encourage you to participate in the event (either walking or running), we are **always in need of volunteers**. If you are available to help out that day (from **7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**), please **contact Beth Botelho at bbotelho@oldcolony.us**.

The **Old Colony PTO** has been very **active in fundraising** and planning **upcoming events**. Meetings are scheduled for **every first Tuesday** of each month **from 7 – 8 p.m.** and are held in the **OC cafeteria**. Currently, we are looking for parents to help us coordinate "**pizza & snack nights**" during our **boys' and girls' varsity basketball games**. Here's the link to sign up if you can volunteer and assist us for a few hours: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4caca2da0f58-basketball>. Please "**save-the-date**" for **Saturday, March 10th** for our **parent-teacher "spring fling" dinner/dance** to be held at **Loon Pond Lodge**, in Lakeville, MA. **More information** about the **event and tickets will be forthcoming** in the February newsletter. This night will certainly be a **fun-filled fundraising event for OC!**

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in **Worcester, MA**, is offering a **pre-college summer program** experience for **incoming juniors and seniors** called, "**Frontiers**." This is an **on-campus program** where attendees **explore STEM topic and humanities**. **Applications opened Dec. 15, 2017**. For younger students, WPI is offering a "**Launch**" program. This is a **hands-on learning and research experience** for **incoming freshmen and sophomores** to take a closer look at the individual **student's field of interest**. This program has an **optional residential component**. **Registration opens Feb. 3, 2018**. For more **information**, visit wpi.edu/+frontiers or wpi.edu/+summer or **contact Sue Sontgerath**, Director Pre-Collegiate Outreach Programs at **(508) 831-4900**. You can **email** questions to pop@wpi.edu.

Are you saving money for your child's education? **MA Dept. of Ed Resource Corner** recently **published: "Help Families Save Money for Both K-12 and College Expenses."** The Department has compiled a wide array of ways in which parents can [save money for their child's education](#). This link gives **information for parents** and encourages ways to **look into savings options**. Of particular note, parents of **students with significant disabilities** can now set up **special tax-free accounts** to use on a **wide range of services** throughout a child's life. The site also lists a **variety of college-savings options**, including **tax-free accounts, early tuition options, local savings accounts**, and more.

School nurse, Michelle Humphrey, would like to inform our OC families that **the influenza activity is increasing in Massachusetts** and to remind everyone that **the Flu vaccine** offers the **best protection** against the potentially serious disease. Here in New England **most flu seasons do not peak until February or even mid-March**, so there is still **plenty of time to get a flu shot**, if you haven't already. Here are some **informational resources** on the **influenza virus** to help answer any questions that you may have: www.mass.gov/flu [Flu Guide for Parents in English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Portuguese](#).

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. We must **consult with local officials** and consider the **latest conditions** from **all sending districts**. **Key factors in determining a potential closure or delayed start including 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.

We make every effort to notify students and faculty of a **cancellation by 6 a.m. through Facebook, Twitter, 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.

We **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 social media sites, automated message, email, and local TV/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.

A **junior or senior student should not be attending co-op** on days **when school is cancelled**. The student must **notify their supervisor** when **school is closed**, has a **one or two-hour delayed start**, or **is releasing early** due to weather conditions. **Cancelling all-school activities** includes co-operative employment as it is directly related to **Old Colony RVTHS safety procedures**.

The following are a list of dates and events for the month of January 2018 at Old Colony:

- Tuesday, Jan. 2 - School is back in session at Old Colony, OC Tour w/Matt Trahan at 8:15 a.m., PTO meeting in cafeteria from 7 – 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 3 - Southcoast Mobile Heath Van at OC from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Thursday & Friday, Jan. 4 & 5 – School Closed – Snow Days
- Monday, Jan. 8 – OC “Locks Salon” Grand Re-opening from 9 a.m. - noon
- Tuesday, Jan. 9 – OC Tour w/Matt Trahan at 8:15 a.m., JA Job Interview Presentation for Seniors in cafeteria 8 – 9 a.m., GSA Club meeting at 2:20 p.m. in the café with Mrs. Lacroix
- Friday, Jan. 12- Freshmen Shop assignments – all Gr 9 students
- Monday, Jan. 15 - No school in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- Tuesday, Jan. 16 – OC Tour w/Matt Trahan at 8:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 17 – Early Release Day – 12:15 p.m. student dismissal
- Wednesday, Jan. 17 – School Council Meeting at 3:30 p.m. in the library
- Friday, Jan. 19 – OC Skills USA School Competition Assembly at 1:30 p.m. in the gym
- Monday, Jan. 22 - 2-hour late start (9:45 a.m.) for students and NEASC self-study professional development for staff; Title I Parent Meeting at Old Colony from 6 – 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 27 – OC Frosty Runner Road Race at 10 a.m.

- Monday, Jan. 29 – Juniors (who are OSHA trained) eligible for co-op placements; Junior Achievement JA Job Shadow Kick-off workshops for Gr 10 students in cafeteria; OC Wellness Committee Meeting from 12:50 – 2:15 p.m. in the office conf. room

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

Karen Guenette, Principal
kguenette@oldcolony.us
Follow me on Twitter @OCPrincipalKG