

# **NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS DECEMBER/JANUARY, 2001-2002**

## **PRINCIPAL'S INFORMATION**

Happy December Holidays to you all. May you find the time to relax and enjoy your families at this busy time of the year. When we return in January there will be only a few weeks before the end of the semester on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

You may want to check in with your students about papers or projects that are due at the end of the semester. Despite the busy holiday season, there is often some time to do school work and it does make January easier on all. It is a particularly good idea to check in with your Senior student about his/her Senior Project. Sometimes, just making a calendar to show when tasks will be completed can be a great help. Sometimes organizing notes for class or checking through the notebook, can help a student feel more prepared to return to class in January. Again, a little work done over the holiday can pay off in a more relaxed January.

Seniors heading for four year colleges have timelines to meet for application deadlines. See the counselor's information for details and do not hesitate to call on us for help if your senior seems to be ignoring the passage of time. Sometimes, seniors (and their parents) need some assistance with timelines and how to get started or even to recognize the need to make decisions about the next step after high school.

The point to remember is that seniors have to go somewhere after high school and need to make plans. Choices are wide but often confusing and sometimes a bit frightening for both students and parents. There are great opportunities for students attending technical schools, two year schools or four year schools. Like any major decision, the choice of what to do right after school requires information and lots of thought.

The holidays can be a great time for students of all ages to gather some information about possible choices. With all of the visiting relatives and friends there are many opportunities for young people to hear experiences of recent graduates or to find out how friends and relatives chose their own careers. As families visit friends and relatives, the family can take a drive through a campus and allow students to envision living in another environment. Remember that the process of deciding what to do right after high school needs time and careful thought and often changes over time. Choices made as 8<sup>th</sup> graders often change by 10<sup>th</sup> grade and then again by 12<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to for each student to take the next best step for him/herself. Keeping this goal in mind helps keep the decision in perspective: a student is not choosing his/her entire life after high school, just the next step.

As the parent of a junior, I am painfully aware of the amazingly swift passage of time. Enjoy your holiday and the time that you have with your student(s).

**All of us wish you and your families a happy, safe and peaceful holiday season.**

## **MUSIC PROGRAM**

Come to the old gym at 7PM on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> for an entertaining evening of music. Ken Silverman will be presenting our students in elementary, middle and high school playing and singing for your listening pleasure. This should be a great show! Don't miss it!

## **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION**

The months of December and January often bring some stormy days. For your information, here is the information about snowy days reprinted from the parent handbook.

#### “Special Procedures for Snowy Days

When/if we are faced with snowy/icy road conditions, our school bus routes will become abbreviated. At those times buses will only travel on the main roads. This means they will not stop at Buckhorn Road, Killebrew Lake Road, Dolphin Bay Road, Obstruction Pass, End of North Beach Road, Mt. Baker Road, Spring Point (across bridge), Enchanted Forest Road and West Beach.

In the event that conditions should warrant the closure or delayed starting of school, that information will be broadcast on the following radio and television stations:

**KGMI RADIO (AM) 790 BELLINGHAM**  
**KAFE RADIO (FM) 104.3 BELLINGHAM**  
**KLKI RADIO (AM) 1340 ANACORTES**  
**KOMO RADIO (AM) 1000 SEATTLE**  
**KOMO TV - CHANNEL 4**  
**KING TV - CHANNEL 5”**

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## **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

The High School Holiday Luncheon is being planned for Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a time when the ASB (Associated Student Body) officers and their advisor, Dennis Dahl, plan a luncheon for all of the high school students. Each of the classes is asked to bring some of the food for the luncheon. If ASB officers decide to follow the traditional pattern of past years: Freshmen bring rolls. Sophomores bring salads. Juniors bring potato dishes and seniors bring desserts.

## **ORCAS ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK**

The Orcas Yearbook staff will sell gift certificates for 2001 Yearbooks – a great Chanukah present, or even Christmas! Buy your yearbook early. Book prices continue to rise as we approach June, so buy your book early!

## **OIEF NEWS**

O.I.E.F. has published a new **school directory**. It is available, without charge, in the forms rack in the High School office. Many parents find this resource helpful in networking with other parents, we hope you will too.

## **COUNSELING INFORMATION**

**It's time for seniors to get serious about those college applications.** The counseling office has the common applications for EWU, CWU and Evergreen, The University of Washington application, the WWU application, the WSU application, and the Common College Application which is accepted by a large number of independent institutions through-out the US. I also have been mailed quite a few applications to private institutions. Also, check the net for applications as many schools offer them at their websites. Private school deadlines are often in January or even earlier. OHS does not resume until January 2nd after the Christmas holiday; so, all applications must be in the counseling office the week of December 17<sup>th</sup> so we can process and mail transcripts to meet those early deadlines. Students planning on attending Washington State institutions need to remember the January and/or February deadlines. I have encouraged students applying to the U of W or WWU to do so before the Christmas holidays since both schools fill quotas early, and this year the U of W's deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

The **FAFSA**, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, forms should be in the counseling office soon. These must be submitted in order for a student to be considered for federal, state or institutional financial aid. Remember that you need 2001 tax information to complete this form. The earliest mailing date is January 1<sup>st</sup>. Federal aid is limited so be sure to submit your form as soon after January 1<sup>st</sup> as possible. Most Washington colleges require them to have been submitted by February 1-15 for a student to be considered for their aid or

scholarships. Questions always arise concerning these forms and financial aid in general. Please call me if you have questions.

The next **SAT** to be given at OHS will be Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. The registration deadline for this test is December 21st. Juniors who will be taking SAT IIs in May should consider taking this test. Remember SAT IIs are only needed for those attending out-of-state or private schools. Most juniors will take the SAT I in May. **Juniors should take the SAT I sometime this school year.** If they take the test once as a junior, then they have the opportunity to retake the test as a senior.

Speaking of tests, the school has received scores for the PLAN test that sophomores took in October. This test not only assesses a student's academic aptitudes, but also his/her vocational interest areas. These test results and explanatory booklets will be given to sophomores, who took the test, before the holiday break. Please ask your student for his/her results. Juniors are anxious about their PSAT results. As yet, they have not arrived, but they should be here by early December.

National Honor Society applications were due November 30th. The faculty committee that evaluates student criteria for NHS will be meeting during December to select new members. Students will be notified of acceptance at the NHS Induction Ceremony to be held in January or early February.

Finally, January 24th marks the end of the first semester. Please encourage your student to make the most of the time remaining in the semester!

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Orcas Island School District's DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION serves people with disabilities from birth to age 21. If you suspect your or your child may have a disability, please call the District Office at 376-2284.

## **NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

Thank you to everyone for supporting our book sale! Many wonderful books have gone home to be enjoyed, and this delights us. We look forward to spending the money raised on buying new books for the library! We also want to thank Jenny Pedersen at Darvill's, for coordinating this for us, and making such a wonderful contribution! Also the kind parent and community volunteers who helped us during the sale: Ruth Walters, Kathy Eastman, Adele Pinneo, Karen Turner, April Duke, Mary Gropp, and Julie Pinaridi.

Our hearts are full of gratitude toward ALL the folks who have so generously supported our library during these early months of school:

Karen Turner comes in to help with book processing and shelving books once a week;

Ed Eastman has made a beautiful window seat. Patricia Goffeney is making a cushion and pillows for it.

John Rosselli brought in a lovely rocking chair for the primary story corner, and an intriguing lamp which is waiting for a table to go on.

Kathy Eastman made an incredible painted pumpkin for our Halloween display;

Sharon Harvey's class made fabulous cross-stitched cushions which we have on display;

Lyria Shaeffer-Bauck, Kelly Doty, Megan Swanland, and Julia Swanland have made beautiful artwork to grace the walls.

Adele Pinneo has volunteered her time to help at the circulation desk and inspire us to "look at things up-side-down.

Desiree Lowry has worked hard as our TA helping students, shelving books, and creating artwork.

Thanks to all these wonderful people for helping us make our library a happy place to learn!

If you would like to be involved, please let us know. We still welcome donations of good quality items of furniture. If you would like to help with this, call us or come in to see us.

## **What Parents Learned at High School Information Night MIPs, DUIs, BAC, Insurance Liability, and Student Driver Contracts**

Sounds like a foreign language - MIPs, DUIs, BAC - but in reality parents learned some pretty important facts that could help them talk to their youth and provide accurate information about what their teen might face if he or she chose to use alcohol or other drugs. For those of you who were unable to attend this event, here are a few of the most important facts that parents learned.

**Minor in Possession** - When a youth ages 13 - 20 is in possession of any illegal drug or alcohol, their drivers license will be revoked until age 17 or at least one year on first offense. If the youth don't have a license, he or she won't be able to apply for a driver's permit until 16.

**Driving under the Influence** - Any driver under 21 with a blood alcohol level (BAC) of .02 - .07 will have their license suspended for 90 days, face jail or electronic home monitoring, and receive a fine of up to \$1,000. Other costs include a license reissue fee of \$150, additional court fees of several thousand dollars and possible attorney fees. It only takes about one beer to get to .02 percent blood alcohol level. If the blood alcohol content is .08, minors 16 and older are treated the same as adult offenders.

**Liability of Parents** - When a child is driving the "family car," parents can be found liable for the accident as well. When an accident occurs because of activities that arise out of an unchaperoned party, when parents are absent, the parents are held legally responsible for supervising their children and can be held responsible by a court of law for serious injuries that occurred as a result of lack of supervision.

**Insurance Coverage** - Insurance coverage can be problematic if the accident resulted from the intentional act of a child or if no one is willing to testify as witnesses to the accident or event (which happens quite often with teens). Insurance costs frequently double after an accident, especially for a DUI, and parents may have to pay the increased rates even if they don't want to insure their youth or allow him to drive after the suspended license is renewed. For further information call your insurance agent or OIPP at 376-5259. Frequently, the only option is to not have the drivers license renewed.

**Alcohol Poisoning** - Parents were encouraged to talk to their teens about alcohol poisoning and the life threatening potential of drinking too much alcohol too fast. What are the symptoms? Passing out or semi-conscious, cold, pale or bluish skin, vomiting while sleeping, slow or irregular breathing. These symptoms demand immediate help. Never put an unconscious person to bed to sleep it off. Call 911 immediately and remain with the victim who should be turned on his or her side.

**Student Driver Contract** - An example of a student driver contract was shared that can help parents set clear guidelines and consequences with their young drivers. The sample has been included following this article and copies will be available at the next scheduled high school parent class meetings. Parents and students need to set their own rules for vehicle use; some parents may want to include some rules around loud music for example.

### **High School Parent Class Meetings**

Research shows that the brains of youth ages 14 - 18 are still growing, and youth of this age are still developing the actual brain capacity for good decision making. It's a parent's job to help their teens remain safe through effective parental supervision while also promoting the skills they need to become independent and responsible adults. Finding this balance can be tricky when teens are pushing for greater independence and freedom. The high school parent class meetings provide one way to connect and talk about this and other important topics. A sample of a student- parent driving contract will also be

available. Sponsored by Orcas High School and Orcas Island Prevention Partnership, the meetings are scheduled for:

Monday, February 4, 7:00 PM - Orcas School Library - Sophomore Class parent network meeting.

Watch for the schedule for the remaining classes in the February newsletter.

### **The Funhouse After Hours Program Parent Meeting**

Parents are invited to attend an After Hours parent (middle and high school) meeting Monday, January 28, at 7 PM at the Funhouse to ask questions, provide input and suggestions for improving the program. A number of parental concerns raised at parent class meetings have been brought to the attention of the Funhouse staff and are being addressed. Of greatest importance is the addition of increased outdoor lighting to improve visibility and ease of supervision for students waiting outside to be picked up when the middle school program ends at 9:00 PM.

### **DRIVING CONTRACT FOR YOUNG DRIVERS**

(Sample contract donated by George Spees and reprinted with his permission – Thanks George.)

#### **ALLOWED USES OF VEHICLE**

- to and from work, school, practices and activities
- family errands
- 2 personal uses per week

#### **RULES**

1. Always have driver's license, auto registration and insurance card while driving.
2. Wear seatbelts.
3. Follow state and county laws.
4. No more than three passengers when allowed to have passengers.
5. No heavy-duty hauling
6. No one else drives the vehicle.
7. No driving while impaired or intoxicated.
  - Call any time to be picked up if necessary – discuss next morning
8. No alcohol or illegal drugs allowed in the vehicle.
9. No smoking in the vehicle.
10. Stop vehicle immediately if warning lights (oil and temperature gauge) go on.
  - Be an observer of your instrument panel, noises, etc. Report any unusual symptoms immediately
11. Periodically check all lights, turn signals and tires with parent.
12. Keep vehicle clean.
13. Contribute to gas money
14. Check oil every time you get gas.
15. Report an accident to local police at once.
  - Get name, address and phone number of any eye-witnesses if possible
16. Any ticket causes revocation of driving privileges.

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Driver Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **HONOR ROLL AND HIGH HONOR ROLL**

**Congratulations** to the following students who achieved Honor Roll or High Honor Roll for the first quarter of this school year. Middle School students will be recognized for their achievement at an assembly on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Since high school grades are not final until the semester, high school students who achieve Honor Roll and High Honor Roll for the semester will be recognized at an assembly at the beginning February.

**Orcas Island High/Middle Schools  
Honor Roll  
3.25-3.49  
November 2001**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Sofia Padbury  
Raymond Harvey  
Elena Chocano  
Conrad Wrobel

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Valerie Plummer  
Sarah Avena

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Makayla Speed  
Lily Ryder  
Patrick Stevens  
Amanda Callahan

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Marriah Vinson  
Brettlyn Jameson  
Tommy Becker  
Rachel Duke  
Zac Parkerson

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Wills Fritzberg  
Jessica Doyle  
Jordan Gage  
Chris Bennett  
Kate Hansen  
James Brown  
Megan Batzle

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Sadie Evans  
Chris Sanders  
Aaron Schmidt  
Cory Harrington  
Jacqueline Taylor

**High Honor Roll  
3.50-4.00  
November 2001**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Willie Clancy  
Alexa Nigretto  
Annie Kucklick  
Miel Bredouw  
Dyan Holmes  
Micah Lefton  
Suzanna Wrightsman  
Laura Swanland

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Woody Ciskowski  
Muriel Gallo-Chasanoff  
Jenole Peacock  
Hailee Douglas  
Megan Swanland  
Lindsay Tellefsen  
Tiffany Holtman  
Domonique Pinardi

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Zach Smith  
McLane Stone  
Rachel Harvey  
Josh Gage  
Michael Rupp  
Colin Gaylord  
Leah Schmidt  
Minnie Bredouw

Brittany Lee  
Zach Dolan  
Hannah Tuson-Turner

Miles Murphy  
Willy Nichols  
Jacob Bossler  
Sidney Hayworth  
Sophie Sisson  
Afton Jones  
Chandler Stone  
Chase Cooper  
Minta Allred  
Winslow Moran-Hodge  
Cameron Kamphaus

Becca Parish  
Lindsay Brunius

**10th Grade**

Madeleine Tuson-Turner  
Angela Boucher  
Teddy Coleman  
Barry Jones  
Rob Kihlstrom  
Indy Zoeller  
Natasha Warachowski  
John Wulff  
Jacqueline Guilford  
Justin Rorabaugh

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Clancy  
Kathleen Kline  
Vanessa Button  
Lyria Shaffer-Bauck  
Katie Wrightsman  
Amy Berdan  
Elizabeth Nelson  
Danielle Johanneck  
Drew Gutschmidt  
Julianne Garritan  
Stephen Humes  
Zach Lefton  
Blaine Buscher  
Christiana Speed  
Crystal Taylor  
Shanda Smith  
Scott Wrobel  
Zack Robertson  
Emmanuel Chocano  
Rebecca LaPorte  
Elizabeth Kistler  
Cynthia Zimbelman  
Megan Duke  
Cassie McDowell

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Travis Anderson  
Jessica Kihlstrom  
Terra Armstrong  
Tara Linnes  
Rob Harvey  
Boone McKinney  
Caitlan Greene  
Molly Sisson  
Lily Durland  
Christina Cantwell  
Sam Kenady  
Tony Clark  
Blake Fleischer