

CHS Communiqué

Parent Student Faculty Association Newsletter

Volume Twelve, Issue 6



February 2012

CHS Communiqué is the official publication of the CHS PSFA, The Parent Student Faculty Association of Communications High School, a Monmouth County Career Academy.

CHS Communiqué is published monthly from September to June, plus one summer issue, to communicate the plans, progress and events of the CHS PSFA.

Editor:

Mary Miele aces98@hotmail.com

Co-Presidents' Corner

By Debbie and John Talamo

We begin February looking forward to a great second half of the school year, gearing up for the PSFA's biggest event: the Dinner Dance and Gift Raffle for parents and faculty on March 3, 2012 at The Mill in Spring Lake. Come on "Down the Shore!" and enjoy an evening of good company, good food and good prizes.

The students have just completed their final exams for the first semester. In an effort to have all the students and faculty energized for exams, the PSFA provided Bagel Breakfasts on the mornings of Wednesday, January 26 and Thursday, January 27. Many thanks to the Hospitality chairs, **Eda Saeger and Susan Svihart**, who feed our hungry students. We hope to continue this tradition of keeping all of CHS fueled with a healthy breakfast for those grueling exam days!

Now that exams are over and the first semester has ended, the **PSFA Graduation Awards** program will begin its process. The application form will be given to seniors with a 90.0 or higher grade point average. See Page 2 for more information.

We thank the many wonderful volunteers who keep the PSFA flourishing. However, there is always room for additional help. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please contact one of the PSFA officers. **We hope you will consider starting off the new semester with a commitment to help the PSFA have an even more successful second half of the year.**

We especially need volunteers to help create a successful **Dinner Dance and Gift Raffle** on March 3, 2012. This single event funds the many events and programs that our children enjoy throughout the school year. We need **everyone's** help to make it a success. Please consider volunteering your time and making a donation to help with our efforts to make this event a great evening for all! The Dinner Dance and Gift Raffle will be the special topic of this month's PSFA meeting. See Page 3 for details on how you can help.

Annual Graduation Awards



Once again, the PSFA will present monetary awards of \$500 each to a select group of seniors upon graduation. Application forms will be distributed during February to all seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 90 or above. All interested seniors should complete the application and return it to their counselors. If you have any questions, please contact the Guidance Office or contact Debbie Talamo at 732-577-6820 or dtalamo@optonline.net.

MAGAZINE SALE CONTINUES...

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to order or renew their magazines!

If you did not participate in the Magazine Drive, you can **still** contribute to CHS with your future magazine orders or renewals. **Anytime** you want to purchase or renew a magazine subscription, 40% of your purchase will be donated to CHS if you:

1. Go to the CHS home page www.chs.mcvsd.org
2. Click on "**PSFA**".
3. Click on "**Magazine Sale...renew or order.**"

Remember, you can check or confirm your order at www.MagTrak.com or call 877-289-6247.

If you have any questions, please contact George Amadeo at 732-787-3333.

Hello CHS Families!

The Dinner Dance and Gift Raffle, our one major fundraiser, will be held on Saturday, March 3rd. That is just one month away! It is not too late for you to help with this event.

Here is the status of our efforts to date:

- 10 families have made cash donations. This money will be used to purchase our “big ticket” raffle prizes.
- 5 people have solicited area businesses for donations.
- 8 families have donated items or gift cards for the raffle.

We are so grateful to everyone has contributed!

We still need your help. We are hoping for 100% participation from CHS families! We hope that each family will do at least one of the following:

1. Use the Ad Solicitation form to place or get an ad for the program.
2. Use the Gift Solicitation form to ask for donations of raffle items or gift cards from local businesses.
3. Contribute a donation of \$25.00.

It really is easier than you may think to approach a business. I was at the Princess Maria Diner last week and as I paid my bill, I used the Gift Solicitation letter to ask for a donation. They immediately gave me a \$20 Gift Card! It only took two minutes and they were very happy to donate.

Try to remember the following points: the worst that can happen is that the business says “no”; businesses are accustomed to being approached for donations; many businesses give gift certificates in hope of finding a new customer; most people who come in with a gift certificate spend money. Donating is good for area businesses!

Here is another idea for a way you could help:

- Use your points that have accrued on credit cards or air miles to purchase gifts to donate for our raffle baskets.
- Donate gifts that you have received but may not use.

If you have found that you are unable to help with an ad or gift solicitation, please support our event by sending the following to CHS in an envelope marked “PSFA Dinner Dance” or to Kathy Gilbert at 1094 Hawthorne Parkway, Spring Lake, NJ 07762.

We hope to see you on March 3rd!!!



Fantastic February!!!

Dine at The Mill anytime during the month of February and have 10% of your check donated to your child's class! In addition, The Mill will donate an extra 5% to the class that generates the most revenue! Look for vouchers to be sent home soon!!!

CHS PSFA BARNES & NOBLE BOOKFAIR

The CHS PSFA will be having our first bookfair at **Barnes & Noble – Monmouth Mall on Saturday, May 13, 2012 from 9:00am – 11:00pm.** Please support the CHS PSFA by coming to Barnes & Noble on the day of the bookfair and making a purchase. This is a perfect time to make your purchases for Mother's Day. We will also be wrapping that day. We can use all the help we can get – parents, students, teachers. We are asking for help in 2 hour shifts beginning at 9:00am.

Can't make it to the store at all? You can also make your purchases online from **Saturday, May 13 through Thursday, May 17, 2012.**

Stay tuned for additional details...

In the meantime, please let us know which 2 hour shift works best for you.
Thanks!

Submitted by –
Paula Dazio

Pdazio59@yahoo.com or 732-741-3824

From the Guidance Department...

Seniors: Congratulations to our seniors on getting all of those applications out on time. As acceptances roll in, please remind your child to bring us acceptance letters and merit scholarship offers. This information helps us when future classes ask where our students are going and what schools offer merit money. Remember to file the FAFSA forms NOW! Most colleges use this information when awarding institutional aid. Also, check to see if the colleges, universities, or scholarship programs your child applying to require the CSS Profile as part of their financial aid process.

Midyear reports will be sent automatically to the Colleges and Universities that require this information.

Keep checking the Guidance Room on the BBS for the latest scholarship opportunities. You also have access to Naviance, which has an extensive scholarship search. Do not forget www.fastweb.com, www.collegeboard.com, and www.meritaid.com as additional sources for scholarship opportunities. If your child needs transcripts or letters of recommendation for a scholarship, please give us the scholarship name and address, and materials will be sent directly to them; or bring us the completed application and an addressed envelope.

As we continue our articulation agreement with Seton Hall University (SHU), many seniors are completing college credits from the Fall semester, and some are preparing to participate in the Spring semester. Mrs. Gidos and Mrs. Caruso will be meeting with seniors (and juniors!) who are eligible to participate in the Spring semester and a mailing explaining our articulation agreement will be coming home shortly. If your child has completed a course and participated in the SHU articulation agreement, it is time to start thinking about transferring those credits to the college or university that your child will be attending. Students must obtain an official SHU transcript after their course is completed. Transfer request forms are available in PDF format online at: <http://www.shu.edu/alumni/transcripts.cfm>. Credit transfer is between SHU and the College or University that your child will be attending. Please be sure to check that the credits are transferable to your child's post-secondary college or university and process the transcript request accordingly.

Juniors: Thursday, March 8th at 6:30 pm is Junior Parent Night. Students should attend with their parents to learn everything you ever wanted to know about the college search and the application process. You will find this to be an informative night as you begin to explore the college application process with your child. We will cover such topics as the college search, college admissions, letters of recommendation, testing, individual responsibilities, timelines and using Naviance as a preparation tool.

Guidance Department continued...

Mrs. Caruso and Mrs. Gidos are also meeting with juniors individually to discuss planning for post-secondary education and have worked with Mrs. Harmon and Mr. Mann in their Media Writing classes to help the juniors start their post-secondary planning.

Mrs. Caruso and Mrs. Gidos will meet with Mrs. Campbell's Spanish IV to discuss Seton Hall credits (see above). The students will receive an information packet about participation in this dual enrollment articulation agreement.

The STUDENT PREPARATION BOOKLET for the *MARCH 2012 HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT* (HSPA) will be given to the students in early February. Be sure to ask for it or it may get lost in the black hole otherwise known as a CHS locker. The HSPAs will be given on March 6 (Math), 7 (Language Arts – Day 1), and 8 (Language Arts – Day 2). The make-up days will be the following week: March 13 (Math), March 14 (LA Day 1), and March 15 (LA Day 2). Please make sure your children are here every day to take these tests. If they do not complete them during the two weeks in March then they must take them again in October of their senior year. If he or she does not complete or pass the HSPA, HE OR SHE WILL NOT GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

Sophomores: Mrs. Caruso and Mrs. Gidos are meeting with sophomores individually. We are focusing on requirements for National Honor Society, how to choose junior class electives, and PSAT and SAT tests. We also talk about how to find community service opportunities and summer programs offered by colleges across the country and around the world.

Freshmen: Continue to encourage your children to join activities both in school and in the community. If their GPA is under 92, remind them that an overall average of 92 for 9th and 10th grade is needed for National Honor Society.

EVERYONE: We are beginning a new semester, so encourage your children to clean out their lockers and desks at home for a fresh start. For seniors, it is their last semester in high school. It is hard to stay focused when the college acceptance letters and scholarship letters are rolling in, but colleges have rescinded acceptances if the final marking period grades are significantly lower than previous semesters. And of course, seniors must pass every class in order to graduate.





National Honor Society

National Honor Society conducted a series of computer classes for the community. The sessions were held after school at CHS on January 12, 19, and 26 from 3-4 PM. Each attendee had an NHS member to instruct them on use of the computer and received individualized instruction. The Wall Public Library schedules the signups and the NHS provides the location and instruction.



NAHS

The NAHS hosted a Watercolor Techniques workshop on January 17th. Council members Kira DeSomma and Emil Gombos demonstrated 2 techniques to members McKenzie Pavacich, Sarah Resnick, Sarah Soltes, Sarah Gleason and Billie Haas. The next workshop will be held on February 2nd where members will decorate desserts to be sold February 3rd at the NAHS Artist Showcase. See more information regarding the Showcase in this Communiqué!"



NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY

NAHS 2012 showcase

Friday, February 3, 2012

at Communications High School

Time: 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Donations Graciously Accepted
(All donations to benefit the
NAHS Spring NYC Museum Trip.)

Refreshments * Coffee



No Matter the Cost The Montagues Proved to be the Better Family

Ever since the English I students began studying William Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*; they have been divided into two families: The Capulets and Montagues. As a member of their familial team, they prepared mentally and physically to take part in mini-challenges everyday ("to-the-death" battles). Whether they were rapping about their family, creating a coat of arms, reciting early modern English sonnets or baking symbolic treats to represent the play's themes all of the students were committed to earning the most tallies and the title, "Best Family". After arduous weeks of feuding, the Montagues came out on top, winning by more than twenty tallies. Congratulations!!

-Mrs. Kelly Harmon, English I Instructor



The classroom tally bulletin board. The Capulets received roses & the Montagues received swords for high grades and random acts of kindness.



Carolyn Stanton's "Montulet" cake wins the bake off!



Both families participate in a relay race to find their wedding attire during lunch/activity period.

CHS Students Compete on MSGVarsity's "The Challenge"

On November 15, 2011 Mr. Clark and Mrs. Harmon took Dylan Mendelson, Aislinn Brennan, Kira DeSomma, James Larisch and Captain Christian Kelly to compete at MSG Varsity's high school quiz show, "The Challenge" (which aired January 12). While the CHS team outscored their opposition, Randolph High School in the first two rounds, they were not fast enough during the final "Complete 180" round and were ultimately defeated. Although the team and the forty audience members (CHS friends and family members) returned home with long faces, they looked forward to seeing themselves on Cablevision's Channel 14. Even though the show has already aired, you can watch the episode on the MSGVarsity website.



Seniors Aislinn Brennan, Kira DeSomma, & Dylan Mendelson pose for a quick photo backstage before their big debut.



- Mrs. Harmon, Advisor

SkillsUSA Photography Competition February 4, 2012

Congratulations to Kelly Morris and Danielle Siminerio! These two students submitted their photography portfolio and competed at the school level to represent CHS in the state SkillsUSA photography competition at Ocean County Vocational High School on February 4, 2012! We look forward to you bringing home the gold, ladies.

SkillsUSA Prepares for the NJ Skill & Leadership Competitions by Selling Oreo Truffles

SkillsUSA & National Technical Honor Society members are gearing up for the NJ Skill and Leadership Championships that will take place March 31, 2011 at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ. This year CHS will send 45 members who will compete in over fifteen different competitions. These competitions represent various career-related themed areas such as: Photography, Web Design, Broadcast & News Production, Audio & Radio Production, 3D Animation, Crime Scene Investigation, etc. While students are busy honing their skills, they are also actively trying to fundraise enough money for state competition registration fees. (SkillsUSA charges 85\$ per student to compete!) As a result, members are making and selling oreo balls on Friday afternoons: 3 for 1.00\$

If you have any cream cheese or oreos (generic brands are just as good!) that you could donate, please have your child drop the ingredients off to Room 206!! We would greatly appreciate it!

- Kelly Harmon, SkillsUSA & NTHS Advisor



Nina-Marie Amadeo Takes an Active Role as SkillsUSA Central Regional President

Even though Nina-Marie Amadeo was content with being the school's SkillsUSA public relations coordinator, she wanted to make changes at the state level, so she ran for the state's central regional president position and won.

As the president Nina-Marie has been extremely active traveling around the state, presenting at leadership conferences and meeting other SkillsUSA members while informing students about the club's mission, objectives, etc.

Most recently, Nina-Marie attended Gloucester County Institute of Technology to present at the Southern Regional Leadership Conference and on February 24, 2012 she will be organizing a state-wide SkillsUSA Day at Cape May County Technical School. Way to go, Nina-Marie! Keep up the awesome work!





The Cultural Communications Club started the New Year strong with successful breakfast sales each Friday and lots of dancing! We are now hosting Zumba at CHS twice per month for \$5 per session. All parents and students are welcome to attend, regardless of club involvement. The money will be benefitting St. Jude's Research Hospital. Co-Vice President Gia Reilly is in charge of Zumba and can answer any questions you may have about those events at Gia_Reilly@chs.mcvsd.org.

February is a very exciting month for us, as we start out on the 4th with the Special Olympics! Approximately twenty club members, organized by Events Coordinator Sarah Gleason, will be spending the Saturday bowling with our special friends in Lakewood. We are very excited to be a part of this again and will be attending the March session as well!

Also in February, we have our trip to the United Nations organized by Events Coordinator Tyler McManus. Fifty active club members will be attending a peace conference at the UN on February 15th. This trip has been hugely successful in the past and it is a great opportunity for students to obtain a broader understanding of the international goal to promote social progress and friendly relations between countries.

Don't forget, our annual festival is on March 16th this year, which is right around the corner! Anyone interested in helping with that, please email me at Rachel_Belli@chs.mcvsd.org. Thank you!

ONE-TIME DONATION

A SPECIAL OFFER TO CHS FAMILIES

The Communications High School PSFA has a number of fundraisers planned for the 2011-2012 school year. Our goal is to raise money to support all of our planned student events and programs. Many CHS families want to support these efforts, but have trouble finding the time to respond to fundraising requests. Therefore, for your convenience, the PSFA is offering a **one-time fundraising donation option**.

For a one-time donation of \$100 or more, you can help our fundraising efforts, and then, knowing that you have done your part, simply disregard the PSFA fundraising that will be brought to your attention through the year. (Of course, if something appeals to you, please feel free to participate!)

If you are interested in this option, please fill out the section below and send to the school office with your check in an envelope marked "CHS PSFA – Donations". To ensure that your donation reaches us, you can mail your donation to:

CHS PSFA, 1740 New Bedford Road, Wall, NJ 07719-3740

Please note: Your family will still be informed about planned fundraising, but you can feel free to disregard the information.

As always, we thank you for your help and support.

**PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING ADVANTAGE OF
THIS TIME-SAVING OPTION IN ORDER TO
SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL
WITHOUT PARTICIPATION IN FUNDRAISERS.**

Student Name: _____ Class of 20__ __

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Enclosed: One-Time Donation of \$_____ (Please make check payable to **CHS PSFA**)

Two easy ways to support CHS... at no cost to you!

1 OneCause.com

If you ever shop on-line, we have a great way for you to shop and benefit Communications High School at the same time:

OneCause.com, where you can shop at merchants like: **Aeropostole, Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com, Staples, Walmart.com, Toys R Us, Dell, Apple Store, MacMall, Shutterfly, NetFlix** and many, many more!



Using **OneCause.com** is easy! Before you shop, start at www.onecause.com (or add it to your "Favorites", and remember to click there every time you plan to shop). Then check the list of merchants to see if your "store" is there, and start shopping. When you shop through **OneCause.com**, a **percentage of every purchase you make goes to CHS!**

HOW TO JOIN (www.onecause.com)

- 1) Click **Join | Supporters | Join Now**
- 2) Type School Organization: **Communications High School**

CLICK. SHOP. CONTRIBUTE !!!

2 Show your support with the **OneCause Visa® Platinum**

Contribute to Communications High School every time you shop with the OneCause Visa® Platinum! Anywhere you shop, for anything you purchase, you will earn:

- a 1% contribution on total purchases made.
- extra contributions at the stores and catalogs of [Visa Rewards Merchants](#).
- a \$20 bonus contribution the first time you use your card!



Simply apply for and register your new card with OneCause, then use it to make all of your everyday purchases. The OneCause Visa Platinum also offers no cap, no annual fee and as little as 0% APR for the first six to 12 months. Learn more and apply now at our [secure online application form](#).

In response to a student call for a reduction in the incidence of cheating, the CHS Honor Code was written and instituted. The Honor Code, put into effect at the start of the 2011 – 2012 school year, outlines the major types of academic dishonesty and asks students and parents to abide by its guidelines. This important first step marks the beginning of a seven-year goal as part of the current Middle States Accreditation process. To help meet the Middle States goal of reducing the incidence of cheating by 11% by the spring of 2018, a Peer Review Board has been developed.

Beginning second semester, the Peer Review Board will function to meet with students who violate the CHS Honor Code and make recommendations to Mr. Gleason as to possible consequences. The Peer Review Board hopes to help students understand what it means to have academic integrity and to hold students accountable to their peers when they violate the CHS Honor Code. With the Peer Review Board in place, CHS is moving closer to meeting its goal and improving the academic integrity of the school community.

I will be available to answer any questions parents have at the February PSFA meeting and you can contact me via email at leah_morgan@chs.mcvsd.org. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at the February PSFA meeting.

- Leah Morgan
Academic Integrity Committee Chairperson

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Get all your CHS news and information in

CHS Communiqué

Parent Student Faculty Association Newsletter

The *Communiqué* uses a “paperless” distribution system. We distribute the newsletter and other important PSFA announcements via our email system. **Please take a moment to register online at <http://chs-psfa.org/communique/>.**

You may register as many emails as you would like and can un-subscribe at any time. Of course, we never give away your personal information. Contact Mark Allen at 732-216-4350 or mark@redbankweb.com with any questions.

YEARBOOK NEWS.....



\$\$ PRE-ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK & SAVE!

ORDER YOUR CHS YEARBOOK RIGHT NOW. DON'T DELAY, COST NOW IS \$85.00.

THIS YEARS BOOK WILL BE OUR BIGGEST YEARBOOK EVER!

ORDER ONLINE @ [HTTP://SHOP.JOSTENS.COM/](http://shop.jostens.com/)

GOT PICTURES?

EMAIL PHOTOS TO
YEARBOOK@CHS.MCVSD.ORG

THE YEARBOOK STAFF INVITES YOU TO SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR THE YEARBOOK. IF YOU'VE GOT GREAT PHOTOS, WE'D LIKE TO SEE THEM. OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE. HELP US GET AS MANY PHOTOS AS POSSIBLE TO CREATE A TERRIFIC BOOK EVERYONE WILL



CHS CLASS OF '12 WE WANT YOU!

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR BABY PICTURE TO MRS. ROD VIA THE BBS, DROP IT IN THE PINK BOX IN ROOM 220, OR SEND IN A BABY PIC TO MRS. ROD VIA REGULAR MAIL. PUT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK SO WE CAN RETURN IT ASAP!

BUT DON'T WORRY .. →

WE HAVE A SUBSTITUTE PHOTO FOR THOSE OF YOU



SENIORS.. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY ?

YOUR QUOTES FOR THE YEARBOOK ARE DUE ASAP VIA GOOGLEDOKS
CLICK HERE. (LINK IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE BBS CLASS OF 2012 BOARD)
PLEASE TRY TO COME UP WITH 2 QUOTES, SO WE CAN ELIMINATE DUPLICATES

YEARBOOK AD ORDER

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ACTUAL SIZE →

ALL ADS WILL BE 2 X 3.5

\$25 EA PAYABLE TO 'CHS STUDENT ACTIVITIES'

ATTACH YOUR AD OR WRITE IN YOUR TEXT HERE





COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL FEBRUARY & MARCH 2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2	PSFA MEETING	7:30 PM
FEBRUARY 3	NAHS ART SHOW	6:00-8:30 PM
FEBRUARY 4	DESIGN ACADEMY ENTRANCE EXAM	8:00-10:00AM
FEBRUARY 10	SGA-SENIOR CITIZEN PROM	6:30-8:30 PM
FEBRUARY 15	LAKWOOD HEAD START MULTICULTURAL EVENT	9:00 AM
FEBRUARY 15	CHS TALENT SHOW	6:30 PM
FEBRUARY 17	SCHOOL CLOSED	
FEBRUARY 20	SCHOOL CLOSED	
MARCH 1	PSFA MEETING	7:30 PM
MARCH 3	PSFA DINNER DANCE	
MARCH 30	END OF MARKING PERIOD 3	
MARCH 31	SKILLSUSA NJ STATE COMPETITION	

CHS PSFA 2011-2012 OFFICERS

Co-President: Debbie Talamo dtalamo@optonline.net	Treasurer: Isabella Grove isabellagrove@optonline.net
Co-President: John Talamo dtalamo@optonline.net	Recording Secretary: Cindy Allen cindylouallen@comcast.net
Vice-President: George Amadeo Ninigeorge716@verizon.net	Corresponding Secretary: Eda Saeger edas@optonline.net