

CHS Communiqué

Parent Student Faculty Association Newsletter

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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 to communicate the plans, progress and events of the CHS PSFA.

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Submissions are welcome.

Principally Connected

By James R. Gleason, Principal

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a restful break. I would like to start 2011 by recognizing the wonderful snow-clearing job of my custodial staff during the holiday break. Some of the snowdrifts around the school were 5 to 6 feet deep, and, unlike a house, the entire perimeter of the school needs a path for evacuation purposes. They worked for two solid days to get the snow removed and exits cleared. That said, there is still a tremendous amount of snow in our parking lot, and students that typically drive are going to be asked to curtail their driving until some of the snow melts. During the snow season, we lose up to a dozen spots. The only students that have permission to drive at this time are our mentorship students.

As many of you know, we started the year with the enthusiasm that we would have a new parking lot by this time. All of our plans have been sent to the State of New Jersey for final approval. I remain optimistic that this parking lot will become a reality once State approval is granted. Let's hope that 2011 can bring this much needed and highly anticipated addition to our school.

January 28 is the end of our first semester, which brings the anticipation of classes for next semester. Please feel free to contact teachers with any concerns you may have regarding their educational program and your child's current progress.

Exams are scheduled for January 26 and 27 as indicated on our school calendar. Teachers will be communicating this schedule to students. There are some circumstances that require teachers to administer their exams earlier in the week due to scheduling. Those exam schedules are also communicated to the students via their teachers.

Our guidance counselors have organized our annual college information night for Thursday, March 10 starting at 6:30 pm. If you are a junior parent, it is very important that you attend to get all the details of our college application procedure. Please join us.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

In case of inclement weather, students should listen to their local radio station or log on to <http://www.cancellations.com>.

Please do not call the school.

The school closing will be announced as **Monmouth County Vocational Schools, not Communications High School.**

WJLK	AM-1310 FM-94.3	Monmouth County
WJLK	AM-1310 FM-98.5	Ocean County
WHTG	AM-1410 FM-106.3	Eatontown
WBUD	AM-1260 FM-101.5	Trenton
WPST	FM-97.6	Trenton

In addition, school closings will be listed on:
TV Channel 12, News 12 New Jersey

On Saturday, January 8 at 9:00 am, the Monmouth County Vocational School District will hold an open house for all shared time programs across our district. The event is held at the High Technology High School. If you have a sophomore or junior student in high school who is interested in career education, this will be a very informative session. I wish you and your family a successful and prosperous 2011.

Co-Presidents' Corner

By Cathy Smith and Susie Woods



Last month, the tune "Let it Snow" was quite catchy, until the Winter Break Blizzard hit Monmouth County! What a way to send out 2010 and clear the way for 2011. As we welcome this New Year, let us continue to work together to ensure that CHS provides the best possible experience for all its students.

Many thanks to Penny Towey for organizing the Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap Fundraiser in December. We are grateful to her and to the parents and students who gave their time to make the fundraiser a success.

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 1, 2011. The Dinner Dance Gift Raffle committee had their kick-off meeting on December 2, 2010. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, providing the funds to enrich our children's education with events and programs offered throughout the year. Its success is contingent on your involvement. Please consider volunteering your time and making a donation to help with our efforts to make this event a great evening for all!

Plans for the winter Driver Education course have changed. The registration deadline has been extended. The rescheduled classes will

begin January 18 and run for 14 weeks if the necessary minimum of ten students is reached. This course will help students prepare for the written test that will be taken at DMV. Details can be found on page 3.

The PSFA also plans to offer a Princeton Review course to help students prepare for the SATs. Consider taking advantage of this service that the PSFA provides for the CHS students. Look for details to arrive in the mail from Princeton Review soon.

Please remind your child that the PSFA will provide a "Bagel Breakfast Before Exams" on January 26 and January 27 to help all our students do well on these important tests!

We encourage all CHS parents to resolve in this New Year to volunteer with the PSFA. It is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in your child's daily life. These four years pass quickly; be a part of them to show your child how valuable you consider their education. On behalf of the entire CHS PSFA Executive board, have a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year!

Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping Fundraiser A Success!

The PSFA thanks all parents and National Honor Society members who donated their precious pre-holiday time to wrap gifts for tips at Barnes & Noble. Patty Vollherbst, Ellen Harrold, Paula Dazio, Amy Goldberg, Donna Coulter, Sarah Diaz and Debbie and John Talamo, together with 21 NHS members, helped raise \$450.00 for the PSFA to support the students and faculty of CHS.

Submitted by Penny Towey, Barnes & Noble Fundraising Chair

Gracias ! Mercí ! Thank you !

to all the CHS families who have responded to the One-Time Donation Request.

The PSFA is truly grateful for your support. It is because of the generosity of our CHS families that the PSFA is able to provide the activities and events that enhance the education of **every** CHS student.

COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL
Parent Student Faculty Association
Winter 2011 Driver Written Test Preparation Course
REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

A Driver Education Theory Class will again be made available to CHS students, coordinated by the PSFA. The purpose of the course is to teach the basic principles of the rules of the road, and will prepare students for the written test that they will be take at the DMV. (This test is not included in the course.)

There are 25 slots available on a first come, first served basis. There is a required minimum of 10 students to hold the class. **As of January 7, only 7 students had registered. The deadline, therefore, has been extended until Thursday, January 13, with rescheduled classes to begin on Tuesday, January 18 if the minimum enrollment of ten students is reached.**

A parent chaperone is needed at each class. Each parent of a registered student will be expected to chaperone one class. The schedule will be arranged via e-mail.

Classes will begin Tuesday, January 18, 2011 through May 3, 2011 from 2:45 until 4:45 pm at CHS. There will be no classes held during mid-term or final exams. A total of 14 classes are scheduled, with one snow day included. The cost of the class is \$150. Students are responsible for their own transportation home after class. The course is open to any student, but is geared to the student that will be eligible to obtain their permit in the next year (16 years of age). This is a theory class only; behind the wheel training is a separate course that is arranged by the student. Coast Driving School also offers a 6-hour behind the wheel course, which can be arranged by calling Lori Conley at 732-531-1378.

Each student will receive a certificate upon successful completion of the class for possible insurance discount purposes. Please note that insurance discounts vary by individual insurance companies. Please call your specific insurance company to inquire.

Any student who becomes a discipline problem will be given only one warning. If the problem continues, they will be removed from the class without a refund.

Students must submit the attached enrollment form below with a check for \$150, made out to CHS PSFA. Forms should be handed in at the CHS office no later than **Thursday, January 12, 2011**. Students will receive email confirmation by January 13, 2011 to inform them whether the course will be held.

Please contact **Susan Woods** if you have any questions or need additional information.
Phone: 732-747-4004 **email woods732@verizon.net**

Please print the following form and return with payment to the CHS office. Please email Susan at woods732@verizon.net to let her know that you have registered.

CHS Winter Driver's Written Test Preparation Course
My check for \$150 payable to CHS PSFA is enclosed.

Student Name _____ Phone # _____

Parent Name _____ Email _____

Tentative dates: Tuesdays, Jan.18, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 30, April 5, 12, 19, May 3.

Please feel free to request a date to chaperone at registration. A full list of dates and chaperones will be emailed to all parents of students in the course.



National Honor Society News

December 6—National Honor Society members conducted a Senior Citizen computer class at CHS. The chairperson was Brian Murphy. NHS is planning to offer one computer class each month to the community.

December 11—NHS members entertained the children and their families on the “Santa Train” that runs from Middletown to Bay Head and back. The chairperson was Amanda Piazza.

December 13—NHS members conducted a tree ornament painting activity with the residents of the nursing home Care One at Wall. The chairperson was Rachael Gallagher.

December 17—NHS members worked at the Neptune Police Headquarters to sort toys from the local Toy Drive and contributed toys as well. Members helped to sort the toys by age groups so that bags could be prepared for local families in need. They then made calls to the recipient families of the Neptune Police Toy Drive regarding pickup of the toys. The chairperson was Gabby Maurer.

Submitted by Kathleen Mazzacco, NHS Advisor

Cultural Communications Club

The **Cultural Communications Club** has been very busy during the month of December. Several members of the club worked hard to make bracelets from magazines. The paper is cut into thin strips, rolled around a toothpick, and covered with a hardening substance. Then, the beads are connected and the final result is amazingly beautiful. The club sold almost one hundred bracelets during the first week of December.



On December 10 to 12, members of the club worked at Barnes & Noble wrapping books for tips. It was a great experience; our students are always polite, responsible, and very welcomed by the customers, the manager, and the staff of the store.

December 17 was a very busy day for the club. In the morning we hosted the preschoolers from Head Start. Every year, we put together a program that includes dances, songs, stories, and lots of love for these underprivileged kids. Each one received a beautiful teddy bear donated by the Salvation Army, a very cool CCC shirt with our logo on the front and their name on the back, and a goodie bag with Play Doh, books, crayons, notebooks, and more. This is the activity that our students enjoy most every year.

ZUMBA? The second “Zumbathon” took place on December 17, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm, at Gold’s Gym in Howell. These “Zumbathons” are the product of a great community effort. First, we have Pedro, the Gold’s Gym manager, who allows us to use the gym free of charge. Second, we have Nicole, the instructor, who, between her teaching job and her courses for her Masters degree, donates her time. Third, we have several gym members that attend our “Zumbathons;” and then, of course, we have the CHS students, friends, and family that come to Zumba. This activity is part of “Workout for Saint Jude.”

On January 22, club members will volunteer at the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament at Ocean Lanes in Lakewood. If you are interested in helping with this or any other activity in which the club participates, please send me an email. All the funds raised by the club will be donated to Saint Jude Hospital at the end of the school year.

I know I have said this before, but every time we have any activity that involves volunteering, our students are the first to give their time, skills, effort and love to those who need them most. Everything is possible with these kids!

Submitted by Sabina Campbell, Cultural Communications Club Advisor

From the Guidance Department...

Seniors: In the guidance office, the rush of college applications is over, but students should be checking for scholarship opportunities. Visit www.fastweb.com for a free scholarship search. When completing those scholarship applications, it is important to be aware of deadlines. If transcripts are required, we need a business-sized envelope addressed to the organization sponsoring the scholarship. As scholarship opportunities are received in the guidance office, we will post them on the guidance page of the BBS.

Seniors must complete the FAFSA after January 1, 2011 to qualify for any financial aid. You are encouraged to apply even if you do not think you will qualify for any aid. Visit www.pin.ed.gov to apply for a PIN and www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete the FAFSA application. You are strongly encouraged to apply online. Make sure you give your guidance counselor a copy of your acceptance letters as they arrive.

Juniors: The spring SATs will be here before you know it. You must register for the March 12 SATs by February 11. Every time you take the SATs you are entitled to send four free score reports to colleges. If you are not sure of college choices yet, but are considering playing a sport in college, then send the scores to the NCAA. If you are considering a military academy or ROTC program, then the scores should be sent to them. Even though there is now "score choice," most colleges prefer that all of the scores be sent.

Mark your calendars for **Junior Parent Night** on Thursday March 10 at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria. Students are encouraged to attend with their parents. We will be covering the following topics: the college search, college admissions, testing, individual responsibilities, and Naviance.

Sophomores and Freshmen: Remember that final exams will be given on Wednesday, January 26 and Thursday, January 27. Do not put off studying until the last night before exams. Take advantage of review sessions and STUDY the STUDY GUIDE. The second semester begins on Monday January 31. It is time to clean out those lockers and start off fresh in the new semester.

ALL: Check the Guidance Page and the bulletin board in the guidance office for summer programs and volunteer opportunities. If you need a transcript sent to a program, you will need to have a transcript release form signed.

Submitted by Sandra Gidos, Guidance Department

To visit the online Guidance Department:

Go to www.chs.mcvsd.org

Click on "guidance".

To order photos from any 2010-2011 CHS events, go to
<http://www.shutterfly.com/pro/CommunicationsHS/2010to2011SchoolYear>

COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JANUARY 13, 2011-THURSDAY	OPEN AFTER SCHOOL	2:30 TO 4:00 PM
JANUARY 17, 2011-MONDAY	SCHOOL CLOSED (STAFF DAY)	
JANUARY 18, 2011-TUESDAY	OPEN AFTER SCHOOL	2:30 TO 4:00 PM
JANUARY 21, 2011-FRIDAY	COFFEEHOUSE	6:30 PM
JANUARY 22, 2011-SATURDAY	CLASS OF 2015 ADMISSION EXAM	9:00 AM
JANUARY 24, 2011-MONDAY	OPEN AFTER SCHOOL	2:30 TO 4:00 PM
JANUARY 26, 2011-WEDNESDAY	EXAMS 1 AND 3	
JANUARY 27, 2011-THURSDAY	EXAMS 2 AND 4 – END OF MARKING PERIOD 2	
JANUARY 27, 2011-THURSDAY	OPEN AFTER SCHOOL	2:30 TO 4:00 PM
JANUARY 28, 2011-FRIDAY	END OF MARKING PERIOD 2	
JANUARY 31, 2011-MONDAY	OPEN AFTER SCHOOL	2:30 TO 4:00 PM
FEBRUARY 2, 2011-WEDNESDAY	OPEN AFTER SCHOOL	2:30 TO 4:00 PM
FEBRUARY 3, 2011-THURSDAY	PSFA MEETING	6:30 PM
FEBRUARY 4, 2011-FRIDAY	REPORT CARDS MAILED HOME	
FEBRUARY 7 TO 11, 2011	CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEK	
FEBRUARY 14, 2011-MONDAY	OPEN AFTER SCHOOL	2:30 TO 4:00 PM
FEBRUARY 15 TO 18, 2011	MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION TEAM VISIT	
FEBRUARY 17, 2011-THURSDAY	OPEN AFTER SCHOOL	2:30 TO 4:00 PM
FEBRUARY 18, 2011-FRIDAY	SCHOOL CLOSED	
FEBRUARY 21, 2011-MONDAY	SCHOOL CLOSED	
FEBRUARY 22, 2011-TUESDAY	OPEN AFTER SCHOOL	2:30 TO 4:00 PM
FEBRUARY 24, 2011-THURSDAY	CHS SHARED TIME OPEN HOUSE	7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM
FEBRUARY 25, 2010-FRIDAY	MR. CHS PAGEANT	6:30 PM
FEBRUARY 28, 2010-MONDAY	OPEN AFTER SCHOOL	2:30 TO 4:00 PM

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