

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.

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The PSFA also has important PSFA announcements via our email system. **Please take a moment to register online [HERE](#).**

 <https://www.facebook.com/CHS.PSFA>
 [@ ComHS_MCVSD](#)

Submissions are welcome.

Co-Presidents' Corner

By Jody Sackett (parent of Julianne, Class of 2018) and Laura Andersen (parent of Julianna, Class of 2019)

Fall's colorful beauty is in full swing now, which means midterms are just around the corner. As always, the PSFA Hospitality Committee will be providing free nourishing **bagels for breakfast each morning during midterms**, to ensure each student is fully-charged and ready for testing success. Thanks to chairs Gayle Topper, Lynn Kuo, and Cambi Mannion for taking care of our students.

Our first PSFA fundraiser event, the **Wine & Design**, was held last month at Pinot's Palette in Red Bank. It was enormous fun and a valid excuse to drink wine, eat lots of appetizers, and meet other CHS parents. We also did actually *paint*...2 lovely wineglasses (useful for sharing *more* wine with our new friends!). We are indebted to Aphrodite Noone and Hope Raymond for organizing this marvelous event.

Our **Annual Donation Campaign** has been a huge success due to the support of *you*, our very generous CHS families. We are so grateful to everyone who supported this fundraiser by either making a

monetary donation, or donating their time as a volunteer. Your contributions make CHS the exceptional school and community that we are! You can still donate; check it out at <http://chs-psfa.org/support-the-psfa/annual-donation-campaign/>. Tax deduction letters will be emailed before the end of the year.

Funds from these fundraisers help us support our fabulous students. Last month, the PSFA awarded its first **student grant** of the school year to the Junior States of America debate club for an upcoming competition. We are always honored to help our brilliant students. This month we'll be reviewing the grant request from our creative Drama Club as well. Student clubs interested in applying for PSFA grants should complete the Student Club & Activity Request Form, found at the PSFA website under Welcome/Forms, and email it to chs.psfa@gmail.com.

Once again, the Alumni Committee has published its splendid **quarterly Alumni Newsletter**, chock full of inspiring information from CHS alumni and mentoring companies. Thanks to hardworking chairs Vivien Cheng and Mary Ellen Landolfi for pulling off this feat. Please visit our website at <http://chs-psfa.org/alumni-2/alumni-newsletter/> to view the newsletter. Our first ever **Alumni Reunion & Homecoming** will be next month on December 28th, so invite your alumni friends now!

Finally, be sure to mark your calendars for our festive **Mingle & Jingle on December 7th at 7:30**. This is a community social event. Student clubs will be there, selling their fundraising items so you can meet them and also get a jump on your holiday shopping. You can also show your pride with CHS Swag from the PSFA. Come participate in the Cookie Exchange or just enjoy the delicious refreshments while you mingle with other CHS parents and student reps.

We are always so grateful for our brilliant students and their wonderful, supportive parents. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



Volunteers Needed

WE HAVE 1-2 MORE SLOTS OPEN
FOR MIDTERM'S BAGEL
BREAKFAST NOVEMBER 7-8!

WATCH FOR A SIGN-UP GENIUS TO
BRING FOOD FOR OUR CAREER
DAY SPEAKERS ON DECEMBER 8

Thanks to all the wonderful hospitality volunteers who have signed up to help out with the bagel breakfast for midterms on Nov. 7th and Nov. 8th. If anyone is still interested, we have 1 or 2 more slots open on Wednesday morning. We meet at CHS at 6:15 a.m. to put together everything for the kids to grab when they arrive at school. We are done by 7.

Our next event will be Career Day on Dec. 8th. Anyone on the hospitality committee, watch for a Sign Up Genius to bring muffins, fruit, and treats for all of our career day speakers. If you'd like to join hospitality, please send Gayle Topper an email at rqqgtopper@aol.com.

We look forward to meeting all of you! – Gayle Topper, Lynn Kuo, Cambi Mannion



For Parents

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2017

TIME: 7:30PM

WHERE: CHS CAFETERIA

DON'T FORGET: COOKIE SWAP!

Join us at the PSFA's *Mingle & Jingle*, a Holiday Meet & Greet. This free CHS social is a splendid opportunity to meet other parents while enjoying festive treats and the celebrations of the season. Following a *very* brief meeting, there will be lots of fun stuff, such as a Cookie Exchange – just bring 2 dozen of your favorite cookies to swap with other bakers there, and you'll bring home a bag of treats your family will love. Student clubs will be there too, selling their fundraising items; you can learn about these CHS clubs and get a jump on your holiday shopping. Show your pride with CHS Swag from the PSFA, and enjoy delicious refreshments while you mingle with other CHS parents. You can meet new friends, start your holiday shopping, and support your school – all at the same time. Now *that's* the holiday spirit. Hope to see you there!

Come to the PSFA's *Mingle & Jingle* on December 7th to raise your club profile, share info about what you do, and sell your fundraising items to CHS parents that evening.

Delicious homemade holiday refreshments as well as a Holiday Cookie Exchange – so you sure won't starve.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a vital part of the CHS community at 7:30 on December 7th in the CHS cafeteria.

To register for a free *Mingle and Jingle* club table, please email Jody Sackett at Jodylin@Verizon.net .

Thanks, and hope to see you there!

For Students

STUDENT CLUBS WANTED!!!

SHOWCASE YOUR CLUB AT THE 2017
MINGLE & JINGLE!

REGISTER FOR A FREE TABLE
TODAY!



CHS Driver's Ed Test Preparation
DATES: WEEKLY, JANUARY 10 – MARCH 24, 2018
TIME: 2:30-5:30PM
COST: \$150
AVAILABLE TO: AGE 15 AND OVER

GOOD NEWS! A Driver Education Theory Class will again be made available at Communications High School. This program, being coordinated by the PSFA, is available to any student age 15 and older. The purpose of the course is to prepare for the NJ MVC written test. Bob Estler, of Just Rite Driving School will instruct students on basic principles of driving and the rules of the road. The cost is \$150.

The class will start on Wednesday, Jan 10, 2018 and will run for 10 weeks through Wednesday, March 21 weather permitting (there's no class on Wednesday January 24). The class will be from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Students will be responsible for their own transportation home. In addition, a parent chaperone is needed at each class. Please be prepared to chaperone one class during your student's session. The schedule for chaperoning will be pre-arranged.

This is a theory class only, but enrolled students will also take the written MVC test on the last day of the course. 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 carriers. Please call your specific insurance company to determine your eligibility. 'Behind the Wheel' training is a separate course. Just Rite Driving School offers six-hour behind the wheel instructions at a discount for CHS students enrolled in the A Driver Education Theory Class. For 'Behind the Wheel' registration, please contact Luanne, of Just Rite Driving School at 732-534-4688.

If you would like to enroll or need additional information, please email ronit_sagman@yahoo.com .

If you would like to enroll in the class, please send an email with the following info:

Student Name: _____

Student Age: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Address: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Chaperone Phone Number (if Different): _____

Preferences of Chaperone Dates (either preferred or unavailable): _____



Dear CHS Families,

Welcome back to our beloved Communications High School for another year of academic excellence, creative learning, and wonderful people. CHS has been ranked a top school by Newsweek, so it's like getting a private school education without the tuition payments. Our children are getting a superb education, and we are all *so proud* to be a part of it.

Our goal is to enrich the CHS experience for all students, faculty, and parents. To achieve this, the PSFA works hard every year to contribute:

- Day planners provided to every student on the first day of school
- PSFA college scholarships
- Driver's education courses
- SAT & ACT review programs through Catalyst Prep weekend Boot Camps
- The Color Wars all-school BBQ in the spring
- Busing for class trips for all grades
- Parent mentoring for incoming freshman
- Text reminders for CHS and PSFA events
- Alumni networking
- Teacher Appreciation Week in the spring
- The all-school Beach Bonfire in the fall to welcome students and families
- All-school student assemblies
- A printed PSFA directory distributed in September, listing all members and faculty
- Financial grant support for faculty, student clubs and competition teams
- Parent social activities, such as the fall Wine & Design, winter Gift Auction Dinner and spring Mini-Golf
- Bagel breakfasts for every student before all midterms and final exams
- Graduation caps & gowns for all graduating students

To provide the funds for these many benefits, the PSFA is conducting its Annual Donation Campaign now. Please help us! **We suggest a single donation per family of \$100** to cover the multitude of benefits your children receive. We understand that each family has their own commitments and must plan each financial outlay carefully, so all donations, no matter the amount, are gratefully accepted. Remember, your donations enable activities for the *entire* student body. **And this single donation covers you for the whole year, so (guilt-free!) you do not have to make further donations.**

If you are unable to donate funds, we would appreciate your donation of your precious time to PSFA committees and events, to help us mutually achieve our CHS goals.

We truly thank you for your past assistance, and your continued support of our cherished school. **The back of this letter has a donation form, which can be mailed or sent in with your child to the CHS Main Office.** Our Annual Donation Campaign ends soon, so don't delay – help our students today! With our sincere gratitude, *The CHS PSFA*



Parent Student Faculty Association

1740 New Bedford Road, Wall, NJ 07719-3740

CHS.PSFA.org

PSFA ANNUAL DONATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018

YES! We want to help make the PSFA Annual Campaign a success with our donation (\$100 recommended per family). Enclosed is our check made payable to “CHS PSFA.”

Parent/Family Name (as you’d like it to appear on our Thank-You List)

Student(s) Name and graduation year

\$ _____
Donation Amount

Email Address*: _____ Phone: _____

**Please provide us with your email address so that we may email you a receipt for your tax-deductible donation and save on mailing costs.*

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

____ Yes, my employer will (or may) match this gift. NOTE: Parent must request the matching donation forms from employer; they will then contact us. Please let us know if your employer has agreed to match your gift so we can follow up as needed. Thank you!

Name of Employer: _____

Contact Name/Number for Matching Gifts (if applicable): _____

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE PSFA MAKE OUR BELOVED CHS EVEN BETTER! Your Annual Donation will make a huge difference to *all* the students. *The deadline for donations is October 23, 2017.*

Please complete the Form above, attach your check made payable to “CHS-PSFA” and return both in an envelope as soon as possible, either by mail or by having your student bring this to the Main Office.

Mailing Address: CHS PSFA
1740 New Bedford Road
Wall, NJ 07719

____ In addition to my donation, please contact me for volunteer opportunities

____ I am unable to give at this time, but please contact me for volunteer opportunities.

Now you can donate to the Annual Donation Campaign online! Our payment system is fully up and running. To donate, just go to <http://chs-psfa.org/support-the-psfa/annual-donation-campaign/>. Thanks to all our wonderful parents who support the PSFA and CHS.



Grade-by-Grade Tips

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR COLLEGE.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR EVERY GRADE.

Seniors: Please bring in your response letters from the colleges. You can record your own information by clicking on the pencil icon under *Colleges I'm Applying To* tab in Naviance. Fill in the admissions decision in the drop-down box.

We also keep track of scholarships the colleges offer you. We update your Naviance account when you provide us with the merit aid information you receive from the college. A running total can be viewed by scrolling to *Scholarship Applications* under *Colleges I'm Applying To*.

The FAFSA became available in October and is based on your 2016 income. Keep an eye on schools that require the CSS Profile: <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>. Since every family's income is unique and most colleges have their own procedures for awarding aid, we recommend that you call the colleges to see if you must fill out the CSS profile. Determine if they need the information for need-based aid only. If you don't qualify for need-based aid and you are certain it will not impact merit aid, why spend the money? The CSS Profile will cost you \$25 for the first school you send it to and \$16 for each additional school.

The <http://www.monmouthcountyscholarships.com> site is resource to keep you informed of local scholarship opportunities.

Juniors: We are working with semester one junior seminar classes to organize the college search process. Juniors are finishing up their college essays and putting together portfolios that will be returned to the guidance office. We will use this information in college planning meetings, writing letters of recommendation, and in preparation for sending support documentation to the colleges and universities they will apply to.

We'll be beginning individual junior conferences soon. You will receive a letter with a date and time to meet with your child's counselor. Please bring your questions and let us start the process of working together to find a college match for your child.

Sophomores: Want to get a jump on the college planning process? Have your child download a practice SAT and a practice ACT. See which test they do better on and plan a testing strategy.

SAT Practice Test: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/getting-ready-redesigned-sat.pdf>

ACT Practice Test: <http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>

Freshman: It's not too early to start thinking about college planning. Colleges are looking for quality, not quantity when it comes to extracurricular endeavors. Start thinking about activities your child enjoys and encourage him or her to dedicate the limited time he or she has to take it to the next level. Be creative and think of ways that your child can demonstrate entrepreneurial strengths or leadership abilities. Good writers may want to pursue publication. Dancers may coordinate a performance for a local senior center. You get the idea.

I'm also a proponent of using the format of the Congressional Award in college preparation. Many of the things your child is doing can be logged, organized and recognized in a comprehensive package. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Freshman, sophomores and juniors:

PSAT scores will be back in December. Use this valuable resource to prepare for the SAT and take advantage of the free services that come with participating in this test. Start on page 4 of the PSAT/NMSQT [student guide](#).



Save the Date
ANNUAL DINNER & GIFT RAFFLE
THEME: ALL THAT GLITTERS
DATE: APRIL 14, 2018
LOCATION: JUMPING BROOK COUNTRY CLUB

Save the Date for our PSFA Dinner & Gift Raffle which will be held on April 14, 2018 at the Jumping Brook Country Club. Our theme is "All that Glitters." If you would like to contribute to the event gift baskets, keep an eye out for those great Black Friday and CyberMonday deals after Thanksgiving! The DGR chairs and committee will be at the next PSFA meeting if you'd like to volunteer for this event.



Alumni Update

FEATURING: CHELSEA
WHITTEMORE

CLASS OF 2008

I remember my first day of high school so well. I had already decided I would focus all of my time in the TV studio before I walked in the front doors. The shiny cameras, the huge green screen, and the control room with the fancy flashing buttons drew me in and excited me beyond belief. I couldn't wait to learn everything I needed to know about "making TV" and lucky for me, I didn't have to wait.

My first semester of freshman year I was blindly thrown into the studio and started creating some very "unique" shows; everything from cooking shows, to exercise shows and even our own version of American Idol. I was 14 years old, yet found something that got me so excited and so motivated, I didn't want to stop doing it.

Throughout my four years, I spent my hour lunch breaks in the broadcast studio, I volunteered for any TV shows people would use me for and eventually I traveled across the country to represent our high school in California at the Student Television Network competition!

Fast forward almost 10 years later and I'm still doing that thing I love. I am now a producer at FOX News where I write scripts, book guests, do research, build graphics, cut video and decide on editorial content for the show. Thanks to the passionate teachers, the most creative friends, and of course, the state of the art equipment at CHS, I was able to prepare for the career I so badly wanted.

High school was where I found my true passion. So, find your passion, follow it, and don't give up. It's not always an easy journey, but it will be worth it!

(For more alumni stories please, see the whole Alumni Newsletter on our website at <http://chs-psfa.org/alumni-2/alumni-newsletter/>)

Communications High School 2017 Homecoming & Reunion

Brunch
will be served

Compliments
of
CHS PSFA



Thursday, December 28

11:00 am to 1:30 pm

at Communications High School

RSVP by December 7, 2017

<https://goo.gl/forms/tco14loUCPfcZeE63>

Please respond even if you do not plan to attend. This will help us
keep our alumni class lists up to date.

You're Invited!

Meet Old Friends
Photo Booth
Tour CHS
Games
Door Prizes
Shop CHS Merch
& More!



2017 Wine & Design



The lively Wine & Design painting fundraiser, held on October 27th, was not only enormous fun for the 36 CHS parents and friends who attended, but also raised over \$325 for the PSFA.

Taught by studio artist Eric at Pinot's Palette in Red Bank, the parent-artists each painted various scenes, designs, or patterns on two wine glasses, which they proudly brought home that evening.

A splendid variety of appetizers, desserts, and wines was shared by all, as the parents had a chance to relax and meet each other.



One CHS mom brought her birthday group!

Lucky CHS mom Jane Sennett won both the 50/50 and the Pinot Gift Certificate prize drawing.

Everyone went home with adorable wine glass charms, hand-crafted by Aphrodite Noone.

All monies raised by the ticket sales and raffle are used to fund student and faculty clubs, events, and projects.

Thanks to Co-Chairs Aphrodite Noone, Hope Raymond, and Jody Sackett for this event, and to all the folks who came to support their school.

