

SENIOR NEWSLETTER  
March 2010

**To Seniors: Important Message from Your Counselors:  
Ms. Dana Snell (A-G), Ms. Jacobs (H-O), and Mr. Nolan (P-Z)**

*March Madness usually refers to basketball, however reaching graduation can sometimes feel like you're in the middle of March Madness, so keep a close eye on all of your graduation requirements and allow enough time to complete projects, therefore minimizing stress. You may find the timeline below helpful for the remaining months before graduation.*

February - March

- If you submitted the FAFSA, you should receive the [Student Aid Report](#) (SAR). Carefully look it over for accuracy. Errors can cost you thousands of dollars.
- Contact colleges that didn't send you a confirmation receipt for your application.
- Don't put off applying to schools with rolling admissions or late deadlines -- the available spaces can fill up.
- Talk to your school about registering for AP exams.
- Keep your grades high. Colleges can revoke offers of admission if your grades take a nosedive senior year.
- Some acceptance letters may arrive. Compare financial aid offers and visit campus before making a decision.
- Don't panic; many, many decisions are not mailed out until April.
- Continue applying for appropriate scholarships.

April

- Keep track of all acceptances, rejections, and waitlists.
- If waitlisted, [learn more about waitlists](#) and move ahead with other plans. You can always change your plans if you get off a waitlist.
- Keep your grades up.
- If you have ruled out any colleges that accepted you, notify them. This is a courtesy to other applicants, and it will help the colleges manage their waitlists and extend the correct number of acceptance letters.
- Go to accepted student open houses if offered.
- A couple circumstances may warrant an [appeal of a college rejection](#)

May - June

- Avoid senioritis! An acceptance letter doesn't mean you can stop working.
- Most schools have a deposit deadline of May 1st. Don't be late! If needed, you may be able to request an extension.
- Prepare for and take any appropriate AP exams. Most colleges offer course credit for high AP scores; this gives you more academic options when you get to college.
- Have your final transcripts sent to colleges.
- Send thank you letters to everyone who helped you in the application process. Let your mentors and recommenders know the results of your college search.
- Keep on top of procuring student loans. Notify your college if you receive any scholarships.
- Graduate. Congratulations!

July - August after Senior Year

- Read all mailings from your college carefully. Often important registration and [housing](#) material is sent in the summer.
- Register for your classes as soon as possible. Classes often fill, and registration is usually on a first-come, first-served basis.
- If you get your housing assignment, take advantage of the summer to get to know your roommate (email, facebook, the phone, etc). Figure out who will bring what. You don't need two TVs and two microwaves in your tiny room.
- Off to college! Visit [Kelci Lynn, About.com's expert on College Life](#)

GRADUATION ORDERS will be handed out in the auditorium foyer during lunch on Thursday and Friday, April 22-23. If you have any questions contact National Achiever directly at [www.nationalachiever.com](http://www.nationalachiever.com) or call 1.800.800.4083. National Achiever's mailing address is 13027 Bothell Everett Hwy. #E, Everett, WA 98208.

## Academic and Department Honors

If you haven't pick up an academic honors application yet, please stop by guidance and check with Mrs. Robertson. The due date for all academic honors applications is **March 15**. Department honors vary so check with the individual teachers about the particular honor(s) you are pursuing.

### SENIOR CULMINATING PROJECT

The Senior Culminating Project is a GRADUATION REQUIREMENT for the Class of 2010. This project includes new students and those attending Running Start. Students in Advisory classes began work on this project last year and additional information will be provided this year. If you are not in Advisory, please submit your work to Ms. Datisman, Library. Information and instructions are also available in the handbook and online: <http://www.portangelesschools.org/pahs/senior-culminating-project>. Choose Class of 2010, SCP Handbook or Class of 2011, SCP Handbook if you are a junior.

The **Presentation Visual** is due to your advisor on April 23. Also, the **SCP Presentation** in English class is due in April. **Presentation of SCP** to the faculty will be coming up in May. These dates apply to ALL students, including Running Start. If you have a question about your SCP status, please ask your Advisor or see Ms. Datisman, ext. 1601 or [edatisman@portangelesschools.org](mailto:edatisman@portangelesschools.org) to schedule an appointment. Presentations will take place on Wednesdays during the month of May 2010.

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! This project is required and attention must be given to its importance and the time you have to devote will be a direct result of its success. Each project is unique and assistance is available for you.

### PLANS BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Whether you choose to attend college or seek employment after graduation, it is important to begin now to formulate the goals you choose to attain.

### FOUR YEAR COLLEGES

Most colleges showed record number of applicants for this fall. Predictions are that this graduating class may very well set a new record for the fall of 2010. It is to your advantage to apply early to the colleges of your choice. Many colleges are sending the first round of acceptance letters and setting December 1 as a priority date for the scholarships. Be sure you are in that first round by submitting all pertinent materials to the college by the end of November. For students in the "maybe" stack, colleges scrutinize: 1) your essay and 2) the strength of your class schedule. The Head of Admissions for US stated: "We discourage seniors from taking a partial schedule. We have our own research showing that students pursuing a rigorous senior schedule do significantly better as freshman."

### TIPS TO ASSIST WITH ADMISSION TO A FOUR YEAR COLLEGE

1. Application fees: \$50 each for CWU, EWU, Evergreen State College, UW, WSU and WWU. Colleges prefer that you apply online.
2. Many Colleges will accept only official SAT or ACT scores. In other words, they are sent directly from the testing agency.
3. Your parent's social security numbers are required for FAFSA. Get the "pin" early and go online to utilize the practice FAFSA worksheet: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

### LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Counselors are asked to write many letters of recommendation for college applicants and scholarship notebooks. We are willing to comply on your behalf, but we request that you allow at least two weeks prior to the deadline, which gives the time to compose a thoughtful recommendation. Please provide a completed Student Information Worksheet, available in the Guidance Center that includes your honors and activities.

### COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

These schools are overflowing with students. Open enrollment – no SAT or GPA required – is available, but please apply early to assure admittance. Specific programs do have separate admissions requirements. Now would be the time to start visiting and learning more about what's out there.

### RUNNING START STUDENTS

Schedule an appointment with your counselor as questions arise. Scheduling an appointment provides the necessary time as opposed to simply "dropping by."

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship assembly is scheduled for **May 18th** in the auditorium. More information will be forthcoming.

The private colleges are more expensive, but that fact often enables them to waive a portion of your tuition. A college's "first offer" ends at that offer. Additional funds can be requested however. It is acceptable to let College A know that College B is offering you a higher amount of aid and you are allowed to request that College A match that funding amount.

There are at least five sources available for financial aid in the form of scholarships: 1) local scholarships 2) government sources 3) regional and national scholarships 4) the college you plan to attend 5) your family.

## GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL AID

For steps on Beginning a FAFSA, Filling out the FAFSA, and FAFSA Follow up visit <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

## SELECTIVE SERVICE

Note: Males who are 18: Not registering for Selective Service means you will not qualify for financial aid. Register within 30 days of your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. You may register online: [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)

## ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

This program is a government program that assists students financially. One weekend a month of paid active duty is required and the Guard will also assist with tuition and text expenses. An Army National Guard recruiter makes frequent visits to the high school campus. You may also access Guidance for detailed information.

It is possible to earn up to \$70,000.00 for college by enlisting in the military. Speak to Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine, or Navy recruiters to determine which program meets your needs. Recruiters are available on campus during lunch or you may schedule appointments at the local office sites.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

This section of the newsletter will announce scholarships that require a separate application and those not covered in the Scholarship Notebook. New information regarding scholarships will be included in the Senior Newsletter. Most scholarships have a website address. You may apply online or you can obtain information and applications in the Career Center. Scholarships will be added as they arrive. Check deadline dates carefully.

**Port Angeles Garden Club** is offering a \$1500 scholarship to students with a 3.0 gpa who have financial need and are planning a career in one of the following fields: ecology, natural resources, biology, fisheries, horticulture, and landscape architecture. Applications are available in the Guidance office and due **March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Pollanz Scholarship Fund** offers one \$6,000 per year scholarship to a PAHS student who plans a career in science, engineering, business or education. Applicants need to have taken the SAT Test, have financial need and be attending a four-year college or university. Application includes an essay and is due to Mrs. Eykemans by **March 26th**.

**Washington Counties Scholarship Fund** offers five \$3000 scholarships to children of county employees who will be attending college or a vocational tech program. Applications are available in Guidance and due **April 2**.

The **Port Angeles Youth Baseball** Scholarship is for students who have played Cal Ripkin, Junior Babe Ruth and high school baseball. Applications are due **April 26th**.

The Guidance Office now has scholarship applications for **Olympic Junior Babe Ruth**. Applicants must have played all three years. Completed forms need to be returned to Mrs. Eykemans by **April 30th**.

**Nor'wester Rotary** has a scholarship due **April 1st**. Applicants must write a 100 word essay, "What is success?" Essays need to be turned into Mrs. Eykemans in Attendance. Applications available in the Guidance office

**The Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity** at the U of Washington offers \$250 to \$1000 scholarships to freshmen men entering the University of Washington.

The **Wineman Scholarship** application is available in Guidance and due **May 3rd**.

**WSSRA** (Washington State School Retirees' Assoc.) is offering several scholarships for students in the State of Washington planning a career in education. Go to: [www.wssra.org](http://www.wssra.org) These are due **March 9th**.

**Watts Constructors** is offering a \$2500 scholarship for students planning to study Construction Management at a college or university. Students need to have a 3.0 and be involved in school and community. **Due March 15th.**

The **Navel Elks Lodge** is offering a scholarship to students with a 3.5 gpa or higher. Applicants should be active in school and community, have good citizenship and plan to be attending college or university. Parents need not be members of the Elks. **Applications due March 15th.**

The **Janice Scott Memorial Scholarship** is looking for students who are U.S. citizens, planning to attend a 4-year college or university as a fulltime student, have a 2.5 gpa or better, and have demonstrated leadership. They will be awarding \$2500 nationally. Due on **March 31st.** Pick up applications in Guidance.