

SENIOR NEWSLETTER
September, 2009

To Seniors: Important Message from the counselors -

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This is it, the long-awaited Senior Year! Your reflections and thoughts for this year are punctuated with mixed moods of excitement, anticipation and even added stress as you plan for your future beyond high school. We want you to know that we are available to assist with these plans. If you have questions, please schedule an appointment with your designated counselor. It is important that you are aware of relevant events and deadlines and we will do our best to provide pertinent information in the Senior Newsletters. We will also be visible, at times, in Contemporary Issues classes and /or your Advisory classes. If you are not on campus for either of these classes, please see Mrs. Eisele in the Business office to secure copies of these newsletters. Senior newsletters are also accessible on the high school website: www.portangelesschools.org/pahs. It may be in your best interests to maintain a personal calendar and mark significant dates for important dates. We ask that you take responsibility for the steps necessary in reaching your individual goals. Be keenly aware of your credit check and classes so that you will graduate in 2010.

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 Mrs. Datisman in the 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.

As a senior, your Essential Questions and Prospectus should have been approved. The I-Search paper is due on December 11. These dates apply to ALL students, including Running Start. If you have a question about your SCP status, please ask your Advisor or see Mrs. Datisman, ext. 1601 or edatisman@portangelesschools.org to schedule an appointment.

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! This project is required and attention must be given to its importance and time you will have to devote to its successful result. 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 UW 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. Applications are available in the Career Center.
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

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Counselors and teachers are asked to write many letters of recommendation for college applicants and scholarships 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.

RETAKING THE SAT OR ACT

If you are not satisfied with your SAT or ACT scores from last spring, you can take it again this fall. Although some students enroll in coaching classes, the best preparation is to schedule solid academic classes and maintain sound study habits. Make good use of the study guide and practice test online. The first SAT is scheduled for October 10. The late registration deadline has been extended to 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time), Friday, September 25, 2009, for online, phone, and mailed registrations. Sign up online at www.collegeboard.com

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.”

FINANCIAL AID

Scholarship Notebooks are a topic of concern for many students. Information will be presented twice: 1) during Advisory and 2) in the evening on Thursday, October 8, 7:00 p.m. in the PAHS Library. The information will be the same at each meeting. It is important to begin assembling your accomplishments and gathering letters of recommendation. You may also obtain instructions in the Guidance Office after October 9.

The reality of college expense is daunting, but financial avenues are available. The Hope Scholarship is one example of financial aid. Community College is literally tuition-free although, it does not represent a scholarship per se; parents are able to deduct \$1500.00 from their taxes after the first \$2,000.00 paid for college expenses. For those applying to a four-year college please be aware that the college itself is one of the main sources of financial aid. All four-year colleges offer scholarships in varying amounts. Inquire about the options from the Admissions or Financial Aid Office and determine if there is a separate application to complete.

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

The Free Application of Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be filed after January 1, 2010 in order for a student to be eligible for federal and state aid based on need. Access the online form to become familiar with the requirements. You and your parents can track the family income for calendar year 2009 so that you do not have to wait until the end of January for employer income totals.

WEBSITES

<http://fafsa.ed.gov>

This is the free site available to students and parents to file the FAFSA online.

www.pin.ed.gov

This site allows both student and parents to apply for a PIN number online. Students and parents should apply now to insure that everything is in place by January 1, 2010.

www.finaid.org

This site has a variety of financial aid offerings.

There may be a small population of students that are classified as exceptions to the financial aid rules. If you are living in your own, or your family's income decreases dramatically during 2009, or you move from one parental home to another, or you have any other unusual family situation, please see your counselor for specific information and assistance.

Colleges prefer that you apply online. You will be notified by email in 3-5 days if you apply online for financial aid. It will take 12-20 days if you apply by mail to FAFSA. The pre-application worksheet is available now. Access the website above to determine your PIN so that you are prepared to apply after January 1.

Thursday, December 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m., PAHS Library: A Peninsula College representative will meet with parents and students for a hands-on workshop that will give instructions in completing the FAFSA form. Be sure to bring your income information to assist you with this.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP GUIDES AND PROGRAMS

These websites is provided free of charge. A few of the many websites:

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.salliemae.com

www.studentservices.com

www.fastweb.com

www.srnexpress.com

www.scholarships.com

www.collegenet.com/mach25

www.gocollege.com

SELECTIVE SERVICE

Note: Males who are 18: Not registering for Selective Service may delay your financial aid application. Register within 30 days of your 18th birthday. You may register online: www.sss.gov

SEATTLE COLLEGE FAIR

The college fair is offered on Sunday, October 18, in case families would like to visit on the weekend. Fair hours are 12:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday and again on Monday, October 19, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m., held at the Washington State Convention Center. Many other area colleges will have representative to assist you in gathering information. For additional information visit <http://www.nacacnet.org/EventsTraining/CollegeFairs/ncf/Fall/Pages/09FSea.aspx>

ROTC PROGRAMS

Deadlines for students seeking an ROTC scholarship are fast approaching. This scholarship covers tuition, fees, books, and provides a monthly allowance. Many colleges assist with housing expenses. UW, WSU and OSU all have ROTC programs, but you may attend other colleges and also participate in ROTC. Schedule times to speak with military recruiters for additional information. Norm Dicks, 6th District, has set a deadline of November 1 for completion of the application process for nominations requested by him.

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 and can answer your questions.

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 outside the Career Center during lunch or you may schedule appointments at the local office sites.

COLLEGE VISITS AND TOURS

The Senior Calendar and the Bulletin provide a list of scheduled visits by college representatives to PAHS. It is most likely that the college representatives are the individuals who will review your college application. It is wise to come to the Career Center, make a point to introduce yourself, and listen closely to the information relevant to the colleges represented. In some cases, colleges provide on-campus visits that you will be invited to attend

GONZAGA: Career Center, Monday, October 5, 8:42 a.m. Students may attend with permission of their Advisory teacher.

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY: Career Center, Monday, October 5, 8:42 a.m. Students may attend with permission of their Advisory teacher.

UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND: Career Center, Thursday, October 24, 8:42 a.m. Students may attend with permission of their Advisory teacher.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY: Career Center, Monday, September 28 8:42 a.m. Students may attend with permission of their Advisory teacher.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY: Career Center, Friday, October 23 8:42 a.m. Students may attend with permission of their Advisory teacher.

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY: Career Center, Thursday, November 12 8:42 a.m. Students may attend with permission of their Advisory teacher.

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 and the Bulletin. Many scholarships have websites. You may apply online or you can obtain information and applications in Guidance. Scholarships will be added as they arrive. Check deadline dates carefully.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON: **Husky Promise Program** for low-income and lower middle-income student guarantees grant and scholarship assistance to cover the cost of full tuition and fees for students admitted to UW. Info: www.huskypromise.washington.edu

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY: **Sullivan Leadership Award**: Scholarship based on leadership, academics and community service. If this is your choice, talk with your counselor regarding nomination. Deadline: November 15. Visit <http://www.seattleu.edu/sullivan/inner.aspx?id=31934> for additional information.

WHITMAN COLLEGE: Music audition information and scholarships. Info: music@whitman.edu

WHITMAN COLLEGE: **William O. Douglas Scholarship Program** for students of families in which you are the first member to attend college, students from multicultural backgrounds, and/or students who have been active in issues regarding multiculturalism. Info: www.whitman.edu

LINFIELD COLLEGE: Music scholarships are based on auditions. Info: www.linfield.edu/music

PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD: Scholarship for students with strong school/community service activities. Info: www.prudential.com/spirit

COCA-COLA SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarship based on leadership, commitment to community, academic achievement, and part-time employment. Apply online: www.coca-colascholarships.org
Deadline: October 31.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY: Presidential Scholarships based on academic excellence. Info: www.montana.edu/honors

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY: Various merit-based scholarships. Must meet admission eligibility criteria by March 1 for scholarship consideration. Info: www.admissions.colostate.edu

RESOLVE TO EVOLVE SCHOLARSHIP: \$10,000.00 essay scholarship. Info: www.scholarships.com

RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM: Scholarship for academically talented, highly motivated African-American students. Info/application: www.ronbrown.org two deadlines: November 1 and January 9. For eligibility requirements visit <http://www.ronbrown.org/Apply/EligibilityRequirements.aspx> or <http://www.ronbrown.org/Apply/ApplicationDownload.aspx> for Ron Brown Scholar Program Application.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY: \$4,500 RENEWABLE Academic Recognition Award automatically awarded to WA residents in the top 25% of the class. Award for Competitive Excellence: two levels, based on college preparatory curricula. Info: www.financialaid.iastate.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT: Scholarships for valedictorians and salutatorians, based on academic excellence and leadership. Info: www.financial.uconn.edu

SCRIPPS NEW GENERATION SCHOLARSHIP: Full tuition scholarship, solely merit-based. Application to Scripps College, a women's college, must be made before November 1. Fee waiver for application. See your counselor to obtain the waiver certificate.

ALERT MAGAZINE: Contest for best drug and /or alcohol abuse prevention essay. \$500.00 scholarship. No deadline. Essays reviewed twice yearly.

AXA ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarship based on leadership, goal setting, participation in school/community. Info: www.axa-achievement.com Deadline: December 15.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU STUDENTS OF INTEGRITY SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarship based on essay theme: *The Importance of Ethics and Integrity in the Marketplace*. Info/application online: www.thebbb.org/scholarship.htm

PORT ANGELES VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP: Opportunity to compete by writing and recording a broadcast script on a patriotic theme. Deadline: November 1.

FIRST FREEDOM STUDENT COMPETITION: Scholarship based on essay of the First Amendment. Info: www.firstfreedom.org/

The Guidance Office has just received applications for the **Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship**. This is a winnable scholarship and worth the time and effort it requires. The Elks are looking for excellent students who are involved in school and community. Need is the first requirement but most students need at least some assistance for college so don't let that keep you from applying. See Mrs. Robertson in Guidance.