

SENIOR NEWS

January 2017

*Sponsored by the Guidance Department
Somerset Berkley Regional High School*

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS - Seniors who are applying for admission to post-secondary schools for the fall of 2017 and have not submitted applications for processing should be aware that **time is running out and many deadlines are fast approaching. Some deadlines have already passed.** Students who sent their applications directly to schools without officially notifying their counselor must realize that these schools have not received your high school credentials. If you have done this, please notify your counselor **immediately** so that your official high school transcript can be forwarded to the school(s) in question. Without this very important information, no admission decision can be made. **Seniors who have applied to four year colleges that have a mid-year report form as a component of the application package, are encouraged to advise the guidance office immediately (if you have not already done so).**

FINANCIAL AID FORMS - The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), and Profile Registration Guide are available on line. It is recommended that the FAFSA be completed online. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. If required, the Profile **must** be completed online. Go to www.collegeboard.com.

FAFSA PIN - Whether or not students/parents are filing the paper copy of the FAFSA or filing electronically, it is most important for students/parents to apply for a PIN now. This allows students and parents to sign their FAFSA electronically, access their processed FAFSA to review and, if necessary, correct answers, reapply for financial aid in the future, as well as access a number of other financial aid web sites.

SIX - DIGIT FEDERAL SCHOOL COLLEGE CODES - can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

SAT REASONING TEST/SAT SUBJECT TESTS ADDITIONAL SCORE REQUEST(S) – Your scores on the SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests are not a part of your official high school transcript, and some 4 year colleges require an official copy of your SAT scores directly from CollegeBoard. Please check the SAT College Planning Report(s) from the October, November, and/or December test dates. Under **Colleges and Scholarship Programs That Received A Score Report** you will see listed the schools to which your scores have been forwarded. If a school or scholarship program that you are applying to is not listed on the **last** score report, then you should check with the college(s) to verify if an official test report is required directly from CollegeBoard or if scores can be taken from the CollegeBoard SAT label(s). If an additional score report is required from CollegeBoard, students should go online (www.collegeboard.com) to review the various options (including costs) available to send score reports. The **rush reporting** service is another option to consider.

BCC ON-SITE ADMISSION – Students interested in submitting an application to Bristol Community College can do so on February 16, 2017. On that date, admission representatives will be here at Somerset Berkley Regional High School to accept your application and transcript and will provide you with a letter of acceptance. The application fee is waived. Students interested in participating in this service must register in guidance and provide a completed application with all necessary signatures prior to February 13th. Students should see their counselor with any questions. **Notice – Students interested in any health sciences or culinary programs cannot apply via onsite admission. Those students should apply immediately.**

KNOWLEDGE FOR COLLEGE - What is CollegeAnswer.com?

A comprehensive resource that takes the guesswork out of planning and paying for college. Voted “Best of the Web” by Forbes magazine, it walks students through the entire “going-to-college” process - from early planning and estimating cost to understanding student loans. Visitors can access the free scholarship search containing over 2.4 million awards. Visit today and bookmark this valuable Sallie Mae Website for Students: www.SallieMae.com.

Visit StudentAid.ed.gov for helpful information regarding federal student assistance for higher education.

Quarter II ends on Thursday, January 26, 2017. Report cards will be mailed home to parents/guardians.

REMINDER – Senior dues are to be turned in to Mrs. Ferris in the Social Studies Office.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

The following scholarship applications are available in the guidance office reception area and/or online:

AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIPS – The American Legion offers a variety of scholarship opportunities. Visit their website, www.legion.org/needalift, to access more information.

FALL RIVER DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC NURSES SCHOLARSHIP - **Deadline March 1, 2017.** Applicants must be accepted in an approved program in a school of nursing. Preference will be given to members of the organization and their families. Application available in guidance.

HOOD – GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP SCHOLARSHIP – **DUE March 6, 2017.** Hood is looking for high school seniors who participated in a varsity sport and who will be furthering their education by attending a two or four year accredited college or university next year. Students must have earned a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher and performed volunteer work in the community to be eligible. Visit online at www.hood.com for more information.

JOSEPH G. AND PALMYRA BURNS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - **Applications must be received by the Burns Scholarship selection committee on or before April 13, 2017.** Open to seniors who intend to further their education in the field of music. \$2500 will be awarded. Applications are available in guidance.

Mark Bavis Leadership Foundation – **Application deadline is March 15, 2017.** This organization provides up to \$5000 grants for student use toward higher education. Applications are available in guidance and online at www.markbavisleadershipfoundation.org.

MASSACHUSETTS JCI SENATE - Application deadline is **January 20, 2017.** The Massachusetts JCI Senate offers annually, two \$1000 scholarship grants to Massachusetts high school seniors who plan to continue their education at accredited post secondary colleges or vocational schools. Applications may be obtained at www.usjcisenate.org. Information is also available in the guidance office.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN-AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS - **POSTMARK DATE – FEBRUARY 3, 2017.** The purpose of this scholarship program is to recognize outstanding high school seniors who have demonstrated the potential to become future leaders. These merit and need-based scholarships are open to all Massachusetts high school seniors of Asian descent or having demonstrated a commitment to better the Asian American community and graduating in the spring of 2016. Applications are available online at www.naaapboston.org.

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC. - DUE TO ORGANIZATION BY MARCH 1, 2017. The Southeastern Amateur Radio Association is offering a \$500 scholarship to a high school senior. The student must be enrolled in a college course of a technical nature. Application must be received between January 1, and March 1. The scholarship will be awarded to the student in May. Instructions and application can be downloaded at www.semara.org.

THE RED PINE SCHOLARSHIP – **Deadline is February 15, 2017.** This scholarship opportunity is available to a student from low to middle income families who have substantial unmet need to pay for college. They must have a strong academic record or have shown improvement over time. Awards will be determined based on need but can range from \$5000 to 20,000. Additional information is available online. For more information and application instructions go to www.tpi.org/scholarship/red-pine-scholarship.

THE STEPHEN PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST – **Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2017.** The awards, available for college tuition and fees, are renewable. The criteria for awarding scholarships are scholastic achievement, record of citizenship, aptitude for studies proposed, need for assistance, character and serious mindedness of applicant. Renewable awards will range from \$3,000 to \$10,000. The FAFSA must be completed for this scholarship. A criteria information sheet is available online. Applications will be available mid January. Download an application at www.phillips-scholarship.org.

YAWKEY SCHOLARS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP - **Due February 15, 2017.** Students must be a US citizen, a permanent resident of one of the following counties: Barnstable, MA; Bristol, MA; Dukes, MA; Essex, MA; Middlesex, MA; Nantucket, MA; Norfolk, MA; Plymouth, MA; Suffolk, MA; Worcester, MA; or Georgetown, SC. This program seeks to support students who have a strong academic record, or demonstration of significant improvement over time, planning to attend a private college in MA, be engaged in a meaningful mentoring relationship, and have unmet financial need. More information is available at www.tpi.org/scholarship/yawkey-scholars-program

Students will be informed as more scholarships become available in the guidance office. Please listen to the morning announcements in homeroom and read very carefully future issues of Senior News. Adhere to all scholarship deadlines. Please put deadline dates on a calendar/agenda book. Check past issues of Senior News for listings of scholarships that were previously announced and might still be available. Seniors are also strongly advised to check the individual colleges they are planning to attend to investigate any scholarship opportunities that may be available at the college. You should be looking at each college's financial aid information, reviewing opportunities and timelines. Utilize search tools such as those available in the Guidance financial aid section of our website. Look at other local high school websites for opportunities they may have learned of. Research with family any organizations they be affiliated with that provide scholarship opportunities. As the cost of higher education continues to rise, students should pursue all mechanisms to help defray that cost.