
Stonington High School's

Bear

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February 2012

Essentials

School Schedule Altered for CAPT from March 5-March 9

Parents: take note of changes in schedule

Each March the CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test) is administered to all tenth graders across the state. The Third Generation CAPT is a statewide assessment of skills and competencies consisting of four tests: Reading Across the Disciplines; Writing Across the Disciplines; Math; and Science. As a result, we have devised a plan for administering the CAPT which necessitates altering our normal schedule.

The CAPT will be administered on the following days:

Monday	March 5	Math I/Science I
Tuesday	March 6	Interdisciplinary Writing I/Reading for Information
Wednesday	March 7	Response to Literature/Science II
Thursday	March 8	Interdisciplinary Writing II/Math II
Friday	March 9	Editing/Writing III Interdisciplinary

On these days the adjusted schedule will be as follows:

7:30-Varies (9:40-10:35)	CAPT for grade 10 CAPT for grades 11 and 12 re-takers Ninth grade students will begin each day in their Ninth Grade Academy classroom.
Homebase	Determined by test completion each day.
Homebase - 2:00	Regular school schedule with shortened classes.

While students are taking the CAPT, freshmen will be offered two activities (two per day over the five days). These activities include Science CAPT Practice Lab, Language Arts Practice Tests, Math Practice Test, an Interdisciplinary Task, Choices Interest Inventory, and Reading for Pleasure.

We hope that parents will support our efforts by encouraging their sons or daughters to take the test seriously, get a good night's sleep each night before testing, and eat a good breakfast on the days of the testing.

Note: Bus transportation will be provided at the regular times for all students. Juniors and seniors not involved in CAPT and providing their own transportation must report to school to be on time for homebase. Homebase times will be announced throughout the week. Juniors and seniors arriving to school before 9:45 A.M. are not permitted to leave the campus.

HOBY Award

Congratulations to SHS sophomore **Libby Hall** who was selected to attend the CT Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) seminar in June! HOBY is the nation's foremost youth leadership development organization, inspiring students to become dedicated leaders in our global community. Students who are nominated demonstrate leadership qualities including outstanding communication skills, sensitivity to the needs of others, courage to speak out for one's beliefs, strong decision-making skills, and participation in community service activities. Each year, over 9,000 high school sophomores from across the country are chosen to participate in HOBY Leadership Seminars. Stonington High School is proud to send Libby Hall as our student leader representative!



National Honor Society

National Honor Society members have been putting forth their best efforts in several projects. For starters, they have been consistently tutoring students both at the high school and the middle schools. The program is so popular that there is a need for more tutors. If you are interested in becoming a tutor or obtaining a tutor, please fill out the corresponding form on the Stonington NHS website (Link on the SHS Activities tab.) Speaking of which, the NHS website has been modified and now provides access to recent updates about committee events on the website's calendar. If inquiring about anything involving NHS, please visit its website.



One of the many events posted is the blood drive held on Friday, January 27. Thank you to Mrs. Burton and everyone from the Red Cross for giving SHS students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to donate blood and save lives during the blood drive this month! Furthermore, NHS' new Academic Integrity committee will be periodically instructing 45-minute lessons during 9th-Grade Academies for the next three months, teaching freshmen about all types of academic integrity, including how to refrain from cheating and plagiarizing, and how to work properly in a group. Lastly, the NHS Carnation committee will be selling carnations through the month of February to raise money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Clubs YB Photos

On Monday, February 6th, the Lifetouch photographer will be at SHS to take posed yearbook photos of all clubs at 11:45 in the auxiliary gym, during Q-block.

Nurse's Notes

Sports sign-up sheets for Spring sports will be posted in the Clinic beginning on Feb 6th.

Dr. Blefeld will be in the Clinic to do sports physicals on Thursday, March 8th. This is a good time to get an up-to-date physical for Spring sports. Please sign up with the nurse in the Clinic if you are interested.

Scoliosis screenings for 9th graders will be taking place during the months of March/April.

Final Yearbook Count

The final yearbook order count has been submitted. A few extra yearbooks were ordered, but not as many as usual, due to the economy. We must pay full price for every book that is ordered. If you have not yet ordered a yearbook, there is now no way to guarantee one for your child. Therefore, we recommend you order early so as to be eligible for one of the few extras that was ordered, or risk not having one available to order when the yearbooks are delivered. The expected arrival time is the last week in May or the first week in June.

Coffeehouse

The 3rd annual SHS Coffeehouse will be held on February 11th at 6:00 P.M. in the SHS Commons. This very popular cabaret style event is an evening of solo and small group performances. Tickets are available at the door for \$5.00 each. The price of admission includes coffee and a baked good.

Boosters Raffle

Athletic Boosters Winter Raffle is in full swing, with the same great prizes as the fall raffle. 1st Prize- \$500, 2nd Prize- \$200, 3rd Prize- \$100. Tickets are only \$5 each. All proceeds go to the Athletic Boosters and then back to all sports at SHS. Drawing to be held on February 17, 2012. Winner need not be present. Tickets are available from winter athletes or by contacting the boosters members listed below: Stacey Herrman (sendherrman@comcast.net), Kathi Dipollino (kdipollino@sbcglobal.net) or Tracy Candelet (mommapumpkin07@aim.com).

Guidance News

BY SHS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT
— ALLISON VANETTEN, DIRECTOR

• LISA MUNTIMURI FOR ANGELA CAPALBO • CARRIE DENTCH • JENNIFER SULLIVAN • HOLLY SYLVIA •

Seniors applying to Three Rivers Community College

Seniors planning on applying to Three Rivers, now is the time! We suggest that you apply as soon as possible. While you will be accepted upon graduation, there are no guarantees that space will be available in the courses you request. The sooner you apply, the sooner you can register for courses! For an application visit trctc.commnet.edu.

Sophomores and College Career Pathways

College Career Pathways (CCP) is a dual-enrollment program sponsored through the Connecticut State Department of Education and Three Rivers Community College. The CCP program is designed to nurture college and career exploration for students in the 11th and 12th grade by offering classes that lead to both high school and college credit. These are not extra courses that must be taken on the college campus; they are the same courses that your child may be taking as part of their high school plan of study. De-

pending on the career path, your child can earn up to 14 college credits during his or her junior and senior year of high school at no cost to you. Students and families should have received a mailing of information from Three Rivers during the month of January. Sophomores attended an assembly with a representative from Three Rivers on Thursday, January 26th during their Q-Block. Any interested students should either see Mrs. Dentch in the guidance office or bring their application before May to determine their eligibility.

Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program

We are pleased to announce that **Elias Gharios** has been selected as a recipient of the 2011-2012 Comcast Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship. This award, funded through The Comcast Foundation, recognizes high school seniors from Comcast communities for commitment to community service, academic achievement, and demonstrated leadership.



Inside the Bear's Den

By REKA KELLER, 2011-2012 STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT

With a small holiday vacation, this month was a relaxing month and we have much to look forward to next month. First, Student Government worked extremely hard on Reindeer Games, our annual student against student holiday games, featuring games such as Christmas Ball (fanning an ornament across the basketball court with only a "present.") We also had collection jars for pieing different people and **Elias Gharios** got the pie to the face. The \$205.10 we raised from the pieing will go to Case for Dignity. Most of the money came from Mr. Friese who paid up to try to avoid being pied in the face! We all had a lot of laughs and the Executive Board did a wonderful job with the execution of Reindeer Games. Coming up this next month we have several fundraisers that we are working on, and we also are having a Blood Drive run by NHS at the school on January 27. All 17 and over may participate and your blood can save up to 3 lives for only an hour of your time. Many of the seniors and several juniors will be participating. After a relaxing holiday break we were all back for exams and all of the slight panicking has been eased by Student Government Comfort Stations, a cup of hot chocolate for \$0.50. As fundraisers start we will be participating in two unique fundraisers: Case for Dignity and a food drive that will encompass all of the schools. Our Case for Dignity fundraiser is based around collecting suitcases and different types of bags for foster children. Foster children when moved are given a black trash bag to put their belongings in. Can you imagine that? Therefore we hope to provide many children with bags over the next year!

The Sound of Music

The Award-winning SHS Theatre Department proudly presents "The Sound of Music." The classic musical by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein will be performed on March 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the Stonington High School auditorium. The production is directed by Erin Sousa-Stanley, with music direction by Chris Stanley. Show times are at 7 P.M. on Friday, March 2nd and Saturday, March 3rd at 2 P.M. and 7:00 P.M., and Sunday, March 4th at 2 P.M.

This vibrant and entertaining musical is based on the book, "The Story of the Trapp Family Singers." It features an unforgettable Rodgers and Hammerstein score, including "My Favorite Things," "Edelweiss," "Do-Re-Mi," and "The Sound of Music." The year's cast is led by senior Austin Almeida as the Captain, junior AJ Jones as Maria, and the Von Trapp children: Haley Barravecchia, Stephen Russo, Tessa Stewart, Anna McGugan, Avery Oefinger, Maggie Spadaro, Grace Gilbert, Chloe Morehouse, Taylor Donovan, Jennie Middleton, and Bobbie Doherty. The play also features Libby Hall as the Baroness, Jay Nieuwenhuis and Colby LaMarche as Max, Cory Candelet and Pat Decessare as Rolf, and Dana Shroyer as Mother Abbess. On and off the stage, this year's production features close to 100 students.

The Sound of Music is based on the true story of the Von Trapp family singers who fled their native Austria to escape the Nazi regime. This classic captured our hearts when it first appeared on Broadway in 1959, and again in 1965 when the musical was released as a film starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. The film won five Academy Awards, including Best Picture of the Year.

Tickets are \$10 for students and seniors and \$12 for adults. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Stonington High School office, 860-599-5781, or at the door prior to each performance.

This year we are pleased to offer 25 premium assigned seats for each performance for only \$25.00 a ticket. These exceptional seats come with a cast photograph, concession voucher, and best of all, no waiting in line! For more information on premium seating send email to: shsdrama1@gmail.com.

Join us for an evening of family fun with a
"The Sound of Music"
sing-along and fundraiser

Saturday, February 25
7 P.M. SHS Auditorium
Free Admission
(donations gratefully accepted)

A silent auction will be held during the musical production. Attendees may bid on one-of-a-kind theatrical props and original artwork. Winning bids will be announced after the final musical production on March 4th. Proceeds benefit scholarships for local youth.

Sustained Silent Reading Contest Winners

The winners for the Advisory Reading contests have been selected. Winning the Student Logo/Poster Contest was Sarah Downie, with "Bears Read- Go Feed Your Mind."



The Teacher Contest, Creating Your Space, was won by Mrs. Fiore, Room 214. Each one received a \$25 gift certificate to Bank Square Books. Also, Mrs. Steinhoff's Advisory Group enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies during their reading time for showing the spirit of Bears Read. Each reading week, one classroom advisory, selected by random lottery will be awarded a special treat for capturing the spirit of reading for fun!

**SSR at SHS on
alternating
Wednesdays**

Where Are They Now?

PAWS and read about...

Joanna Albert, SHS Class of 2005,
sister of Stephanie and Jacqueline Albert, Class of 2012.

As a student or parent of a current student, you know me as Stephanie and Jacqueline's older sister, but as a teacher, you remember me as simply Joanna. I am so excited to be featured in Bear Essentials and tell you about my life since graduating from Stonington in 2005.

I was fortunate enough to know that I wanted to be an optometrist since the eighth grade, when I accompanied my mother to her eye exam. I like the idea of being a well-respected professional in the community, while still having plenty of time to be a great wife and mother. I was accepted into the 3-4 joint degree program with Adelphi University and SUNY College of Optometry, so I was able to complete my undergraduate studies in three years instead of the traditional four. I am blessed to have had a great mentor, Dr. Oefinger (Avery's father), to provide encouragement and support throughout my optometric education. Upon graduation, I will be joining a private practice in Castle Rock, CO, with a focus on vision therapy and sports vision. After reading their mission statement that "by our attitudes, values and actions we will strive to glorify God and promote His Kingdom," I knew that this was the right practice for me. Thankfully they thought the same about me.



While attending Adelphi, I went on two missions trips to help with Katrina relief- you may remember that Steph and Jack came with me for one of them. While attending SUNY, I went on two missions trips to give eye exams and glasses to those in Oaxaca, Mexico, and Salinas Grandes, Nicaragua. I even had the honor of leading the Nicaragua trip. These were all great experiences, and I know that I am meant to do more of these short-term missions in the future. I highly recommend participating in at least one humanitarian effort while in high school or college. Who knows, you may get hooked like me and want to go every year.

In my free time, I play ultimate frisbee. I have played for many teams over the last six and a half years, most recently for Vice, a new women's club team based out of Boston. Being a part of many teams, clubs, and organizations at SHS made me realize the importance of having a balance in my life. I am enjoying the many diverse friendships I have today: optometry friends, ultimate friends, and church friends, just to name a few. I definitely

recommend expanding your horizons and getting used to making friends with people who are very different from you. You will be surprised to see how similar you actually are— and how much fun it is to hang out with a variety of personalities.

I am also a photographer, under the name Ultimate Photography, inspired by my love of ultimate frisbee. My website can be found at www.ultimatephotographyonline.com. My favorite shoots are senior portraits, engagements, and weddings. I love it and hope to pursue it further after graduation to complement my optometric career. If you are interested in photography, I suggest investing in a sweet camera (I use a Canon Rebel T3i) and just put yourself out there. You are better than you think.

My graduation is scheduled for June 3rd, so when you see me this year at Stonington's Class of 2012 graduation, you can officially call me Dr. Joanna Albert!



please join
 the Stonington Education Fund
 for our 2012
 Education Celebration
 Saturday, February 11
 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
 Mystic Aquarium



live music by "28 Strings"
 fabulous food including passed
 hors d'oeuvres & carving stations
 cash bar
 unique raffle items
 festive casual attire
 \$55 per person
 available by responding to
 info@stoningtoneducationfund.net

Stonington Board of Education Recognition Program

The Stonington Board of Education will recognize individuals who contribute to making Stonington Public Schools an engaging, joyful, challenging, innovative and safe educational environment.
 All members of the school community are encouraged to submit nominations via the BOE Recognition Program Nomination Form. Once complete, please submit applications to the Superintendent's Office via email at: lmasterjoseph@stoningtonschools.org. Nominations are welcome at any time of year.
 Each month the Board will recognize those individuals who are nominated and chosen for recognition. Those selected will be invited to a Board meeting to receive a certificate and a note of thanks and will also be invited to attend the Board's Annual Recognition Tea and Dessert Social.

Stonington Board of Education Recognition Program I Am/We Are... Stonington Public Schools!

The Stonington BOE seeks to recognize those who contribute to making Stonington Public Schools an engaging, joyful, challenging, innovative and safe educational environment.

Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis and should be sent to the attention of:
 Superintendent of Schools • PO Box 479 • Old Mystic, CT 06372
 or via email at lmasterjoseph@stoningtonschools.org

Nomination Form

Name(s) of Student(s), Staff or Community Member(s) Being Nominated: _____

Reason for Nomination: _____

Name of Individual Submitting Nomination: _____

Please provide your contact information so that we may verify this nomination.
 Email Address _____ Daytime Phone Number _____

Those individuals selected by the Board will be notified and invited to receive a certificate and a note of thanks. In addition, recipients will be invited to a recognition tea and dessert social in January.