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Mr. P’s Corner: “It’s Their Future”

Last year about this time, I gave you a homework assignment. I asked that you review your children’s course requests for this year to ensure that they were appropriately challenging, yet also allowed your children some time to breathe. I am very glad to report that many of you took me up on the challenge. This year, we have had more students taking a lunch than ever before. In speaking with a very talkative table this past week, several students told me that this is the only part of their day where they feel in control. They can choose to relax and grab a bite in the cafeteria, learn on their own in our computer lab, or study in the library. Ironically, they seem to thrive by intentionally scheduling an unscheduled time. And yet, about half of our students still do not have a single a break in their day.

So, Parents, I once again challenge you this year to look closely at next year’s course request verifications that will be e-mailed to you this month. Once again, we want our students to be challenged, but no so much so that they face major stress and anxiety. We want our students to become Renaissance men and women, but let’s also allow them to define their own Renaissance. Maybe that art class will teach creativity in a way that an extra AP cannot. Maybe our Senior Experience program, whereby kids learn from experts in the field, will allow them to find a calling (or, just as importantly, maybe it won’t!). I recently spoke to a student who, due to
his Senior Experience placement, has decided the he absolutely adores veterinary science. I spoke to another who realized that accounting was just not her thing. Both of these students have learned invaluable lessons before graduation that have perhaps saved their parents thousands of dollars by not wasting a year changing majors.

With such interesting options available in Sports Medicine, Business, Engineering, Childhood Development, Art, and Music, I truly hope that we can find it within ourselves to allow our children to have the biggest say in directing their lives. At the same time, I hope we use our wisdom to know when to push them a little and when to slow them down. You and your children have until Friday, March 30th, to make any changes you see fit to the course requests.

We only get one shot at raising happy and healthy children. Please join us in helping them chart their own course to their future!

-“Mr. P”

Course Requests Change Deadline (3/30)

Shortly, you will receive an e-mail detailing how to access your child’s course requests. As mentioned in “Mr. P’s Corner” above, please take the time to review these requests with your child. The absolute deadline for course request changes is Friday, March 30th. To make changes, please have your child see his/her assigned guidance counselor.

Please note that as with last year, students will only be scheduled for courses that are selected by this deadline. Changes of classes will not be permitted beyond this date, other than level changes (e.g., from AP to Regents) and replacement courses should selected courses be canceled. As always, teacher changes will not be entertained.

HS Musical: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (3/8-10)

Imagine if instead of trekking into the city, you could enjoy a Broadway production here at Jericho High School. One of Broadway’s funniest shows is being presented on Jericho High School’s Little Theatre stage. Come out on Thursday (3/8), Friday (3/9), or Saturday night (3/10) to see our own Harlequin Players recreate this fantastic show. Tickets are $8 in advance in Mrs. Bany’s office or $10 at the door. Each show will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.
Spring Spirit Week : Battle of the Classes (3/12-16/2012)

Spring Spirit Week is upon us! Next week, we encourage students to participate in daily dress up days leading toward Friday’s Battle of the Classes.

“Dress Up Days”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday:</th>
<th>Pajama Day</th>
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<td>Tuesday:</td>
<td>Mathletes/Athletes Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday:</td>
<td>International Day</td>
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<td>Thursday:</td>
<td>Black Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday:</td>
<td>Wear Your Grade T-Shirt</td>
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On Friday, our Student Council will provide free class T-shirts to all students. Wear them proudly to the even better than last year’s Battle of the Classes where grade level and faculty teams will battle for spirit supremacy in such games as “class karaoke” and “the cheesiest cheeseball toss.” (Think of it like camp’s Color Wars on steroids.) We are going to pack the stands with students looking to release a little energy and a lot of enthusiasm. Along those lines, please help us by ensuring that your children are in school all day on Friday!

International Night (3/21)

Please join us on Wednesday, March 29th, from 7-9 p.m. to experience all the international flavor our school offers. Students will present the worlds of Chinese, Spanish, French, Italian, Latin, and Sign Language. Additionally, our Diversity Club and Asian American Awareness Clubs will be performing.

By the way, we heard there will be great food! Bring the family and enjoy an experience like no other.

Ryan’s Story & Parent Presentation (3/22)

John Halligan will relay his own tragic experience as a dad whose 13 year old son, Ryan, took his own life in 2003, after incessant bullying by peers since the 5th grade, both in school and online. His story is riveting and powerful, and reminds students that there is a face, a person, a heart, on the other end of the computer screen.

Students will gain a perspective from inside a family of a child who is a victim of bullying and cyberbullying. They will also gain awareness about the signs and risk of teenage suicide and how best to help a friend. As part of Mr. Halligan’s presentation, students will have the chance to ask him honest questions. We encourage you to visit a website named for his son: www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org for more information.

In addition to the student presentation during the day, Mr. Halligan will be speaking to Jericho parents on Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m. in the MS/HS Auditorium. We encourage you to attend. Please RSVP at www.wellnesscoalition.eventbrite.com.
Finally, in efforts to carry Ryan’s Story forward, Mr. Benjamin will convene leadership a group at 8:15 a.m. on March 15th in room 126 dedicated to bullying prevention in the high school. If your child would like to participate in this group, please have him or her see Mr. Benjamin ASAP!

**Alley Oop for Autism (3/24)**

Once again, Jericho High School will support the Ascent School for Autistic Children through an exciting 3-on-3 basketball tourney on Saturday, March 24th from 12:00-6:30 p.m. Please bring your sneakers and show your support!

To register or for more information, bounce here: [http://alleyoopforautism.com/](http://alleyoopforautism.com/)

**Choices & Consequences Driving Meeting (4/2)**

Driving and parking on campus is a privilege that is available to students in their senior year. As we are concerned with a safe and orderly high school environment, it is important that we all work together to ensure that driving on campus is done in a responsible manner.

In order to achieve this objective, a representative from District Attorney Kathleen Rice’s office will be bringing a powerful message about driving safety to the Jericho School District on **Monday, April 2nd @ 7:00 p.m. in the MS/HS Auditorium**.

This evening is the mandatory first step in the process of registering your child to drive to school as a senior. Please note that this meeting is in lieu of the traditional driving meeting in August. **This meeting is a requirement for students to secure driving and parking privileges for the 2012-2013 school year.**

**Kudos and Congratulations to...**

...the following students who were named Semi-finalists in the Intel Science Talent Search: Anirudh Chandrashekar, Jill Dolowich, Christine Kim, Neil Mehta, April Pun, Sagar Rambhia and Anuja Shah. Additional congratulations to Neil Mehta who was named a Finalist and will travel to Washington, D.C. to compete for the top award. We wish him all the best in this intense competition!

…the following students who were named finalists in the 2012 Competition for National Merit Scholarships: Diana Bai, Irene Hsiung, Leong Jiang, Robert Leung, Sagar Hitendra Rambhia, Marilyn Shi, Anjeli Song, and Jason Wang

…**Christopher Yao** for being selected as New York’s top High School youth volunteer in the 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. He will be nationally recognized in May in Washington, D.C.
…Christopher Yao, Varsha Venkatesh, Aaron Roh, David Roh, and Sharon Song who won Phase II of this year’s Lexus Echo Challenge.

…the following students who were accepted to the Nassau All County Art Exhibition: Max Blumencranz, Jana Schwartz, Rachel Weissman, Devon Reisman, Zyanna Ratansi, Danielle Zakian, Rebecca Yu and Jasdeep Kaur. Additionally, Danielle Zakian will receive an art scholarship prior to the All-County Exhibition at Adelphi.


…the following students who placed at the FBLA competition at Molloy College: Brian Violino, 1st in sports management, Richard Law, 3rd in business math, Justin Goodfarb, 2nd place (island-wide) in intro to business communications, Jared Bower, 3rd place in business law, Maxx Goldstein, 1st in intro to business, Adam Greenbaum, 3rd island-wide in banking and financial systems, Jake Mandel, 2nd in economics, Ari Lewis, 2nd in personal finance, David Greenbaum, 3rd in basic decision making, and Aaron Liu in public speaking.

…the following students who competed in the 2012 Nassau County Math Tournament. They competed with over 600 students and 120 teams. Grade 9: 3rd highest scorer, Richie Lee, 4th highest scorer, Richie Lee, 12 highest scorer, Derek Xu, Grade 10: highest scorer: Kevin Huang, 2nd highest scorer: Matt Chun, the highest scorer, Leo Hu, 9th highest scorer, Oliver Hu, 14th highest scorer, Ian Hua, Grade 11: 9th (tie) highest scorer, Matt Lesser, 9th (tie) highest scorer, Ray Wu, 14th (tie) highest scorer, Lambert Chu 14th (tie) highest scorer, Mike Shen, Grade 12: highest scorer, Jason Wang, 15th highest scorer, Justin Wang. Team events: 1st place lower division, 2nd place lower division, 3rd place upper division, 11th place upper division.

…to the following students who won medals at the L.I. History Day competition on Sunday, March 4th: Rachel Kim, Cooper Paston, Eric Rothman, Jack Roberts, and Ian Goodman. Bradley Wank, Adam Birbach, Michael Halperin, Jon Serota, Yeajin Hahn and Paul Kozhipatt were invited to compete at NYS History day on April 23rd. Additional congratulations to Elizabeth Berman who was awarded the achievement medal for Jericho High School.

…to the Chess Team for coming in 2nd place in the Nassau County Chess Championship.

…to the Boys Varsity Basketball team who won the Nassau County Class “A” Championship.
…to all of our teams who earned the NYS Scholar Athlete Award and the Wrestling and Girls’ Bowling teams were named champions!

…Swim team members Jasper Du -100 breast stroke—a high school record, Alex Popescu -200 freestyle, and Anthony Istonin-100 yard back stroke, breaking the high school record. They will be going on to compete in the state championship.

**Calendar of Upcoming High School Events**

Please visit the Jericho High School web site: [http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/](http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/) for the latest information on our upcoming high school events.