

# Whippany Park High School Guidance Newsletter Winter 2011



Written and Compiled by Eric Shore

## Instant Decision is a Success!



Over the month of December, Whippany Park High School had the pleasure of welcoming admissions counselors from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Caldwell College, County College of Morris, and William Paterson University for on-site Instant Decision Days. An overwhelming majority of the students who participated in these events were accepted to these four colleges.



Instant Decision Days are one-day, non-binding, one-on-one meetings with each student and the admissions representative, where a decision is made immediately on the student's application. In order to have participated, students needed to meet the criteria specified by each participating college.

## Peter Van Buskirk Comes to Hanover Park Regional High School District

On Wednesday, February 15, 2012 in the Hanover Park High School Theater, Peter Van Buskirk will present The Admission Game<sup>®</sup>, an interactive presentation of the college admission process. Mr. Van Buskirk is an author, motivational speaker, and former dean of admission, and he has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, USA Today, and Family Circle.

The Admission Game<sup>®</sup> will be a unique opportunity to see what happens to applications behind closed doors. Audience members will become members of an admission committee, review and debate candidates, and vote to determine who gets in. Parents and students in grades 6-11 are welcome and the presentation will begin at 7:00 PM. For more information, visit [www.TheAdmissionGame.com](http://www.TheAdmissionGame.com).

## Junior College Parent Night Program - Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

On January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Whippany Park Theater, the Guidance department will hold a Junior Parent College Night for all juniors and their parents. Topics will include the college visits, the college search, SAT/ACT testing, Naviance, and much more. This is an excellent program for junior parents to learn more about the college application

process and information both general and specific to the Whippany Park student population. Hope to see you there!

## Naviance: Now Available for All Students

All Whippany Park students now have access to Naviance, the acclaimed college and career research program. Students can investigate careers and take career inventories, search for colleges that fit their needs, create a college list, read detailed college profiles, and much more. Each college profile is packed with information, including both national acceptance data and Whippany Park acceptances and denials based on SAT and GPA. With five years of Whippany Park college admissions' data available for viewing, this interactive website makes college and career planning easy and user-friendly.

Current sophomores and seniors were provided with access to Naviance last year. If you do not remember your login information, make sure to stop into Guidance to update your profile and continue your post-high school research. This is a cutting edge program that any student or parent can benefit from tremendously in finding colleges or majors and careers.

## Whippany Park High School Class of 2010: Four-Year Colleges Most Applied To

(As of December 13, 2011)

1. Rutgers University at New Brunswick
2. The University of Scranton
3. Quinnipiac University
4. Ramapo College of New Jersey
5. University of Delaware
6. Pennsylvania State University
7. Fairleigh Dickinson University
8. Montclair State University
9. Drexel University
10. Marist College

## Counselors Visit Freshman Seminar Classes

During the month of December, counselors visited Freshman Seminar classes to discuss report cards, ways to improve on current grades, graduation requirements, transcripts, and how this information relates to both high school graduation and college. Students were extremely receptive and asked excellent questions during the visits. Freshmen are always welcome to meet with their counselor to discuss these areas or anything else - our doors are always open!

## PSAT Results Are In!

Counselors visited all junior social studies classes from 12/9 - 12/13 to distribute PSAT results, explain these results, and to talk about SATs, ACTs and important general reminders. Sophomores and freshmen received their results in their Language Arts classes immediately thereafter. If students have any questions about their results or the next steps, make sure to see your counselor.

## Scheduling Begins in January

It's just about that time again - scheduling begins again in the second half of January. The process will be streamlined this year and will likely last into the middle of February. Course availability and descriptions will be available soon so make sure to check the Whippany Park Guidance website after the new year to get the most up to date information.

## Scholarships for the Class of 2012

There are a few ways for Whippany Park students to find and apply for scholarships. The Guidance Department keeps an updated list of National, State, and County scholarships for students to apply for on the [Guidance website](#).

The same list is available on Naviance (<http://connection.naviance.com/whippanypark>). These lists are updated every 1-2 weeks. In the Guidance office, the scholarship bulletin board provides information about many of these scholarships, and below that bulletin board are file folders with many applications for the available scholarships. There are also links on each Naviance scholarship page to the scholarship's website and application if available.



In March, seniors will receive local scholarship packets with descriptions of scholarships specific to Whippany Park students. There will be a two-week process to return these applications and to apply for scholarships. Winners will be awarded scholarships on June 7, 2011 at the Senior Scholarship Awards Program. Also, Fastweb.com is a website that provides scholarships to high school students. To find scholarships that you may qualify for, sign up for a free account.

## Volunteer Opportunities: Helping Others Can Help You

*(from Collegeboard.com, December 14, 2011)*

Volunteering has a meaningful, positive effect on your community. It can have many benefits for you, too. It can help you give back to society, break down barriers and even have fun.

You may have heard that volunteer experience is a plus on your college applications. Keep in mind, though, that colleges are not just looking for a list of organizations and dates. They want to see a complete picture of you, and real examples of your commitment, dedication and interests.

## Reasons to Volunteer

### **Gain Valuable Life Experiences and Skills**

Whether you build houses for the homeless or mail flyers for a local politician, you can experience the real world through hands-on work. You can also use this experience to explore your major or career interests.



### **Meet Interesting People**

Volunteering brings together a variety of people. Both the recipients of your volunteer efforts and your coworkers can be rich sources of insight. For example, maybe you'll learn about the legal profession from a former lawyer you visit at a convalescent center.

### **Get Academic Credit**

Some schools and colleges offer academic credit for volunteer work through service-learning. This teaching method integrates hands-on learning (through service to the community) into the curriculum. To find out if your school offers service-learning, talk to your school counselor.

### **Send a Signal to Colleges**

Colleges pay attention to your life inside and outside the classroom. Your extracurricular activities reveal a great deal about you, such as what your interests are, whether you can manage your priorities and maintain a long-term commitment, what diversity you'd bring to the student body, and how you've made a contribution to something. Keep in mind, colleges are not interested in seeing you do it all. It's more meaningful to colleges to see your dedication to one or two activities than to see that you've spread yourself thin.

## How to Get Involved

There are many people, places and organizations that need volunteers. Here's how to get started:

- Look for programs based in your community. Call and ask if they need help.
- Visit your town's website. It may list volunteer opportunities in your area.
- Contact your local United Way, a local cultural arts association, your student organization, or similar associations that can point you in the right direction.
- Ask libraries, religious organizations and community colleges if they sponsor any volunteer groups.



Enjoy the winter season!