

Nashoba Pride

Integrity—Communicate—Achieve—Relate—Engage

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

I hope that you were able to enjoy a restful and happy Thanksgiving! At the Graham household, we played host to my wife's family: her parents, her brother and his wife, and their 6-month-old baby. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with family, but I am excited to be back.

In this month's newsletter, I wanted to talk about one of the high school's most important recent topics: the NEASC reaccreditation process. NEASC is the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and it is the organization that accredits high schools throughout New England. Every ten years, high schools must be reaccredited, and Nashoba has been spending the last several years in the reaccreditation process.

The process begins with a schoolwide self-study in which the faculty assesses schoolwide practices and resources against a list of seven standards. The standards include areas such as Core Values, Assessment, Instruction, School Culture and Leadership, and Community Resources for Learning. Every staff member participates in one of seven committees, each focused on a different standard, and the committees use a variety of evidence to create individual reports that describe the extent to which the high school meets each standard. Those reports are then discussed and voted on by the entire staff, and the approved reports are combined to create a 100+page comprehensive self-study.

The next step in the process is a site visit. A team of 16 educators from throughout New England (teachers and administrators from other New England schools) will spend four days visiting Nashoba and gathering evidence about the extent to which we meet each of the seven NEASC standards. Our self-study will be one big piece of evidence, but the visiting team is interested in visiting classrooms, talking to stakeholders (students, staff, parents, central office administrators, and community members), reviewing student work, and generally trying to get an in-depth feel for what Nashoba is like on a daily basis. After the site visit, the team produces a final report (which goes through an editing process that generally lasts several months). That report de-

termines Nashoba's level of ongoing accreditation, and identifies specific steps that the school needs to take to maintain its accreditation.

At this point, we have finished our self-study and are waiting for the visiting team, which will arrive in March. An executive summary of the self-study will be presented to the School Committee this month, and we are already taking a variety of steps to address areas for improvement identified in the self-study. The visiting team will be at Nashoba from March 8th through March 11th, and we are currently reaching out to parents to participate in the site visit as stakeholders to be interviewed by the visiting team. You may have seen flyers to that effect already – to volunteer to be interviewed by the visiting team, please contact one of our two NEASC co-chairs, either Leo Sakellariou (lsakellariou@nrsd.net) or Cheryl Gallagher (cgallagher@nrsd.net).

Once the site visit is complete and they have finalized their report, we will share that report with the community. There will certainly be a lot of positive things in the report (because Nashoba is a great school, and this is a great community), but there will also be areas for us to work on as we continue to try to provide the highest-possible quality education to all our students.

I hope you will consider being a part of the NEASC process when the visiting team arrives, and rest assured that I will keep you fully updated as we move forward with the reaccreditation process.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Enterovirus D68 health information is on our district website <http://www.nrsd.net/>. The district health team is working on an Ebola protocol for the NRSD

ATTENTION PARENTS:

For the protection and safety of your child, ***please make sure to inform the bus driver/company if your child has any life threatening allergies, asthma, diabetes, seizures, or any

(Continued on page 2)

other medical condition that may require immediate attention (calling 911) while on the school bus. The link below will take you to the district website where the school bus emergency medical information form can be found:

<http://www.nrsd.net/assets/files/Health%20Office/School%20Bus%20Emergency%20Medical%20Information%20Form.pdf>

EMERGENCY HEALTH FORMS:

We are still collecting the Student Emergency and Health Forms (**Blue Form**). Please check that all listed phone contact numbers are current and correct. Persons listed as emergency contacts should be available for contact/student release during the school day. This form is required for all students each school year and prior to the students going on a field trip .

CURRENT JOB OPENING:

- School Registered Nurse Daily Substitutes needed
- Assists the administration and members of the educational team in providing the fullest possible educational opportunity for each student by minimizing absence due to illness and creating an optimal environment of health and well-being within the school.

Please contact HR at 978-779-0539 Ext. 3033 for more information on this position

HOLIDAYS FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS:

It is NOT too late to make a donation

Holidays for High Schoolers is in its "13th" year. It has been tremendously gratifying to witness the community's efforts to share with high schoolers who, like younger children, are touched by the generosity inspired by the spirit of the season.

It is often said that Christmas is for kids, yet even those who have outgrown Santa still dream of finding a gift under the tree. But not all families have the means to buy gifts for older children, and not all "giving" programs serve teenagers. "Holidays for High Schoolers" is a compassionate effort by the adult community of the Nashoba Regional High School to bring a little Christmas joy to those who might otherwise go without a gift.



Contributions are used to purchase gift certificates for each student identified by nurses, administration, guidance and the faculty as being a candidate for "Secret Santa". Student selection is discreet and completely confidential. No names are used. Contributions are collected by the school nurses to insure anonymity.

To make a donation, send checks made payable to: "Holidays for High Schoolers" and send to:

Nashoba Regional High School
12 Green Road,
Bolton, MA 01740
Attn: The School Nurse

For more information, contact the school nurses at (978)779-2257 x6

Ms. Rivera, Mrs. Oetman, and Mrs. Sullender
High School Nurses

Have a safe December!

FRIENDS OF MUSIC NEWS

Seven Nashoba Students Chosen for the Central District Music Festival

Congratulations to all the students who auditioned for the Central District Music Festival this past weekend. Over 900 Central Massachusetts students from 60 different schools vied for admission to sing or play at the festival to be held in Mechanics Hall in January. Only 375 students out of the 940 who auditioned were successful. These students are divided among the chorus, band, orchestra, and jazz band that will appear on the program. In addition to this, the top 10% of the accepted students were recommended to try out for the All-State Music Festival to be held in Symphony Hall, Boston, in March. The following Nashoba students will attend the festival:

Kevin Cote, Tenor, Chorus

Evan Daisy, Trombone, Jazz Band with an All-State recommendation

Erika Rohrberg, Flute, Band with an All-State recommendation

Catherine Smith, Soprano, Chorus with an All-State recommendation

Isabela Tanashian, Alto, Chorus with an All-State recommendation

Alycia Ventura, Alto, Chorus with an All-State recommendation

Dan Yapp, Trumpet, Jazz Band with an All-State recommendation

BOSTON HOLIDAY POPS: DECEMBER 5TH

The students of the music department will be taking a trip to see the Holiday Pops at Symphony Hall in Boston on Friday, December 5th, for the 4 pm performance. If your student would like to go, they will need to pick up a permission form from Mr. McCarthy or Mrs. Mianulli or get the form online at www.nashobamusic.com. Turn in the completed permission form and a check made payable to Nashoba Friends of Music for \$36 to Mr. McCarthy or Mrs. Mianulli. There are only 47 seats available, so don't wait too long.

(Continued on page 3)

FRIENDS OF MUSIC MEETING: DECEMBER 8TH

Parents, please join us at our next meeting on Monday, December 8th, at 6:30 pm, in the chorus room.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS: DECEMBER 12TH AND 19TH

The Holiday Band and Choral Concerts will be held on Friday, December 12th and Friday, December 19th, at 7:00 pm in the NRHS auditorium. Admission is \$5. Students and Senior Citizens are free.

Selections for the band concert will include music by Bernie Miller, Fred Coats, Gordon Goodwin, Nat King Cole, and Leroy Anderson as well as selections from the Grammy Award winning soundtrack of The Polar Express.

The Nashoba Regional High School Choirs will be in the Holiday spirit for their annual Holiday Concert. Come and hear many of your holiday favorites including "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", "We Need a Little Christmas", and "Somewhere In My Memory" from "Home Alone".. The program will also include classical pieces by Haydn, and a selection of Hannukah songs.

STOCKING STUFFERS: FOM SELLING DISCOUNT CARDS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

On behalf of the music program, Friends of Music will be selling cards which will provide discounts to 18 local businesses for 13 months. Cards are \$10 and can be purchased at the winter band and choral concerts on December 12th and 19th. In addition, anyone desiring to purchase cards may contact Paula Castner at nrhsfriendsofmusic@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC EVENT AT SKYZONE

Skyzone in Westborough is partnering with Friends of Music on Wednesday, January 21st, 2015, between 4:00 and 8:00 pm. A portion of the admission fee will be given to Friends of Music. Put the date on your calendars and look for more information forthcoming.

NASHOBA FRIENDS OF DRAMA NEWS

"Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings." The bells were ringing for the NRHS community, as it recently experienced yet another stellar production! *It's a Wonderful Life*, the iconic holiday play, was presented by a very talented cast, crew, and team of volunteers the weekend of November 21st — 23rd. Audiences came to know the message that "no man is a failure who has friends," as Clarence the angel helped a desperate George Bailey see the value in his life by showing him how things would have been if he had never been born. Many thanks to Bill Grady, all of the Friends of Drama parent volunteers, and student committees for another fabulous run, as well as to all who support Nashoba Drama!



The class plays will soon be underway. Students should check with Ms. Martell for more information if they are interested in participating. Mark your calendars and be sure to attend this fabulous competition where each class presents their short play, directed, produced and performed entirely by the students! The class play competition will take place on January 9th, 2015, at 6:30 pm.

Auditions for the Spring Musical will be held Sunday, December 14th at 1 pm and Monday, December 15th at 6 pm in the NRHS auditorium. Please note: **students wishing to try out MUST attend BOTH auditions.**

The next Drama Society meeting for students will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd at 6 pm in the auditorium. The Friends of Drama meeting for parents will be held at 6 pm in the lobby outside the auditorium. Please visit our website at www.NashobaDrama.com or contact Hilda Brewington (hildabrewington@comcast.net) or Tracy Lindsay (joelandtracy.lindsay@comcast.net) for more information.

NASHOBA ATHLETICS



The **Nashoba Athletics Booster Club** (NABC) is the parent volunteer organization that supports all interscholastic athletic programs at NRHS and the Athletic Director. Some current Nashoba Athletics Booster Club information is provided below.

Please visit the Nashoba Athletics Booster Club Website www.NashobaBoosters.com for more information. Click "Follow" and enter your email address to receive updates. We are on Facebook (Nashoba Athletics Booster Club), Twitter (@NashobaBoosters) and Instagram (NashobaBoosters).

CONCESSIONS. Thanks to all the parents who volunteered at the concession stand this Fall. Our net profits this fall were over \$9,000! And we couldn't have done it without you!! Special thanks to Linda Gothie and her Dad for managing and stocking concessions.

NEXT OPEN MEETING. The next Booster Club open meeting will be held in the high school cafeteria at **7 PM on December 1**. Parents of student athletes are welcome and encouraged to attend.



APPAREL. The on-line store is open! Please check out <http://www.shopnhs.nepacompany.com/> to see what Chieftain items are offered! The Booster Club will continue to offer select items for purchase at the Concession stand when open or by contacting Rosanna Chiodo at rhodvsam@aol.com.

BUY-A-BRICK. In keeping with a winning Chieftain tradition, we will be kicking-off a second round of our extremely successful Buy-A-Brick fundraiser this coming January 2015. Keep your eyes open for details so you too can be part of everlasting Chieftain History



TEAM BONDING CONTEST. The Winter Team Bonding contest has begun. Winter Teams are competing this season to have the highest membership percentage per team in the Booster Club. The winning team will receive a team bonding event (up to \$100 in value) to get their team started on the right foot for this season! Multi-sport and multi-athlete families need only one family membership. Membership forms are available on the Nashoba Boosters website www.nashobaboosters.com. It's quick and painless – do it now! **Deadline for Winter Contest is January 16th**. Contact CatherineHammill@gmail.com with any membership questions.



CASINO NIGHT. We are hoping for a Full House on **March 21, 2015** for the Booster Club's Casino Night. More information will be provided in the upcoming months but mark your calendars now!



Warm Hearts of Stow



Holiday

Toy Fund



Once again this holiday season Warm Hearts of Stow is asking the Stow community for monetary contributions so that we can purchase just the right toys from some very special wish lists.

Warm Hearts shoppers will use Toy Fund dollars to purchase holiday gifts for Stow children and teens whose families are struggling financially.

If you can help, please send your tax-deductible donation to:

Warm Hearts Toy Fund

P.O. Box 10

Stow, MA 01775

Checks should be made out to *Warm Hearts Toy Fund*.

Questions? Please contact Susan Holmes (978-897-2461).

Thank you, and Happy Holidays!