THE GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER

Weston High School

SENIORS

- Congratulations to those of you who have been accepted to college! It's still early, and there are many months ahead for us to continue to receive good news - we look forward to it!
- **If you've been accepted Early Decision, please remember to WITHDRAW your other applications. Failure to do so could reverse your ED acceptance!**
- Be sure to keep counselors and teachers who wrote you letters informed about the college admissions decisions that you receive in order to keep your list current
- Write your teachers thank-you notes for writing you letters of recommendation
- **Town scholarship applications will be on the school website by early March and will be due on May 1. Completion of the FAFSA is required for applying for a town scholarship!**
- Be sure to periodically check Naviance and the blue binder in the Guidance office for more scholarships in the coming months!

IMPORTANT DATES

1/11 - Grade 9/10 Parent Forum in Media Center: 8-10 AM or 7-9 PM
1/12 - End of Semester 1
1/12 - Semester 2 Independent Study proposals due
1/16 - Semester 1 Independent Study presentations
1/17 - Canadian University Fair at the Canadian Consulate in Boston

JUNIORS

- Junior Guidance Seminar classes will be starting up next semester. We look forward to working with each of you as we begin the process of post-secondary planning!
- PSAT scores were available to students on December 11th
- **Parents: sign up for your Naviance account! It is a useful tool for the college process, and all junior parents should have an account. To get an account, please email Ali Sumski (sumskia@weston.org) or Katherine Miele (mielek@weston.org)**

SOPHOMORES & FRESHMEN

- **Parents: don't forget to attend the 9th and 10th grade Parent Info Session on January 11th from 8-10 AM or 7-9 PM in the WHS Media Center!**
- We encourage all students to get involved in Activity Block on Thursdays following lunch block. It's a great opportunity to try something new and get to know people that you might not otherwise meet!
- **Freshmen: if you have not yet met with your counselor or registered for Naviance, please do so ASAP!**

FAFSA DAY

January 28, 2018

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Days in Massachusetts are ongoing into the new year, and will be held in **30 locations across Massachusetts**. FAFSA is a required form for any family/student wishing to receive college financial assistance from the federal government. FAFSA Day in Massachusetts is a wonderful opportunity for families of college-bound students to receive **free assistance** completing their FAFSA. Volunteers will walk you through the process step-by-step, but there are a few things you will need to bring with you to expedite the process:

- FAFSA ID
- Social Security number
- Driver's license
- Most recent federal tax return
- Most recent W-2 or year-end pay stub
- Untaxed income records
- Bank statement(s)
- Business and investment records
- Alien Registration Card (if not a US Citizen)

Every family needs to create a FAFSA ID in order to fill out the application. To register for FAFSA Day Massachusetts, visit the following website: https://www.masfaa.org/fafsa-day-register/

INTERESTED IN PURSUING A GAP YEAR?

The Gap Year is a wonderful option for students who are pursuing a path other than college directly after graduating high school. On Thursday 1/18, Brookline High School will be hosting a gap year fair from 6-8:30 PM. The fair promises to provide a wealth of information about numerous post-secondary opportunities available to high school graduates. For more information and to register, visit the following website: https://usagapyearfairs.org/fair/brookline/

If you are unable to make this fair but are interested in learning more about gap years, there are two other upcoming fairs in MA:
1/20 from 1-4 PM at Noble and Greenough School
1/21 from 12-3 PM at Phillips Academy Andover

> “Every accomplishment begins with the decision to try.”

RUSTIC PATHWAYS

"Rustic Pathways" is a global experiential education and service organization with programs available in Asia, Central & South America, and Africa. Rustic Pathways offers a wide variety of customizable programs that focus on service, adventure, exposure to diverse cultures, and life skills development. For more information, visit: https://rusticpathways.com/