THE GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER

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Important Dates

- 2/5 - Transcripts available for juniors with Mrs. Wadsworth in Guidance
- 2/10 - SAT (not at Weston)
- 2/13 - EL Parent Information Session @ 10:30 AM in GEC
- 2/19-2/23 - February Break

Important Reminders

SENIORS:

-It is far too early to be developing Senioritis! Did you know that slacking off can jeopardize your future plans? Many colleges reserve the right to deny admission to an accepted applicant should the student's senior year grades drop. Colleges expect students to maintain previous levels of academic achievement, so stay focused!!

-**Reminder to senior parents**: aim to complete financial aid forms as soon as possible -- financial deadlines are not flexible. You do not need to wait to file taxes before filing for financial aid; you can use an estimate of your Expected Family Contribution. Also, it is important to note that *everyone* should complete the FAFSA.

FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, AND JUNIORS:

SCHEDULING:

-Scheduling for the 2018-19 school year will start in March. All students must see their school counselor during the appropriate dates:

-Juniors: 2/28-3/2

-Sophomores: 3/5-3/7

-Freshmen: 3/8-3/12

PRACTICE ACT (SOPHOMORES):

-A practice ACT will be administered at WHS on Saturday 3/17. The fee for this test is $20 until Monday 3/12, after which there will be an additional $5 late fee ($25 total). The preferred method of registration and payment is through the "Online Payment Center" for Weston Public Schools. If you have enrolled students in programs at Weston Recreation, you may already have an account. If you don't have an account, it will take a day or two to set you up with a PIN. Any questions about Online Payment can be directed to Ashley Lopes (lopesa@weston.org) at Case House or 781-786-5236. Checks made payable to "Town of Weston" will also be accepted in the Guidance office. Informational material about the testing will be distributed to students in advance through homerooms.

Visiting Colleges Over Feb. Break?

Tips to keep in mind!

- Schedule an admissions interview while you're there. You can practice a mock interview with our interns in Guidance before you go.
- Sit in on a class and get a feel for the teaching style.
- Eat in the dining hall. Is the food any good?!
- Visit a freshman dorm. They're not all the same!
- Stay for an overnight program.
- Talk to random students on campus and get their authentic experience.

Alternative Post Graduate Plans

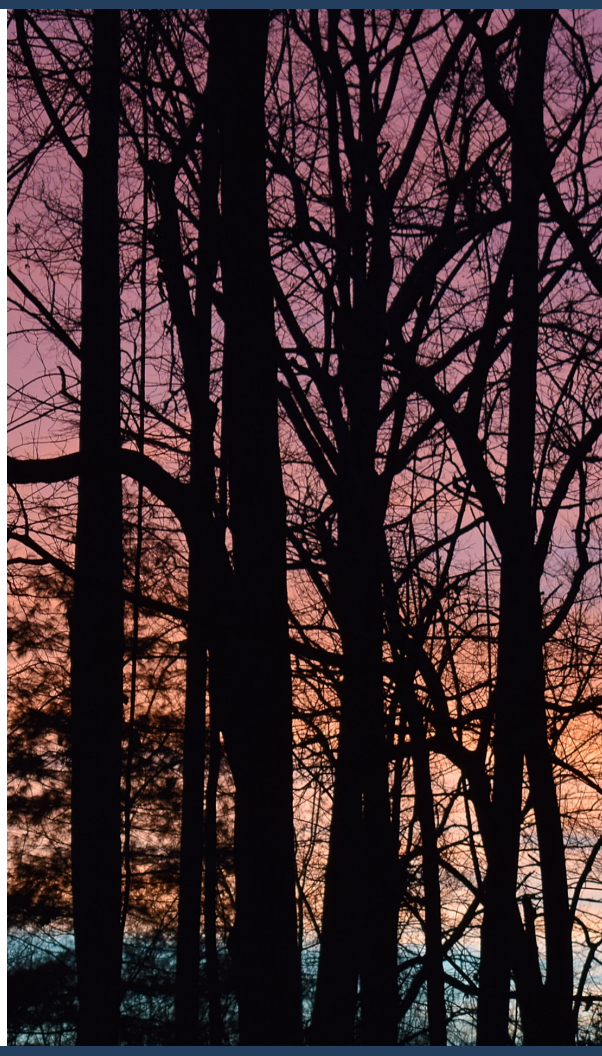
If you feel like college may not be for you, or if you need a breather before starting, you have a number of terrific options to explore! Make an appointment with your school counselor to navigate what pathway may be best for you.

-**Post-Graduate (PG) Year:** An additional year of academic study at private or boarding school. The Guidance Office has a list of New England schools that offer a PG year.

-**Gap Year:** Programs that are offered in between high school and college that provide students various opportunities for learning, internships, volunteer work, and travel experiences.

-**Armed Forces:** Students who aspire to serve in our military can pursue Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and US Coast Guard careers.

February is Financial Aid Month!

With the cost of college rising each year, it is important for students and their families to utilize all financial aid resources available to them.

- Seniors, be sure to apply for the **FAFSA** at fafsa.gov before May 1, 2018.
- **Fastweb** provides great information on federal aid, scholarships, and more: http://www.fastweb.com/financial-aid
- Explore **Scholar Snapp** through CommonApp for help applying to scholarships: http://www.scholarsnapp.org/
- If applying for the **METCO Scholarship,** you must submit a Weston High School Application for Scholarship Aid form to the Guidance Office in order to be considered for the METCO Scholarship.
- Scholarships are added daily to the **Scholarship Binder** in the Guidance Office and the **Scholarships Tab** on Naviance. Ask Ms. Sumski & Ms. Miele!