

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 2 Winter 2015-16

FROM THE PRINCIPAL Mr. Sawchuk

Dear Parents / Guardians:

As December comes to an end and a New Year begins, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Our students and staff have been busy working on their holiday projects that have included food drives, Make-A-Wish stars, care packages, and caroling for various causes.

With January now here, our January Regents testing week will begin January 26th to 29th. Instructors will also be giving inclass midterm exams January 11th to 22nd.



It is important that your child actively prepare for each one of their exams.

I will send out communication in the next few

weeks about review classes that will be offered.

A special Regents Newsletter with exam and bus schedules will be posted later in January.

Once again, best wishes for a wonderful and productive 2016!

Your Partner in Education,
John P. Sawchuk

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nc	-	0 t	h		CCI	ıe:
113	ш				331	

Guidance News	2&3
Athletic Dept. Kudos	4&5
Music Dept. News	6&7
Music Dates / Poetry Slam / ID Reminder	7
Art Dept. News	8
Parking Info / STEM	9
OpGrad / Student Conf.	10
Business Dept. News	11
Wonderful Causes	12& 13
Café / Driver Ed. News	14

Dates of Interest

15

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD HOSTED INVITATIONALS

On January 9th, Columbia's Science Olympiad once again hosted the Invitationals.

The members of Columbia's Science Olympiad team are excited to have hosted an invitational tournament this year. This is the second year that Columbia hosted a full day-long tournament at the high school. Columbia's rivals Niskayuna and Ballston Spa attended as well as teams from 20 other schools from across the state. This was the first tournament of the season for local teams. Students competed in true STEM events such as flying balsa prop planes for up to 2 minutes, testing balsa bridges that have masses of approximately 15 grams and yet hold 15 kilograms and test their air trajectory cannons. Competitors also demonstrated their prowess in forensics, astronomy and fossils to name a few. Results will be posted at a later time.

Science Olympiad gives students a chance to investigate topics not normally covered in a typical classroom. Most of these students go on to study science and engineering at college.



(pictured: 2014-15 's State Champions)

Page 2 PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

TRANSCRIPT FEE REMINDER

Please be advised, per the Board of Education, a \$5.00 fee is charged for transcript requests. Note that this fee does not apply to students who are currently enrolled in the East Greenbush Central School District.

Transcript request forms can be found on our website www.egcsd.org, under Forms. Please complete the transcript request form and mail to CHS along with a check made payable to the East Greenbush Central Schools.

If you have any questions regarding a transcript, please call the Columbia High School Guidance Department at 207-2020.



Attention Seniors!!!!

In February, a representative from Hudson Valley Community College is scheduled in the guidance office for a *Free Instant Admit* day on Tuesday, **2/2/16**. Please watch the webpage for continually updating information.

National Honor Society's Induction for Seniors

Advisors to the "Les Savants" Chapter of the National Honor Society will be reviewing academically eligible seniors for membership. Information packets and faculty input took place in December with an induction date in January. Potential candidates were reviewed based on the four pillars: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Successful candidates will have their membership status forwarded to the colleges they are seeking admission.



Annual Alumni Day

On January 6, Alumni from Columbia's 2015 graduating class returned to participate in a discussion on "Adjusting to College." The Alumni addressed the current Senior class and talked about topics ranging from the college search process, academic workload, college housing, roommates, budgeting money and time management. As always, the interactive

discussion provided valuable insight to Columbia's Seniors, who are navigating the college search process.



ASVAB Tests

The ASVAB, a timed multi-aptitude test given as a career interest inventory and military entrance exam, will be offered at Columbia High School on Wednesday, January 27th, at 7:30am to students in grades 10 through 12.

If you have any questions regarding this test, or you would like to sign up, please stop in the Guidance Office.

The Practice ACT Test Date/Time: Friday, January 29, 2016 @ 8:00 AM

WHO SHOULD TAKE the ACT ASPIRE? Sophomores who may be interested in attending college.

REASONS FOR TAKING THE PRACTICE ACT:

- Taking the PRACTICE ACT gives you practice for taking the real ACT during your JR. and SR. year (because it is a retired exam). Taking the ACT helps you plan for college. You can get an idea of how you will do on a college admissions test and can find colleges that seek students with similar interests and academic majors like your own.
- The PRACTICE ACT lets you compare your ability to do college work with the ability of other college bound students. After the test you will receive a score report and your testing booklet that will include correct answers, your answer, and your scores in each section.
- Estimate your chances of getting into, and succeeding at, the college of your choice.

REGISTRATION: See Guidance Office for registration information due by January 12th.

PSAT/NAT'L MERIT LETTERS OF COMMENDATION FOR CHS SENIORS

Please join us in congratulating CHS Seniors Lyana Geng, Justin Luther, and Marc Roizman! The National Merit Scholarship Program has recognized them as Commended Students – they are in the top 5 percent of students who completed the PSAT!







School Counseling News

As we look forward to 2016, the Guidance Department would like to take a moment to point out some of the opportunities we have had to work with students so far this year.

Freshmen: We conducted an orientation session in English classes in September to help students acclimate to CHS and to learn about valuable resources available in the Guidance Office. In December we took students from their Global classes and used Naviance to have students learn about their personality, their strengths, and their weaknesses.

Sophomores: We used Naviance to have students conduct a Career Interest Inventory and research careers that align with their interests.

Juniors: Students took the PSAT in October, with results coming soon.

Seniors: We did a review with seniors about the college application process in early September. Since then, seniors have been busy submitting applications and close to 70% have applied to college.

We also have many opportunities to work with students and their families in 2016.

- Scholarships for seniors remember to check Naviance regularly for local scholarships opportunities.
- ♦ In January and March, counselors will be conducting classroom presentations on the post-high school planning and college admission process.
- After January 1st, counselors will be inviting junior families in for individual meetings to discuss post-high school plans.
- In February, counselors will begin course selection with students. Please watch for your copy of the Program of Studies in February.
- We will be holding our Financial Aid/FAFSA workshop for seniors and their parents on February 4th. More details will come via email.
- On March 1st, we will host a College Admission Panel Discussion with representatives from local colleges to answer
 many of your college application questions.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Guidance Office at 207-2020.

Thank you. - Columbia High School Counselors

Page 4 PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Awards for the 2015-2016 School Year

CONGRATULATIONS:

CHS is pleased to announce that the New York State Public High School Athletic Association has recognized all of our Varsity Fall athletic teams as recipients of the Scholar/Athlete Team Award. In order for a team to receive this prestigious award, the team must have at least a ninety average.

FALL TEAMS:

Boys' Cross Country

Girls' Cross Country

Field Hockey

Girls' Tennis

Football

Boys' Volleyball

Golf Girls' Volleyball

STUDENT COLLEGE COMMITMENT

Choosing which college to attend can be a difficult one, but that wasn't the case for Justine Torre. The Columbia senior made her decision at a press conference on November 30 in the school's auditorium when she signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Siena College and play for its Division I volleyball team.

Torre chose Siena because of its academic program, its proximity to home in nearby Loudonville, and for the opportunity to play college volleyball. "Siena just stood out at first. I didn't really consider anywhere else," said Torre, who plans on majoring in biology.

Torre has been a standout player on the Columbia varsity volleyball team for three years. During that time, the Blue Devils compiled a 48-17 record, including a 17-3 mark this season which ended with the team's first Section II final since 1987. A two-time Suburban Council Second Team All-Star, Torre had 150 aces, 310 kills, 101 blocks and 355 digs during her career. Torre is also an outstanding student. She has a 93 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Columbia Head Coach Chris Hosley said it's "rewarding" when a student earns a scholarship to play in college, but added "it's more expected with someone like Justine because of the work she puts in." Tor-

re will join a regional powerhouse program at Siena College. The Saints have won nine conference championships and appeared in five NCAA Tournaments. "I'm really happy. I'm so excited to play volleyball in college," Torre said.



CHANNEL 13's ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Columbia track and field star Estelle Yedynak was named Channel 13's Fidelis Care Athlete of the Week on Tuesday.

Yedynak, a team captain, won the long jump (15' 3.5"), placed second in the high jump (5' 0") and fifth in the triple jump (30' 1") in the Blue Devils' first indoor meet of the season on Saturday at Union College. Columbia placed second overall among nine teams.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

TEAL RIBBON 5K RUN





On Sunday, September 13, 2015 the Columbia Athletic Family, athletes, coaches and parents participated in the 14th Annual Teal Ribbon 5K Run. This year there were 360 runners representing Columbia H.S. The Teal Ribbon run sponsors and provides ovarian cancer support, education and research funding. Mr. Leonard's "Challenge" donating \$1.00 for every student, coach and alumni that crossed the finish line before him.

Congratulations to all involved, the Columbia Athletic Family raised \$3,500.00 for this worthy cause Teal Ribbon 5K Run.





ANTIBULLYING

Columbia Athletic Department along with the East Greenbush School District is dedicated to teaching tolerance and educating students and parents on the issues of bullying. Bullying is a violation of our District's core values and will not be tolerated. The actions of any one person or group of individuals which threaten the health and safety of students and or staff must be addressed promptly. Early intervention, reinforcement of a consistent message and follow through from students, parents, staff, and administration can ensure that everyone's right to

learn, play and work in a safe environment is respected.

If you feel that you are a victim of bullying or harassment in school, on the athletic playing field, or even outside of school please contact Athletic Director, Mike Leonard at (518) 207-2080 Ext. 3 or email leonarmi@egcsd.org.

Page 6 PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

STUDENT PERFORMANCES 1

Columbia's String Quintet performed for the Board of Regents Annual Holiday Dinner at the State Education building in Albany. Present were the Chancellor and Commissioner of Education, members of the Board of Regents, legislators and other honored guests. Pictured are Steve Ramsingh, Elliot Brock, teacher Sue Chrzan, Taylor Shanley, Jaime Kendrick



STUDENT PERFORMANCES 2



The Columbia Chamber Orchestra performed at Hawthorne Ridge in a Sunday afternoon concert on November 15th, 2015. The group played a wide variety of styles of music which were enjoyed tremendously by the residents.

STUDENT PERFORMANCES 3

Other events recently performed by Music Department students are as follows:

- December 2nd Jazz Band and the String Quintet at the State Education Department Service Award Ceremony
- December 13th String Quintet and String Ensemble at the East Greenbush Library
- ◆ December 19th Chamber Orchestra members performed at the First Presbyterian Church of Hudson
- ◆ Two of our freshmen, Heather Pangburn and Rachel Morris, performed as (respectively) Charlie Brown and Lucy in the play A Charlie Brown Christmas at the Palace Theater on 12/19 and 12/20. A great achievement!
- Congratulations to all our performers!

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/CLUBS

We encourage all of you to take an active part in your Columbia High School community. Joining a club can enrich your high school experience. Many opportunities are available. See web page (EGCSD.ORG) for complete details and listings. Listen during morning announcements for meeting time and date information.

ID REMINDER

Please remember that all students need their Student Identification Badges on them at all times during the school day.

Furthermore, they will need to use these IDs to gain entrance to midterms and Regents examinations during the January Exam week.

Finally, students will need their IDs to buy tickets/bids and enter any school dance this year (Sno-Ball, Proms, etc.)

If a student has lost his/her ID badge, they need to go to their Assistant Principal's office to replace it.



POETRY SLAM

Last year's Poetry Slam was a huge success. This year's Slam will be even better! Come be a part of this amazing event in the CHS

Library on April 1, 2016.

Poetry



MUSIC AND THE ARTS EVENTS

The following exciting events are just some that are upcoming at CHS:

- 2/4/16 Choral Festival
- 2/9&10 DW Instrumental Fest.
- 3/4&5 CHS Spring Musical: "Anything Goes"
- 3/22/16 Pops Concert #1

- 3/29/16 Pops Concert #2
- 5/5/16 DW String Festival
- 5/12/16 DW Arts Festival @ CHS
- 5/20 & 21 NYSSMA Solo Fest
- 6/7/16 Spring Concert #1
- 6/9/16 Spring Concert #2



Page 8 PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

Art Club students held a Silent Auction in November 2015. A part of the proceeds went to the Friends of Foundation de France's new program, Give To France. A good time was had by all.

Mark your calendars for this year's <u>District Students' Art Show</u>. It will be taking place at Columbia High on <u>Thursday</u>, May 12th, 2016.





STUDENT ARTWORK!







An Advanced Studio
Art lesson was to
create a realistic
drawing of a sheet of
loose leaf paper,
including a figure
between the lines.
Here are a few
student interpretations:



PEER LEADERSHIP

Peer Leadership is a very busy community service group. Since the beginning of school we have partnered with the East Greenbush Youth and Community Events Department at the Saturday in the Park Family Fun Day and Afterschool Bowling Program, East Greenbush Bowling Center for their Octoberfest Family Fun Day, Price Chopper for their Halloween Party, Red Mill School for their Open House child care, STRIDE'S Organization to host a Harvest Ball for disabled young adults and teens, Becca's Closet

Organization to provide gently used formal wear for our students, and the YMCA for our annual Leadership Training event at Camp Chingachgook in Lake George.

Our mantra is: "If we all do a little, a lot gets done", "If it is to be, it is up to me" and finally "Many hands make light work." As you can see, our members truly embrace our philosophies, and are doing a great job around our community!

JUNIOR PARKING UPDATE

Junior student parking will be reevaluated for Semester II. Students should listen to morning announcements in mid-January for date and time of the mandatory informational meeting.

As always, Senior student parking applications are accepted all year.



A LOOK AT HOW THE STEM PROGRAM APPLIES TO CHS

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are applied in action at Columbia High School! Students in Mr. Ford's Modern Mechanisms class are working on simple machines about two months in to the school year. Eventually, they will complete complex robots by the end of the year. The class is learning how to work with pulleys and hydraulics. These studies are all measurement-based, and will build a foundation of understanding upon which students may predict how their robots will come together by the end of the class.

"Every class is a day of constant discovery," Mr. Ford said. "This is not something you can learn from a book, or by writing a paper. We do problem solving, finding solutions – there is no one right answer in here. The application of STEM is hands-on and project-based." The creations these students assemble are truly something to behold. You're invited to stop by Mr. Ford's classroom to learn more, or check out the display case across the hall where student work is showcased.







Page 10 PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Operation Graduation News

O.G. HELPS

The Operation Graduation students have teamed up with some of Red Mill's 5th Graders in Mrs. Strock's class for a year long community project. The theme is "Random Acts of Kindness".

During December, both classes met up at the Evergreen Commons nursing home to sing Christmas

carols and bring holiday cheer to their residents.

The classes have been incorporating this "pay it forward" concept since the beginning of the year and plan on completing more activities in our community within the upcoming months.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Students received lessons in leadership from seven different guest speakers at Columbia's Student Leadership Conference December 10th at the Comfort Inn & Suites in East Greenbush. The full-day program was organized by Principal John Sawchuk to teach students about leadership and how they can make a positive influence on others. "Building leadership skills at an early age will help our students as they move on in life, both professionally and personally," Sawchuk said. Nearly 90 students attended the program.

The full-day program included:

- ♦ Everyone Can Be A Hero Tom Murphy, former MMA fighter who co-founded the anti-bullying organization Sweethearts and Heroes
- Equine Facilitated Learning Andrea Neiman, Columbia art teacher who works with students at local horse rescues
- ♦ Iron Man Alex Tronco, managing partner at Northwestern Mutual
- OPORTRAIT IN Leadership Rick Yarosh, Army veteran and motivational speaker for Sweethearts and Heroes
- ♦ Friends of Jaclyn Denis Murphy, founder of Friends of Jaclyn Foundation which helps families suffering from childhood cancer
- ♦ Leading Today Bob Stulmaker, former high school coach, athletic director and assistant director of NYSPHSAA
- ♦ Living with Aspergers Syndrome Melanie Hecker, motivational speaker and advocate for the disabled



BUSINESS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Columbia's Business Department celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week (November 16-20) by hosting eight local entrepreneurs. Students learned first hand the challenges of owning and operating a business. Junior Achievement sponsored this outstanding event. The **Business Department has** been working with Junior Achievement for over 15 years. Guests visited the following business classes: Entrepreneurship, Accounting, Career and Financial Management (CFM), and Marketing.

Thanks to the following volunteers: Donna Williams, Field Goods; Dave Wojeski, Wojeski CPAs; Lauren Groff, Groff Networks; Tony Pfister, ClassBooks.com; Lisa Despart, Action Window Cleaning Company; Chris Cummings, 454 Fire; Howard Gross, EBizDocs, and Robert Clancy, Spiral Design.





<u>Left Top:</u> Chris Cummings, 454 Fire <u>Left Bottom:</u> Lisa Despart, Action Cleaning Company

Below: Entrepreneurship Class

If you are interested in speaking to a business class, please email Donna Shepardson

at shepardsondo@egcsd.org

or Katrina Gruet at

gruetka@egcsd.org.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL GALA

The EGCSD community is invited to the 30th Annual Education Foundation Spring Gala and Hall of Fame Induction on Friday, April 9th, 2016. The evening will celebrate the achievements of district alumni and raise funds for enrichment grants.

Tickets for the annual Gala includes dinner and a donation for student scholarships. The event will also include an auction, a raffle, a cash bar, and musical performances by district students.

Further information can be found at http://www.eqedfoundation.org/annual-gala.html.

Page 12 PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

HOLIDAY PROJECTS FOR WONDERFUL CAUSES!

Once again our students and staff have put together wonderful projects for the holiday season. Please see below:

<u>Student Council</u> - CoNSERNS-U Store; Evergreen Commons caroling and gifts; Decorating the School.

<u>Cheerleaders and Leaders of To-morrow Leading Today</u> - St. Anne's Holiday Cheer; Caroling & Gifts.



<u>FBLA</u> - Volunteered their time at Crossgates Mall for Make-A-Wish Foundation. The students collected donations that will help grant wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

<u>Peer Leadership/OG-</u> Participated in the CoNSERNS-U Store - set-up buy gifts and assist with shopping.



<u>Key Club</u> - Was at Crossgates Mall and Beckers Farm in East Greenbush helping with the "Bells of Life" Fundraiser.

Athletic Department - Columbia Athletics donated gifts to 10 senior citizens and eight families including 39 children at Rensselaer County Social Services. The gifts were collected by students and coaches from the school community through the Athletics Adopt-A-Family program.



Make-A-Wish - Columbia's "Angels" Caitlin McHugh and Lydia Clemente sold paper star ornaments during December, raising \$390 for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.



<u>Music Students</u> - Instrumental and Caroling performances at various sites:

Chamber Singers - at Town Hall singing carols at the town's Tree Lighting.

Singers and Orchestra, Instrumental and Jazz Bands performed throughout the school district.







Humane Society Drive

Columbia students Emily Cuttler and Olivia Godell started a fundraiser in December to help local animals through the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

The project, which ran through December 23, came about as a tribute to Cuttler's dog Kallie who recently passed away. But Cuttler and Godell actually talked about helping animals way back when they attended Green Meadow Elementary School together.

"I've always wanted to do something like this," said Cuttler, who has donated blankets and other items to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

The students collected donations

such as food and toys, selling homemade dog biscuits during lunch periods throughout the day, ultimately raising \$415.55. They also ran a Look-Alike contest for students and staff with their pets. (Mrs. Gordon and her dog won 1st place, with Mrs. Conner-Dyer and her pooch coming in 2nd.)



VETERAN'S DAY



On Tuesday, November 10th, 2015, students joined community members in saluting and paying respect to our Veterans at the East Greenbush Cemetery.



SEASON OF GIVING

In mid-November, students from Columbia High School and Howard L. Goff Middle School acted as Santa's elves as they setup the CoNSERNS-U Christmas store at the McManus Center in Rensselaer. They unpacked donated board games, dolls, clothes and other toys and then organized them by category and age.

The makeshift store, was open for Christmas shopping to low income families. Parents could walk in and select gifts for free to provide their children a merry Christmas.

"It makes us feel good that we're helping someone else," said Columbia senior Bill Lindemann. He is the president of Columbia's Peer Leadership club, which had about 40 volunteers at the event.

Columbia students and teachers were joined by Goff Middle School Student Council and special education students. The Student Council members went shopping beforehand, purchasing \$1,500 worth of gifts from fundraisers they've coordinated over the past few weeks. They brought the gifts to CoNSERNS-U and helped setup the store. Student Council members said it was like going on a shopping spree, but for someone else. "That makes it even better," said 8th grader Taryn Stewart.

Other students worked upstairs, packing 600 reusable bags with food items for a complete holiday meal, including stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, dessert and other food items. The bags were distributed with a ham or turkey for Thanksgiving dinners.

Page 14 PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

CAFETERIA INFORMATION



Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and that's especially true for students. Studies have shown that children who eat breakfast do better academically. Eating breakfast can help improve math, reading and problem-solving skills.

At East Greenbush CSD, all seven schools offer breakfast to its students. With the convenience of online prepayment through <u>MySchoolBucks.com</u>, great value and a friendly atmosphere, kids can start their school day right.



Due to rising costs of food, labor, benefits and supplies, the Board of Education has approved a \$0.25 increase in school breakfast and lunch prices effective February 1, 2016.

The District's last price change in meals occurred on July 1, 2014.

	Current Price	Effective February 1, 2016
School Breakfast		
Grades K-5	\$1.50	\$1.75
Grades 6-8	\$1.50	\$1.75
Grades 9-12	\$2.00	\$2.25
School Lunch		
Grades K-5	\$2.75	\$3.00
Grades 6-8	\$3.00	\$3.25
Grades 9-12	\$3.00	\$3.25

Columbia High School



CHS 962 Luther Rd East Greenbush, NY 12061

Phone:518- 207-2000 Fax: 518-207-2009 E-mail: www.egcsd.org

Price Chopper Tools for Schools

Please help CHS earn free Educational Equipment.

Sign up with your AdvantageEdge Card at www.pricechopper.com.

If you do not have internet access, please send your name and AdvantageEdge Card Number to school or sign up at Price Chopper.

Columbia High School's code is 15753

Thank you for your support!

SCHOOL DANCES:

Sno-Ball Saturday, February 6, 2016

Spring Fling To Be Announced
Junior Prom Saturday, May 14, 2016
Senior Prom Friday, June 3, 2016

Principal's Honor Roll:

Upcoming: Tuesday, March 8, 2016 Wednesday, May 18, 2016



EMERGENCY CLOSING MAKE-UP DAYS for SPRING 2016

#1 No need to make up

#2 April 21, Thursday

#3 April 22, Friday

#4 May 31, Tuesday

#5 May 27, Friday

Upcoming CHS Dates of Interest

Please refer to the CHS web site (egcsd.org) for further details:

- 1/13/16 PIG Assembly (snow date 1/14)
- 1/15/16 Hypnotist Show
- 1/16/16 Winterfest
- 1/2016 O.G. January Graduation
- 1/26 29 January Regents & Exams
- 2/4/16 College/FAFSA Workshop
- 2/9/16 8th to 9th Grade Orient.
- Mastermind Competition
- 2/15 2/19 Winter Recess
- 2/28/16 Cheer Competition

- 3/1/16 Grade 11 Info. Meeting
- 3/2/16 Class Rings parent mtg Gr.10
- 3/3/16 GR.10 Class Rings ordering
- 3/4/16 Prof. Development Half Day
- 3/10/16 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 4/8/16 Ed. Foundation Gala
- 4/25 4/29 Spring Recess
- 5/2 13 AP Testing
- 5/6/16 Talent Show
- 5/17/16 District Vote
- 5/19/16 Day Awards Ceremony

- 5/26/16 PIG Assembly
- 6/1/16 Common Core Exams
- 6/1/16 Night Awards Ceremony
- 6/6/16 NHS Induction
- 6/14 23 June Regents & Exams
- 6/2016 O.G. June Graduation
- 6/25/16 CHS Graduation

