

HawkBlast, 11/12/2017

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Inbox

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HOLLY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL | *Home of the Golden Hawks* **HawkBlast Update | November 12, 2017**

Golden Hawks Parent Academy

We have scheduled two new sessions for the Golden Hawks Parent Academy. They are:

Explore the Path to College (for 9th and 10th Grade Parents) – Tuesday, November 28

The event specifically targets parents with 9th and 10th graders and reviews key milestones on the way to college, resources to support you along the way, and opportunities to promote success that you may not know about yet. [Read more](#)

Online Safety Strategies – Thursday, November 30

This session will host a presenter from the NC Attorney General's Office. They will present information on common apps that students are using to communicate, dangers that you may or may not be aware of and how to stay on top of this ever changing digital world as a parent. [Read more](#)

Junior Class Assembly – Monday, Nov. 20

On Monday, November 20 we will have an assembly for the junior class on during 2nd period. The speaker will focus on dangers of texting and driving. We have been told by other schools that this is a powerful message. Knowing that students have different experiences that they bring to school with them, we wanted you to know of this assembly and its topic. If you have any questions or concerns about your student attending this assembly, please contact your student's counselor.

ACT / SAT Prep

We are exploring some options for how we can best help and support students with preparation for the ACT and SAT. Our goal is to develop a high quality support that is available to all of our students free of charge to them! We could use your feedback on the format. Specifically – would your student be more likely to participate if we did it during lunch, after school, or in the evening. Please take a moment to [complete this quick survey](#) to let us know your thoughts.

Thanksgiving Break

Our Thanksgiving Break is quickly approaching. Tuesday, November 21 will be an early release day and we will dismiss at 11:40am. School will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 22 – Friday, Nov. 24.

As many of you know, it is my strong belief that it is important for students and staff to completely disconnect from school over the long breaks. Over the break, there will be no homework assignments or expectations on the part of any teacher for students to work on school work over the break. It is important to rest, enjoy life and family, and allow the things that we are thankful for to wash over for a few days. Similarly, I expect teachers to completely disconnect from school. They have earned the break as well. They will not be expected to return emails, phone calls, grade papers, etc. over the break. If you have questions, please let me know.

Interim Progress Reports

The first round of interim progress reports for second quarter will go home on Friday, November 17.

Updates for Seniors

Seniors are reminded of the following:

- Senior Support Day is on Tuesday, November 14. Don't miss the opportunity for some extra help on the applications, essays, [Read more](#)
- This week is College Application Week where application fees are waived at a number of universities in NC. [Read more](#)
- If you have not completed the Scholarship Matching Survey yet, please do so now [at this link](#).

Parking

The administrative team is looking into expanding the availability of parking spaces to sophomores. This past week, we asked juniors and seniors who have not yet purchased a space but plan to soon. If you're in this group, please [read more at this link](#).

Credit By Demonstrated Mastery

Per state policy, each district implements a process for Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM). This is a process by which a student demonstrates mastery of a course without taking the course and receive credit. This is a rigorous process and has no direct impact on grade point average. If you are interested in this process, please visit [this district website](#). Your contact at Holly Springs High for CDM is our Dean of Students, Mr. Ellington (aellington@wcpss.net).

First Semester Exams

As we begin the second quarter, I want to remind you of the [exam schedule](#) for the fall semester. Please take a look and plan accordingly.

PTSA & Booster Club News

Parent supporters are a critical part of our school! Please check out the opportunities below to get involved.

- **PTSA Reflections Contest Winners!** Congratulations to the students who are moving on to the county level judging for the Wake PTA Reflections contest. [Read more](#)
- **Basketball Tournament.** Please mark your calendars to come out and support the women's basketball team on Saturday, December 2 from 2-7pm at a charity basketball tournament at HSHS. Tickets will be on sale online and at HOT Lunch leading up to the event!

A Final Note

I do not anticipate sending an email update next week, so let me take a moment now to share how thankful I am to have spent the last decade of my life working to be of service to our Holly Springs community. It has been one of the greatest blessings of my life to get to know the young people and families of this community. I am specifically thankful this year for:

- the opportunity to do work that I love in a great place
- the ability to work with an amazing team that gives beyond what anyone could ask
- the trust and faith that parents put into me and the school daily when they give us the very best part of themselves – their children
- students who almost daily force me to laugh, celebrate, cry, worry, and keep focused on what is most important in life – the opportunity to give
- forgiveness for when I stumble

- two boys who love me no matter what and a wife who continues to be after two decades my very best friend, and,
- the opportunity for a break! :)

I hope you and your family have an amazing break together! Be safe and enjoy!

Upcoming Dates

This Week:

- Tuesday, Nov. 14 - Senior Support Day
- Tuesday, Nov. 14 - Basketball vs. Heritage HS (Boys Home / Girls Away), JV 5 / V 6
- Thursday, Nov. 16 - Basketball vs. Southeast Raleigh HS (Girls Home)
- Thursday, Nov. 16 - Fall Theatre Production, 7pm, HSHS Theatre
- Friday, Nov. 17 - Interim Reports Distributed
- Friday, Nov. 17 - Fall Theatre Production, 7pm, HSHS Theatre
- Saturday, Nov. 18 - Fall Theatre Production, 7pm, HSHS Theatre



Coming Soon:

- Tuesday, Nov. 21 - Early Release / Dismissal at 11:40am
- Wednesday, Nov. 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break
- Tuesday, Nov. 28 - Golden Hawk Parent Academy: 9th & 10th Grade Road to College
- Wednesday, Nov. 29 - Fall Letterman Night, 6:30pm
- Thursday, Nov. 30 - Golden Hawk Parent Academy: Online Safety

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