

COE BROWN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

February 2008

- 1 *Application deadline for UNH, University of Connecticut, and many other schools*
- 4 **Senior Portfolio** deadline for completion of 10 or more components and meeting with advisor to finalize project plan
- 9 ACT administration

March

- 1 *Application deadline for various colleges*
- Priority Financial Aid deadline for UNH, Keene, and Plymouth
- 7 **Senior Portfolio** deadline for completion of total Community Service component

College Search

The days for applying to many colleges are passing fast! If you have not yet met with your Guidance Counselor regarding plans for next year, please take the initiative to do so. Also, remember to review your college lists with your counselor to insure a good spread of Reaches, Targets, and Safeties. This should include consideration for a "financial safety" school as well: it will do you no good to be accepted at several high-priced institutions if, when the financial aid packages are finally received, you cannot afford to attend them.

On this last note, both **Plymouth** and **Keene State Colleges** often warn us that all their slots for the freshman class could be filled *before* the April 1st application deadline. Do not wait until the last moment to apply, or you may be out of luck! This advice also pertains to other schools with later application deadlines. *If you wait until the last minute to apply, you will not hear back in time to apply for local scholarships either, since awards for them depend on you having a place to go in the fall.*

After February 1st, February 15th is the next common college deadline for some of the competitive schools. Anyone shooting for this deadline definitely should've been in recent contact with his or her counselor.

March 1st will be the next important deadline. Please remember that this will come during our February vacation, so you need to prepare for this well in advance in order to mail things out from Coe-Brown before vacation.

Reference requests to your teachers (on the pink Student Reference Request forms) and Guidance Counselor must be made in a timely manner with plenty of advanced warning and a completed *Senior Questionnaire* sheet (lavender) submitted to counselors well in advance. **Do not wait** until you have finished your part of the application to bring this to your counselor. We need *time* to do a good job!

Remember, to have an excused day for a college visit or for a military induction, (whether prior to applying or once accepted), you must bring a note from a parent *before you go*, see your Guidance Counselor, and have all your teachers sign off on the pink sheet *prior to your visit*. *The upcoming faculty work days when you do not have school (February 1st, March 1st and 28th) as well as February vacation would be good times to visit schools you are considering to gather more information as you make your decision about where to go.* Always plan well in advance because the school might not be in session when you want to go, particularly in March when many colleges have their spring vacations.

Financial Aid: Remember the most important four points:

- #1 Know which forms are required (FAFSA, CSS Profile, institutional forms) and submit them all!
- #2 Meet priority deadlines for your schools. UNH, Keene and Plymouth ALL have March 1st as the priority deadline, even though their application deadlines vary.
- #3 Estimate 2007 information if necessary to meet the deadlines. Revisions can be

submitted later.

#4 Keep copies of everything you send out for financial aid.

Yes, you do apply for financial aid even before you know if you've been accepted. *Many schools are limited in their scholarship funds, so "priority" financial aid deadlines are very important!* It is up to you to check the literature from your specific schools to find that date. Some of those might be on February 1st, but many schools use February 15th or March 1st for this as well.

If you are planning to apply for various local scholarships, many require submission of the results of your FAFSA. Consequently, failure to submit that in a timely manner may preclude your ability to apply for some of those funds.

If your school requires the **CSS Profile**, the first part of the **Profile** must be filed before you can receive the main part of the form. *This is a two-step process which must be completed on line at www.collegeboard.com.* Guidance Counselors also have the initial forms.

FAFSA applications now must be done on-line unless you order a paper copy. (However, filing through the mail can take 4 to 6 weeks and may prevent you from meeting the priority deadline. If you don't have Internet access, the NHHEAF organization in Concord can help you with this. 1-800-525-2577 or www.nhheaf.org.) The FAFSA can be filed now. You and your parent will need a PIN number (www.pin.ed.gov). If your college information does not contain the Title IV number you need for this, please check the list of codes in your red folder. If you still don't have it, see your guidance counselor.

Scholarship Opportunities- Your best money usually will come from the financial aid package from the college you attend, but keep checking the bulletin board next to Mr. Smith's office in the Guidance Resource area. Local scholarship information will not be out until sometime in late March or early April. We will put together packets of information and notify you via English classes when they are ready. Check with your parents to see if their workplaces offer any specific scholarships. If they are affiliated with any service organizations or churches, these can also be good sources of scholarship aid.

Make sure to have Mrs. Wolf add any new honors or activities to your transcript that you might have acquired since you submitted the blue sheet to her in September.

WHEN YOU ARE ACCEPTED AT A COLLEGE, please let your guidance counselor know. Some colleges will inform the counselors as well as the applicant, but many will not do that until the end of the admissions season. (If you don't want to be recognized at assembly, tell us.)

Testing News

If you have been accepted to one of the New Hampshire Community Technical Colleges which requires you to take the ACCUPLACER test in order to place you for next year, if you go take the test and bring your counselor confirmation of that fact (results, a note from the college), this may be used as a component for your Senior Portfolio.

Senior Portfolio Issues

As we move into February, it is important to note that less than two months remain to complete all aspects of your portfolio.

Senior Career Plan- No matter what your plans for next year, you will need to schedule a meeting or two with your guidance counselor to complete this component of your portfolio. If you have been applying to colleges, this may be virtually complete. Otherwise, this may require some more time on your part.

Journal Entries- Keep getting these signed off by your advisor.

Community Service - Do **you** have your 40 hours done? Don't leave them all for your February vacation! They should be completed by **March 7, 2008** to meet your deadline, and **must** be completed by March 27th.

A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. *Lao-Tze*