



# OLD COLONY

## REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Principal Guenette's October 2017 News

I hope that you are **enjoying this late summer weather!** I am **passing on a few things** that I'd like to share with you for this upcoming month and school year. **October** is both **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** ([www.nationalbreastcancer.org](http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org)) and **National Bullying Prevention Month** ([www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)).

Our last **PTO meeting** proved to be a success, and I am confident that will continue thanks to our wonderful **OC parent partnerships**. The **next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8 p.m.** in the **OC cafeteria**. Please **consider joining** if you were not able to attend the last meeting. We have parents who have graciously come forth to fill the officer positions, so we are well **on our way to doing some fun and exciting things for our OC students!**

I invite you to **join us as Chad Hymas** (named one of the 10 most inspirational people in the world by the *Wall Street Journal*) speaks to the **importance of inclusive schools** where "**ALL means ALL**" in an unforgettable evening on **Thursday, October 5, 2017, at 7 p.m.** in the **OC gymnasium**. **Tickets are \$20/pp** and can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/2fmgkMV>.

The **Cougar's Den Restaurant & Bakery** is serving gourmet food in an educational setting! Old Colony's **student-operated, full-service restaurant** that offers reasonably priced, breakfast foods and gourmet lunches that can be **enjoyed in our dining room or taken to go**. In addition to our high-quality meals, we have a **fully stocked bakery case** with an assortment of baked goods that change daily. **Our hours of operation are: Breakfast is served: Tuesday-Friday from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.** and doesn't require reservations. **Lunch is served: Wednesday-Friday from 10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. and reservations are required.** Please check out our **menu**, which is available online at [www.oldcolony.us](http://www.oldcolony.us), or give us a **call at 508.763.8011, x168** to make reservations. **We look forward to serving you soon!**

Our **Homecoming Weekend** is on **Friday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>** and will include activities for families this year. We invite you to **kick-off the weekend** with our **Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> Friday-night Cougar football game** held under the lights. We will be **recognizing our SkillsUSA State Gold Medalists** during our half-time celebration. **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>** will begin with an **OC tour at 8:30 a.m.** and will continue throughout the day with a **multitude of activities** such as a **children's concert**, a **middle-school pumpkin carving contest**, a **cornhole tournament fundraiser**, **live music**, and the evening will **end with our annual student Homecoming Dance**.

The state will release the **2017 MCAS/PARCC Assessment and Accountability Results**, which will be available online for review. If you go to the school's website [www.oldcolony.us](http://www.oldcolony.us), click the **About link**

and the **District Profile link**, you will be able to view Old Colony's aggregate data. The information will be posted by the middle of the month, and MCAS student reports will be mailed to parents by mid-October.

**Freshmen** have experienced **two shop-exploratory sessions** in September. Students **will explore six more** shops before reselecting and being placed in their permanent shop. Detailed **information** about the exploratory and placement process was shared with the freshmen at an assembly on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. Please remind your child to check their schedule and the expectations packet, carefully, and to come prepared and ready to work in each exploratory. **For safety reasons, many shops have shoe and clothing requirements.** Students must be dressed appropriately to participate in shop activities. The presentation and handout can be viewed at:  
<https://sites.google.com/a/oldcolony.info/exploratory-information/>

**All Old Colony students** will be participating in the **ALICE School Safety Practice Drill classroom training** on **Thursday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>**, and a **full practice lockdown/evacuation drill** on **Wed., Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>**, which will be **led by the Rochester Police Department, two Old Colony certified trainers, and the Southcoast SWAT team.** The ALICE training offers school districts options that mitigate liability, assume less risk and, most importantly, equip students and faculty with life-saving skills.

**Mare Studios** has taken individual student pictures for the 2017-18 school year and **lanyards with photo IDs have been issued to students at OC.** All students are **expected to wear them in and around the building daily.** They are allowed to take them **off while they are working in shop**, if there is a safety hazard. **Students who lose their ID and lanyard will be charged \$5 for a replacement.** If a student **forgets to wear** their ID, **or loses it**, they will **report to the front office** and will be issued a **temporary one to wear** for the day. After **three offenses**, a **detention** will be **issued** to serve after school on a Tuesday or Thursday. The wearing of lanyards with student **IDs is mandatory beginning on Monday, October 2, 2017.**

All students have received or been notified of the **2017-18 Student Handbook** and sign-off forms, as well as the **Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Forms.** Both are posted online at [www.oldcolony.us](http://www.oldcolony.us), under the **Parents' link.** It is important to return the insurance forms **whether students are taking the insurance or not.** Please sign **all** of the forms and have your child **return them school.**

On **Thursday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>**, the **school adjustment** and **guidance counselors** will be holding our annual **Signs of Suicide (SOS) prevention program** for the entire **9<sup>th</sup> grade.** This is a process that we **take very seriously**, and it has allowed us to **provide interventions** to **high-risk students.** Parent letters will be sent home with more details about the program. If you have any questions, **please contact Mrs. Sharon Lacroix (x-263) or slacroix@oldcolony.us.**

**Attention Parents of College-bound Seniors!** The Guidance Dept. is asking you to mark your calendar to attend the **OC College Planning night** and Massachusetts Educational Financial Authority (**MEFA**) **Financial Aid seminar** in the **Old Colony Cafeteria on Monday, October 2, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Here's the schedule:

**6:00-6:30: College Planning Night** hosted by the Guidance Department.

**6:30-7:30: Financial Aid Seminar:** This seminar will provide information and clarity on the entire college financial aid application process. You'll learn about college process as well as financial aid applications and types of financial aid, the factors that determine your aid eligibility, how colleges determine the amount of aid to offer, and the details of financial aid award letters.

**7:30-8:00: General questions**

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**FAFSA NIGHT for Parents of senior students** are invited to come to **Old Colony on Tuesday, October 24th** to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) form with the **assistance of Educational Opportunity Center**. The FAFSA is the **single, most important application** a family can file to be considered for college financial aid. **Appointments are available from 3:00- 6:30 p.m.** Please **RSVP through the Guidance Dept.** your preferred **appointment time at 508-763-8011 ext. 231**. Please **leave your name, child's name** and preferred appointment time. **Don't miss this free opportunity!** **Cut and paste the below** link in your web browser for information **on what you will need to bring** to complete the FAFSA form:<http://www.oldcolony.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/OC-FAFSA-NIGHT.pdf>

A **SAT Prep Workshop for senior students** will be held on **Monday, October 23, from 6:00-7:45 p.m., at the Acushnet Library, 232 Middle Road, Acushnet, MA. Advanced registrations** will be taken at the **library or by phone (508) 998-0270** and is **limited to 25 students**. The **class is free and not limited to Acushnet residents** and offered by **Mrs. Nancy Francis**, retired Old Colony math instructor.

The Preliminary SAT (**PSAT**) test has been scheduled through the **Guidance Dept.** during the school day at Old Colony RVTHS on **Wednesday, October 11, 2017**. The **PSAT** is a test designed to help **students practice for the SAT**. It is also used to determine **eligibility for scholarships** awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. All **sophomore or junior students are eligible** to take this test. The cost of the test is **\$16.00**. Fee waivers are available to **juniors** (Class of 2019) who inform their Guidance Counselor that they receive free/reduced lunch. Any student who is interested in taking the test should sign up in the OC Guidance Office. Please make the check or money order out to **Old Colony RVTHS**. Please put your **child's full name** on the **Memo** line of the check. Cash will also be accepted. **PSAT's and SAT's are NOT** required for students who are interested in pursuing a degree at **Bristol Community College or any other community college**. For more information, call the **Guidance Department at 508-763-8011 x127, x128 or x129**.

Our **OC Student Council** is hosting, along with the **Athletic Dept.** events, **Spirit Week** that is culminated by the **Homecoming Dance**. The designated week is from **Oct. 10-13, 2017**. **Spirit Week schedule is as follows: Tues., Oct. 10th- Mismatched Day; Wed., Oct. 11th- Boston Sports Day; Thurs., Oct. 12th- Pajama Day; and Fri., Oct. 13th- School Spirit Day:** Seniors- Black, Juniors - White, Sophomores- Maroon, and Freshmen- Gold. The **Pep Rally** will begin at **1:30 p.m. in the gym**.

The **Homecoming Dance tickets are \$10.00** and it will run from **7-10 p.m., on Saturday, October 14th at the school**. Parents can **drop off and pick up their child in the front of the school**. Please know that **if you do not want your child to leave the premises, you will have to notify Student Council Advisor, Grace Thompson**, at [gthompson@oldcolony.us](mailto:gthompson@oldcolony.us), as often students who drive to the event ask to leave early. Once students leave the premises, **they are not allowed back into the Homecoming Dance**. Also, **if your child is bringing an outside guest**, he/she must **obtain a "Student in Good-Standing" form** from **Mr. Harrison's office** to be filled out by the guest's high school administrator that also includes parent contact information. Our **theme this year is "A Night in Paris."**

Also, the **OC Student Council** is supporting **School on Wheels** organization as their one of their **fundraising and community projects**. We are **collecting school supplies until the end of the month** and are **taking donations**. The items are as follows and **must be in original packaging**:

Crayons	Washable Markers	Colored Pencils	Pencils	Pencil Sharpeners
Pens	Large Erasers	Highlighters	Pencil box/Zipper pouches	Rulers
Glue Sticks	Blunt Scissors	Pocket Folders	Scribble Pads	Index
Cards	Single subject notebooks	Composition notebooks	3-Ring Binders	
Scientific/Square Root Calculators		Student Dictionaries	Grade Level Reading Books	

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The **National Honor Society** is excited to announce that they **inducted 39 new students** into their organization **on Sept. 22nd!** For the **third year**, they are organizing a **Trunk-or-Treat** event for **local elementary-aged children for age 10 and under**. Last year, **over 100 students decorated more than 30 cars, purchased candy** with their own money and **spent 2 hours passing out candy and prizes** to elementary aged trick or treaters. The organization would like to **invite you** and your elementary-aged children to visit **Old Colony RVTHS on Friday, October 27th at 6:30 p.m.** to **trick-or-treat in the safety of our school's parking lot** and **dance** to some Halloween classics! Be sure to **participate in the donut eating and scream contests!** **Admission is free, but cash donations will be welcomed and donated** to [21FrienDS](#), a support group for friends and family of individuals with Down Syndrome. Additionally, National Honor Society **welcomes any donations of candy or prizes** that can be handed out to trick-or-treaters, to help ensure there is enough for all. **Candy donations can be dropped off at the main office** between now and the event.

**Attention Seniors!** All seniors must have their **portraits completed by Mare Studios by October 17<sup>th</sup>**, who will be **on site at OC for complimentary photos** that day for the yearbook. **Yearbook photo choice** must be made or one will be chosen for you. **Baby photos** must be submitted to **Mrs. Murray** by **Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>**. Photos that **do not meet the submission deadline will not be published**. **Yearbooks** can be **ordered** through [Jostens.com/yearbook](#) and **information** was recently **mailed home** to senior parents about **pricing and deadlines**. **Mrs. Erin Murray, is the Yearbook Advisor**. She can be reached at [emurray@oldcolony.us](mailto:emurray@oldcolony.us) with any questions or concerns.

The **2017-2018 Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conferences** will be held on **Thursday, October 26, 2017**, from **11:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.** and from **5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Appointments are **required** in order to meet with **academic teachers**. Conference **appointments are available** through online registration at <http://signup.com/go/XFeDrBU> or from [www.oldcolony.us](http://www.oldcolony.us) and **click on the "Parents" link**. **Appointments fill quickly on a first come, first serve basis, so please register early**. If you do not have Internet access, please contact the main office, no later than **October 13, 2017**. Appointments are **not** required in order to meet with vocational teachers. Parents **may sign up** for an appointment on October 26<sup>th</sup> **provided there is a time slot available** on the teacher's appointment roster that will be **displayed outside each teacher's classroom**. If you are **unable to schedule** an appointment for October 26<sup>th</sup>, or feel you will **need extended time** to meet with your child's teacher(s), please **contact the guidance office**, at **extension 126**, to schedule an appointment.

We have partnered with **Stop & Shop and Red Robin Restaurant** for an **Old Colony Rewards Program** again this year. These corporations give the school a percentage towards a rewards program in our school's name when you purchase items from them. **Any funds** generated to the school are **used for our students and school assistance programs**. Please review the information at the bottom of this newsletter to sign up for each program. **We appreciate this fundraising effort for our school!**

**The following are a list of dates and events for the month of October at Old Colony:**

- **Mon., Oct. 2 -6 - 8 p.m. – College Awareness and MEFA (MA Educational Financial Assistance) Evening** for all OC students and parents to attend with the guidance dept. in the cafeteria
- **Tues., Oct. 3 @ 2:30 p.m. – Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) Club** in café w/Mrs. Lacroix
- **Tues., Oct. 3 @ 7-8 p.m. – PTO meeting** in the cafeteria
- **Wed., Oct. 4 from 8 – 1 p.m. – Southcoast Mobile Health Van** on site for students; contact Mrs. Humphrey, school nurse, at x-130 for an appointment
- **Wed, Oct. 4 @ 6 p.m. – OC Fall General Advisory Board Meeting** with School Committee members in the library and **6:30 p.m. dinner and meeting** for all of the OC vocational advisory boards in the cafeteria

- **Thurs., Oct. 5 – at 8 a.m. in the café - ALICE classroom training lesson with Rochester Police Dept. for all new students and staff**
- **Thurs., Oct. 5 – at 1 p.m. in the gym - Chad Hymas presentation for all staff & students**
- **Mon., Oct. 9 – No school – Columbus Day holiday**
- **Tues., Oct. 10 – Spirit Week begins (see details noted above)**
- **Wed., Oct. 11 – PSAT testing for Grades 10 & 11 students**
- **Thurs., Oct. 12 – Signs of Suicide (SOS) screening for Grade 9 students**
- **Fri., Oct. 13 @ 1:30 p.m. – OC Fall Pep Rally in the gym and 7 p.m. “Under the Lights” Football game (thanks to DW White Construction for donating 10 portable lights)**
- **Sat. Oct. 14 – OC Homecoming Celebration Day and “A Night in Paris” School Dance (7-10 pm)**
- **Thurs., Oct. 17 – Mare Studios at OC for underclassmen photo retakes and complimentary senior photos**
- **Wed., Oct. 18 - ALICE practice drill coordinated with Rochester Police Dept. and Southcoast SWAT division**
- **Tues., Oct. 24 - from 3 – 8 p.m.- FASFA parent night in the library w/guidance counselors**
- **Wed., Oct. 25 – 2017 MCAS data released**
- **Fri., Oct. 27 – from 7 -8:30 p.m. – NHS Trunk-or-Treat fundraising event; student parking lot**
- **Tues., Oct. 31 – NHS Costume Day - \$2 to participate and receive a sticker for payment; no masks, weapons, or face paint allowed as part of a costume**
- **Thurs., Oct. 26 @ 10:48 a.m. – Early Release Day – Students dismissed for Parent-teacher conferences:**
  - **11:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. – Parent-teacher conference appointments**
  - **5 – 8 p.m. – Parent-teacher conference appointments (guidance counselors not available in the evening session)**

Thanks in advance for your support! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Karen Guenette, Principal

[kguenette@oldcolony.us](mailto:kguenette@oldcolony.us)

Follow me on Twitter @OCPrincipalKG

# **School Fundraising for OC's Student Assistance Fund:**

## **Stop & Shop**

From October 2017 through March 2018 customers can help Old Colony R.V.T.H.S. earn cash every time they shop using their Stop & Shop Card. The Old Colony RVTHS, ID number is 10747.

All you have to do is:

- Log on to [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) to designate our school online using your Stop & Shop Card, OR
- Call the A+ Hotline at 1-877-275-2758 for assistance

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop, using your Card, earns CASH for our school. Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop & Shop A+ website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at [www.stopandshop.com](http://www.stopandshop.com). Our school will receive a check at the end of the program and the money can be used for our school's educational needs.

If you registered your card last year, you DO NOT need to re-register this year. You can visit the website to verify correct school assignment. Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean more CASH for our school.

<http://stopandshop.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/>

## **Red Robin**

Red Robin will donate 1% of your check to a school of your choice every time you visit and use your Red Robin Royalty Account.

Join Red Robin Royalty or sign in to your existing account to select Old Colony R.V.T.H.S. The school's ID number is 250914001471.

Parents please spread the word and click on the link below to register for this amazing program to benefit our school:

<http://www.redrobin.com/betterschools>