

OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

On the Web at www.oldcolony.us



Newsletter for Parents and the Community

2007-2008 Volume II

Why the Early Release Days?

Over the past year, students have been dismissed early so the entire staff can prepare for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) ten-year evaluation. Old Colony had its first evaluation to become a member of NEASC in 1988.

NEASC, founded in 1885, is the nation's oldest regional accrediting association. NEASC currently has 1,917 members accrediting elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, technical and career institutions, and colleges in the U.S., as well as international schools.

To prepare for this evaluation, each department thoroughly examines its program. Teachers in the department and other appropriate persons from the school meet to examine the linking of the curriculum to the Massachusetts State Frameworks. There are a series of questions which relate the department's program to that of the school-wide vision and mission. Each report ends with a set of commendations and recommendations for the department. Each report is housed in a three-ring binder along with other relevant materials.

In addition to the departmental reports, reports such as Administration, Student Services, and Facility are presented. These committees are comprised of key persons in the field, as well as several staff members in general.

When each report was completed, the committee presented the findings to Old Colony's Curriculum and Assessment Committee, who served as the NEASC Steering Committee. After this was approved, the committee presented the report to the entire staff for approval or denial.

From March 10–13, 2008, school personnel from MA, CT, VT, ME, and NH will visit Old Colony to evaluate how well we are doing what we say we are doing. They will visit each department, meet with committees, and meet with students to help them in their evaluation. At the end of the day on Thursday, March 13, the Chairman of the NEASC evaluation committee will provide the staff with an overview of the school's commendations and recommendations.

This in-house evaluation is helpful for all of us to be aware of what is happening throughout the school. It is helpful for the betterment of our programs, so Old Colony can continue to be a school of excellence in the present and in the future.

Old Colony Sends Care Packages to U.S. Soldiers

Last November, students, faculty, and staff of Old Colony contributed items for care packages mailed to U.S. soldiers in Iraq. Old Colony's Peer Leadership Group was responsible for organizing the school-wide drive which collected a variety of personal care items, candy, movies, books, and more. "When the students learned family members of staff were serving overseas, their efforts were kicked up a notch," said Ms. Susan Maguire, group advisor. "Old Colony promotes and presents itself as community," she added.

Four large packages, weighing nearly one hundred pounds will be shared amongst those living in two barracks. Members of the Peer Leadership group raised the additional funds for postage by selling bottled water to the visitors of Parent's Night, held at the school on November 13, 2007. Four cases sold in nearly two hours. Thanks to the parents and family members who contributed their support.

It is the intent of the Peer Leadership Group to be a positive force within the school environment and throughout the community. Students selected for Peer Leadership must exemplify good citizenship and lead by example. We contribute to those less fortunate. Through our service to others, we grow as individuals. The hope is that this type of leadership will be contagious and become a lifelong habit.

Fourth Annual Old Colony Golf Tournament slated for May 17, 2008

The Fourth Annual Old Colony Golf Tournament, is scheduled to be held at the Acushnet River Valley Golf Course in Acushnet, MA, on May 17, 2008. Families, friends, alumni, and guests of Old Colony RVTHS are invited to participate in this worthy event. All of the proceeds from the golf tournament will benefit Old Colony Student Scholarships and Services. The registration deadline is May 16, 2008. Interested individuals or parties should contact Superintendent-Director Gary Brown by phone at 508-763-8011, ext.116, or via email at gbrown@oldcolony.us.

Around the Colony

* **Robert Cost**, a Culinary Arts senior at Old Colony and member of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society has been nominated to compete in the National Honor Society scholarship sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). The Carver resident was inducted into the National Honor Society in May 2007 and is currently one of the top-ranked students in his class.

* Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School will be offering an **evening welding course** at its Rochester, MA, campus beginning April 3, 2008. The course, an Introduction to Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW), will run on Thursday evenings for six weeks from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The cost of the course will be \$200. per person. Anyone interested in registering for the course should contact **Mr. Douglas Desrochers** at 508-763-8011, ext. 135 or 234.

* Computer Office Technology senior, **Matthew Willett** (Carver), has been selected as Old Colony's nominee for the 2007-2008 Walter J. Markham Award. The award program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA). Matthew is now eligible for state-wide consideration, based upon his leadership potential, as well as academic and vocational excellence. Matthew was also selected to receive the 2007 Principal's Leadership Award. This award is sponsored by the Herff-Jones Company and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. He is now eligible for one of the 100 scholarships of \$1,000.

* Thanks to all who contributed to the **Peer Leadership Group's Pennies for Patients** fundraiser. The event was a huge success and raised \$921.20 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, more than doubling the original goal of \$400. Healthy competition among the shops helped the fundraising effort. The **House and Mill Carpentry** shop earned the pizza party by raising \$404.78.

* Two Acushnet students will be representing Old Colony in the Annual Student Government Day scheduled for Friday, April 4, 2008, at the State House in Boston. **Kelsey Pereira** and **Stephanie Frye**, both from Acushnet, have been nominated to participate in the annual event. Kelsey and Stephanie were elected by the student body back in early November.

* The Old Colony faculty beat the seniors in a close basketball game, 61-59, on Feb. 29, 2008. **Matt Pacheco** (20 points) and **David Marujo** (13 points) played well for the seniors, while **Mr. Harrison** and **Mr. Richards** played well for the faculty. **Mr. Botelho** made some big free throws down the stretch to seal the victory for the faculty. The seniors will attempt to halt the faculty's long winning streak again next year.

* The Old Colony staff has selected **Nicholas J. Rice**, a Machine & Tool Technology senior from Carver as the recipient of the Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Award for 2008. The state-wide award recognizes the excellence Nicholas has received in his academic studies, as well as technical competence in the Machine & Tool Technology Program. Nicholas is active in volunteer work, school activities, and music. He is a 3-year member of the National Honor Society and vice-president of the senior class. Nicholas has been a participant in the Co-Operative Education Program since his junior year at Cotter Machine, Inc., in Wareham, MA. He is an active member of SkillsUSA, received a John & Abigail Adams Scholarship, and was awarded a Level II designation from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS).

* Old Colony's **Automotive Technology Department** is pleased to announce that seven juniors have recently completed the OSHA's (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) 501 General Industry, 10-hour Program. Each participant received a grade of 95 or better and was awarded a 10-hour certificate and card, which is a requirement of the school's Co-operative Education Program. The students were:

- **Cam Bacchiocchi (Rochester)**
- **Joshua DeMelo (Acushnet)**
- **Ryan Hansen (Mattapoisett)**
- **Bryan Kelly (Carver)**
- **Devon Malarkey (Acushnet)**
- **Robert Randall (Rochester)**

* Four of Old Colony's student-athletes visited Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, MA, last November to receive the 2007 Massachusetts District D Sportsmanship Award. **Nicholas Abaray**, **Chelsea Lambalot**, **John Romanelli**, and **Kerri Wypych** (all from Acushnet) were accompanied by Old Colony Athletic Director **Matthew J. Trahan** and Boys' Basketball Coach **Buddy Perry**. Congratulations to Mr. Trahan and all of Old Colony's student-athletes and coaches!

* **Metal Fabrication and Joining Technologies** students recently watched a demonstration on the procedure of Downhill Pipe Welding from pipe welder **Nigel Howes** and learned about testing procedures from **Bruce Richardson**, President of ABC Testing, Inc.

* Congratulations to **Mary Anne Walker** on being named the Division 3 Mayflower League Small Division Soccer Coach of the Year. Coach Walker led the **Boys' Soccer** team to another outstanding season.

* Old Colony's sophomore, junior, and senior **Computer Information Technology** students attended a field trip to UMass Boston, on Dec. 7, 2007, with four CIT faculty members. Students attended an IT Careers Day, sponsored by the Boston Area Technical Education Consortium (BATEC). Students learned about today's Information Technology careers from industry experts. Technologies such as Computer Forensics, Nanotechnology, Robotics, Gaming, Home Entertainment, RFID, and many others were showcased.