**Town Crier**

**From the Counseling Office**

Third quarter is now behind us, a good time for students to prepare for a strong finish to the school year, and to finalize plans for the summer and next fall.

**Seniors**

**To do list!** AP examinations and some other final projects are scheduled in this month. For those students enrolled in online classes, please remember that the counseling office must get final grades from your online provider by the May 15 if the course counts as a graduation requirement.

**Here I come!** College applicants should have responded to offers of admission from colleges by May 1st. After notifying the school you will attend, you should also remember to also notify the schools you will not be attending as this will open a spot for another student on a waiting-list.

**Senior Award Night.** Time to celebrate**!** On 5/18 we will be celebrating the seniors who have been honored with an award or a scholarship. At this event, we recognize the excellence that has been displayed by seniors in academics, arts, and service. You and your family are invited to attend this special event. It will be held in the JHS Auditorium from 7-9 PM followed by a dessert reception in the Commons after the ceremony. The students have been given a yellow form to indicate their awards and scholarships. This is to be returned to Mr. Navalinski, in the Career and Resource Center, by May 4h. Students should include **all the scholarships offered, including those of schools they don’t plan to attend**. Once we have this information, we will send out invitations with more specifics. (Please note that private information, such as the amount of an award, is not released). **Once you receive an invitation, please RSVP to** **cmcguire@lwsd.org** **by May 16.**

**Thank you!** Seniors who have secured employment, found internships, been admitted to post-secondary schools, and received scholarships and awards should send Thank You notes to the people who helped you in the process or wrote recommendation letters. If you have not already performed this courtesy, do so now; your advocates are pleased for your success, and they are interested in your final plans for the immediate future.

**Juniors**

**Pre-Senior Conferences**

To get juniors ready for their last year in high school and beyond, counselors continue scheduling Pre-Senior Conferences with all 11th graders throughout May. Meetings last about 20 minutes and we review credits, options for credit retrieval if needed, course selection for senior year, and what to do over the summer and during the rest of this school year to advance their post-high school plans. Students will receive an invitation with the scheduled day and time a few days before their appointment. Students are welcomed to invite parents to the meeting, but due to the large number of appointments the time of the conference can’t be changed to accommodate their attendance. It is the responsibility of the student to show up to the meeting on time, we won’t be able to send reminders. Teachers of juniors are aware of these conferences and will allow students to leave the classroom a couple of minutes before their appointed time.

**Keep up with, or raise, those grades**! Whatever shows on your transcript by the end of your junior year is what colleges are going to see next year when they consider your application. Make it shine!

**Keep that schedule strong!** Colleges recommend that in the senior year you increase (not decrease!) the rigor of your program and take at least four one-year academic courses, including world language and mathematics.

**Sign up for a test!** Plan to take the SAT or ACT before the end of your junior year. If you are taking an advanced academic course, you may want to take an SAT II (Subject Test) in June. Subject tests are required by some selective institutions, and you will achieve best results if you take the test in the same year you complete the course in which the content of the test is taught.

**Last SAT of the year!** June 3 and August 26 are the last SATs of the year. Juniors that have not taken at least once should sign up for the SAT at collegeboard.org or/and ACT at act.org. Don’t be discouraged if you are assigned to a testing site farther away from the school. These are very popular testing dates and most of the testing sites in the Eastside and Seattle fill up quickly.

**On the road!** If possible, make college visits during the summer. Check college websites for organized tour campuses, and arrange interviews with admissions and academic department representatives. Learn as much as you can about your colleges of interest during the summer, including admissions requirements. It is very helpful to start your senior year with a good idea of where would you like to apply to next winter, since your last year in high school will be busy with academic courses and extracurricular activities.

**Get organized!** Start a folder for each school you intend to apply to and an Excel spreadsheet with important information and deadlines. Use each folder to secure your résumé, letters of recommendation, college applications drafts, personal statements, etc. You will be in a good position if you have completed all college applications by the beginning of December (earlier for Early Decision). From December through March, you can focus on assembling your financial package by applying for financial aid and scholarships.

**Serve your community!** Summer is a great time to plan some volunteering. Although not one of the district graduation requirements, it is always a good idea to volunteer part of your time to serve your community. Besides the benefits to your community, volunteer service and extracurricular activities count when applying to college and scholarships. For resources of where to volunteer, stop by the counseling office or CRC and get the “Where to Care” guide.

**Summer School:** Check those credits, make sure you are on track for graduation! Please consider enrolling in a summer school class if you failed one or more core classes.This year Redmond High School will house the secondary summer school, which runs from 7/6 – 8/2. The Summer School catalog is now available in the Counseling Office, or visit the [Summer School](http://www.lwsd.org/Parents/Pages/Summer-School.aspx) district website page to see all the information online.

Contact numbers:

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**Events**

May 1 ……………… College/University Response Date

May 1-11…………….AP Examinations

May 5………………. Registration Deadline for June 10 ACT

May 9…………….....Registration Deadline for June 3 SAT

May 18……………….Senior Awards Assembly at JHS

May 30………………Honor Society Induction

June 16………………Graduation and Senior Party

Here is the link to the full calendar of [2017 Graduation](http://www.lwsd.org/school/jhs/SiteCollectionDocuments/Calendar%20of%20Events%20Seniors%202017.pdf) related events.