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Important Announcements:

A hot breakfast is served in the school building every morning. Encourage your child to get to school early and eat breakfast to get a good start to the school day.

Help your child get to school on time!
Good attendance is directly connected with good grades.

February 1st is the last day of the semester:

Encourage your child to make a push in January to bring up his or her grades.

Lyons Juniors are College Bound

In an effort to get Lyons first graduating class ready for life after high school, this year marked the introduction of a new course, College Bound. It was created to help the Class of 2011 get a jump on the college application process, which can often be time-consuming and overwhelming for high school students. "College Bound has given me a head start on learning about college," said student Jasmine Lorenzo.

As part of the course every member of Lyons' junior class will visit colleges, create a resume, and research colleges, programs and scholarships. They will write a personal essay, a requirement for most colleges and universities, and begin the process of requesting recommendations from teachers.

The goal is to get students prepared so their senior year is enjoyable and not filled with completing last minute college applications, said Chelsea Ross-Green,

one of the two instructors who teaches the class. Kasi Addison also teaches the class, which meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Half of the 11th grade is currently completing a nine-week session and the other half will start the College Bound class next quarter.

Thus far the first group of juniors has created their resumes, researched schools and scholarships, and visited two colleges, Long Island University and Brooklyn College. Anamil Sanabia and Virginia Sanchez were both enjoyed the college visits and were impressed by Long Island University. "We like that it has a pool, yoga and dances classes and that it's close to the train," they said.

Jasmine said College Bound has opened her eyes up to what the future may bring. "Students don't always know how to get ready for college," she said. "This class gets us interested and focused."

Lateness Focus Groups and January Blitz

Dear Lyons Families,

During the month of December Jody and I met with various groups of students for lateness focus groups. We wanted to hear what ideas students had about decreasing lateness to school.

Students shared strategies they used to get to school on time, ranging from having friends call them, to preparing what they were going to wear before they went to sleep. Many students spoke of what a difference it made when members of their family woke them up and encouraged them to leave on time. What are some routines your families can create at home to make sure everyone gets out of the house on time to get to work and school on time?

We also talked about what incentives would encourage students to get to school on time. One student said, "Well, where are we

supposed to go if we do get to school early?" As a result of this query and a number of suggestions we are doing an experiment called "January Blitz."

During the month of January, at 7:30 each morning, there will be Open Gym, Open Art and games in the cafeteria, as well as weekly breakfast in a classroom. We are also trying a financial incentive where each on time student earns her/his division (middle or high school) \$0.50 towards our February 5th Dance. Each late student causes her/his division to lose \$0.50. While we usually don't believe in financial incentives, we know this is temporary. We hope students who come to school on time realize how much better they do in school and how possible it is to get to school on time if they make some important changes in their daily routines.

With love, taeko

Important Reminders: January Blitz

Coming to school every day and being on time to school is where success starts. We want to encourage our students to develop the good habit of getting to school early. **Look out for special events and activities happening all month long!**

- ☺ Open Gym time every day from 7:30 - 7:55
- ☺ Breakfast every Tuesday with Chelsea for High School students at 7:30
- ☺ Games in the Cafeteria every Tuesday & Wednesday, and Friday from 7:30 - 7:55
- ☺ Open art room with Daniel every day from 7:30 - 7:55

How you can help your child develop the “on time” habit:

- Set a regular curfew and bedtime for your child.
- Set a “walk out the door” time that guarantees your child will arrive to school on time.
- Call school to make sure your child has arrived on time!
- Talk to your child’s advisor or dean about their attendance.

Upcoming Dates:

Monday, January 18th	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Tuesday, January 26th	School Leadership Team meeting 5:30 to 6:00 PTA Mtg: College Financial Aid Workshop 6:00 to 7:30
Tues. Jan. 26th to Feb 1st	High School Regents Exams – modified schedule for HS students. Middle school students will have a regular schedule.
Monday, February 1st	End of Semester - No School for High School Students Middle School – regular schedule
Thursday, February 4th	Literary Celebration – performances by students in all grades
Friday, February 5th	Middle School Dance, 3:30 to 5:30 High School Dance, 7:00 to 9:30
Mon., Feb.15th - Fri.19th	No School – Mid-Winter Recess



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