

# NEWSLETTER

211



## JAMES B. CONANT HIGH SCHOOL

JULIE C. NOWAK PRINCIPAL

November / December, 2016

### From the Principal:

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."*

- John F Kennedy

On October 3, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation declaring Thanksgiving a national holiday. Prior to this, each state scheduled its own Thanksgiving holiday at different times. In his proclamation, President Lincoln stated, "It has seemed to me fit and proper that (our country) should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving."

One hundred fifty-three years later, we continue to come together as a nation to celebrate this day that is set aside to acknowledge the importance and the gifts that come with practicing gratitude. One cannot discount the importance of giving and receiving gratitude in our students' lives. Research supports the idea that the intentional practice of expressing and accepting gratitude can lead to life satisfaction and even higher grades among students. Students who can accept gracious words and those who regularly practice acts of gratitude by acknowledging and sharing their feelings, writing thank you notes, and offering acts of service, tend to feel more connected to school, family, and friends.

While many of us share thanks and practice acts of gratitude this time of year, I encourage you to consider how practicing offering and accepting gratitude year-round promotes an increased sense of connectedness and satisfaction.

As principal of Conant High School, I'd like to express my gratitude for the following:

- Our wonderful students who make the most of being Conant Cougars. High School is a time to learn about yourself and explore your interests. Whatever your passion- theater, athletics, computer science, fashion or anything else- I am grateful for those who participate and contribute to our school community. In every way you contribute, you make our school a better place!
- Our teachers, coaches, activity sponsors and staff who dedicate their lives to offering our students the highest quality curriculum, instruction and opportunities while demonstrating care and concern for our students well-being and development. I see the impact of your work each and every day.
- Our parents who show up to support our students and school. Whether it's homework help, after a long day of work, attending a game or event, or volunteering your time, our students cannot be successful without your help.
- Our larger Conant community. The public officials, police officers, firemen, and business owners who understand the importance of a quality education and support resources to keep our community thriving.

Sincerely,

Julie C. Nowak  
Principal



### School Climate Survey

High School District 211 will administer the Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI), a tool used to survey school climate and meet a survey mandate by the Illinois State Board of Education. The CSCI survey will provide meaningful data to District 211, including an overview of school climate, in-depth profiles regarding rating patterns, detailed findings on an item-by-item basis, and recommendations for translating the results into action steps. Parents, students, and staff will be asked to complete the 20-minute survey, which is available in both English and Spanish. The parent survey will be available November 28 – January 16 on the school and District 211 website.

### Did you know...

Conant High School has a food pantry that serves our Cougars In Need? Conant High School participates in the Blessings in a Backpacks Program and also maintains a food pantry for families in need. Your donations of cereal, canned/dried goods (vegetables, soups, chili, rice, pasta), pasta sauce, peanut butter, spices, snacks (granola bars, nuts, popcorn, fruit snacks) are much appreciated! We also accept frozen food items, toiletries and school supplies. Pantry needs will be listed in the newsletter on a regular basis. November/December Food Pantry needs include: cereal, snacks (bagged popcorn and sun chips are favorites), sanitary napkins and tampons. Thank you for any donations you can make.

### Conant HS Boosters Volunteer Organization

As 2016 ends and 2017 begins your Conant HS volunteer organization is excited about and committed to its mission of supporting our students and staff and Conant community. This holiday season consider becoming part of this amazing organization!

In order to reach our full potential, we need your support. Become a Conant HS Boosters member today via your \$25 membership donation. Your commitment is vital to the continued success of our mission. To learn more about us, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and visit our website at [www.conantboosters.com](http://www.conantboosters.com).

We invite you to join the Conant High School community where Cougar Pride will be celebrated at the 3rd annual adult Conant Community Social on Saturday evening, April 29, 2017 at Chandler's Banquets in Schaumburg. Those who attended the 2016 Social enjoyed a memorable evening and this year's Social promises to be even better! Tickets will be on sale in January!

Join us at our December Updates Meeting on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm in the Media Center where Principal Julie Nowak, Board Officers and Committee Chairs will share their updates and volunteer opportunities. After the meeting please stay for a Holiday Get Together with refreshments in the Media Center Café ~ All are welcome!

Come by our annual Conant HS Boosters Committees Open House at COUGAR CORNER Spirit Store next to the Gym on Thursday, December 15 at 6:00 pm where you can purchase Conant spirit wear and spirit items for holiday gifts for your Cougars!

During this Holiday season time we reflect on the past year and would like to express sincere thanks to everyone that contributes and is dedicated to making the Conant HS Boosters such a special volunteer organization!

**Wishing you and your families a happy and safe Holiday season! GO COUGARS!**

Beata Candre, Conant HS Boosters President, 847-274-3586,  
[viperspaci@aol.com](mailto:viperspaci@aol.com).

Visit us at [www.conantboosters.com](http://www.conantboosters.com)

Contact us at [conantboosters@gmail.com](mailto:conantboosters@gmail.com)

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CONANT HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTERS


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# James B. Conant High School

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 19 IMEA District Jazz Festival  
8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Lake Zurich High School
- D211 Honors Choir Concert  
3:00-9:00 p.m., Auditorium
- Nov. 23-25 No School
- Dec. 2 Spirit Wear Sales  
Per. 3 – 6, Cougar's Corner
- Dec. 3 Improv Performance, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
- Dec. 5 Band Parent Meeting, 7:00 p.m., A160  
Found Paper Art Show  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Atrium, Cafeteria
- Dec. 7 Winter Band Concert  
& Dec. 8 7:30 p.m., Auditorium
- Dec. 13 Conant Boosters Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Media Center  
Winter Orchestra Concert  
7:30 p.m., Auditorium
- Dec. 14 Winter Choral Concert  
7:30 p.m., Auditorium
- Dec. 15 Incoming Freshman Night  
Athletics/Activities  
Activities 6:00 p.m. Hallways  
Curriculum 6:00 p.m. Cafeteria  
Athletics 6:00 p.m. Main Gym  
Presentation 7:00 p.m. Auditorium
- Dec. 16 Spirit Wear Sales  
Per. 3 – 6, Cougar's Corner
- Dec. 21 Final Exams – Periods 2, 3, 4  
8:15 – 1:05 p.m.
- Dec. 22 Final Exams – Periods 5, 6, 7  
8:15 – 1:05 p.m.
- Dec. 23 Final Exams – Periods 1, 8  
End of First Semester, 8:15 – 11:25 a.m.  
Winter Break Begins at Close of School
- Jan. 9 Teacher Institute - No Classes  
Band Parent Meeting, 7:00 p.m., A160
- Jan. 10 Opening Day of 2nd Semester  
Per. 1, Classrooms  
Conant Boosters Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Media Center
- Jan. 13 Spirit Wear Sales  
Per. 3 – 6, Cougar's Corner
- Jan. 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday  
No School
- Jan. 21 SAT Testing, 8:00 a.m.  
Gifted & IFA Testing, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
Improv Performance, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria
- Jan. 24 Morning Work Session  
Classes Begin at 9:35 a.m.
- Jan. 24 Principal-Parent Network Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Media Center
- Jan. 27 Winter Play  
& 28 7:30 p.m., Auditorium

 If you require assistance while visiting our school, please contact the principal's office at (847) 755-3612.

## First Semester Final Exam Schedule

Wednesday	December 21	Periods 2, 3, 4
Thursday	December 22	Periods 5, 6, 7
Friday	December 23	Periods 1, 8
Monday	January 9	No School – Teacher Institute Day

## Recognitions ...

- ★ The Varsity Boys Soccer team won the IHSA Regional, Sectional, Super-Sectional and finisher in 4th Place in the state.
- ★ Conant High School had two MSL All-Conference selections, **Danny Wozniak** and **Jack Reiger**.
- ★ The Girls Tennis Team finished in 2nd place at the IHSA sectional and both doubles teams qualified for state, **Gaby Kaminski & Nikitha Lakshminarayan** and **Francesca Bucaro & Ashley Yoon**.
- ★ The Boys Soccer Team All-Conference players: **Kevin Sindewald**, **Matt Biernat**, **Michael Rizzo & Sota Ono**.
- ★ The Boys & Girls Golf Teams each had two All-Conference selections, **Kevin Andjulus & Zach Kahl** and **Nimra Syed & Lina Jang**.
- ★ The Varsity Girls Golf Team won the IHSA Regional title and qualified the entire team for the sectional.
- ★ Congratulations to **Jorie Wachal** on being named the MSL Girls Volleyball All-Conference Team.
- ★ **Nicolas Avalos** and **Anjali Patel** received the Award of Excellence at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston.
- ★ **Junior Aditi Katwala** won second place in the 2016 Fall Conference Write-Off Competition at the Illinois Journalism Education Association at University of Illinois-Champaign.
- ★ Congratulations to **Bhavana Bheem** for earning the Citizen Award from the Village of Hoffman Estates for her community service at the Higgins Educational Center.
- ★ **Isabelle Hanley** for winning the District 211 building construction house competition! Isabelle's house design will be built by the District 211 building construction classes.
- ★ The **Conant Crier**, under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief **Dhvanii Raval**, won 1st place in the KEMPA Online Publication Competition, which rates schools spanning across Illinois and Wisconsin.
- ★ TEN awards won by Crier students at the annual KEMPA conference in Wisconsin. **Junior Annika Lafyatis** received a Superior Award for Editorial Writing, a Superior Award for Review Writing, and Honorable Mention for Review Writing. **Junior Dhvanii Raval** received two Superior Awards for Investigative Reporting and Honorable Mention for Opinion Column Writing. **Junior Allison Pariso** received an Excellent Award and an Honorable Mention for News Writing. **Junior Aditi Katwala** received a Superior Award for Investigative Reporting. **Junior Dylan Toth** received Honorable Mention for Features Writing, and **junior Eleanor Park** received Honorable Mention for her Graphic Cartoon.
- ★ **Asra Syed** has been selected for the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award.
- ★ **Mr. Kurfess** and his YoX Walkers for raising \$649.00 for Cougars in Need. We are grateful!
- ★ **Chris Bruce** received the Harold Jensen award given by Physics Northwest for significant contribution to Physics teaching.
- ★ The Conant High School Band Booster Club for donating proceeds from their McTeacher Night fundraiser to Cougars in Need. We are grateful!
- ★ The Conant Booster Club for supporting our Thanksgiving and Holiday outreach through Cougars in Need.
- ★ Conant earned the EPA's 2016 Energy Star Building Recognition for outstanding contributions to protecting the environment through energy efficiency.

## IHSA Scholastic Achievement Awards-Fall

(ATR) **Kayla Dailey**, **Samantha Jacobsen**, **Alexis Varada**, (BCC) **Eliot Chang**, **Akash Moozhayil**, (BGO) **Ryan Schweinberg**, (BSO) **Matthew Biernat**, **Ryan Estep**, **Steven Faouaz**, **Kevin Sindewald**, **Evan Smith**, **Pavle Todorov**, (CHR) **Gina Reedy**, (BFB) **Giann Cimo**, **Noah Davis**, **Brian Modelski**, **Daniel Wozniak**, (GCC) **Sydney Davis**, **Kelsey Glennon**, **Margaret Hutchison**, **Michelle Meister**, **Anne Stanislawski**, (GGO) **Megan Mayers**, **Ciara O'Malley**, (GSW) **Jaemie Bennett**, **Lea Cejvan**, **Sarah Kenkel**, **Olivia Konieczny**, **Melynda Meyrick**, **Anissa Patterson**, (GTE) **Radhika Patel**, **Shreena Patel**, **Juhi Shah**, (GVB) **Yash Nakrani**, **Nicole Struzik**.

## MSL ALL-ACADEMIC SENIOR AWARD

(ATR) **Kayla Dailey**, **Samantha Jacobsen**, **Alexandra Lira**, **Alexis Varada**, (BCC) **Jack Banahan**, **Eliot Chang**, **Akash Moozhayil**, **Justin Mussman**, **Thomas Walsh**, (BGO) **Ryan Schweinberg**, (BSO) **Nicholas Andreozzi**, **Matthew Biernat**, **Ryan Estep**, **Steven Faouaz**, **Jason Fillingim**, **Nuh Ozbag**, **Nico Scimeca**, **Kevin Sindewald**, **Evan Smith**, **Pavle Todorov**, **Jovan Zivkovic**, (CHR) **Toni Bartuch**, **Sonia Drent**, **Katerina Perez**, **Gina Reedy**, **Deonna Thelwell**, (BFB) **Aris Catania**, **Giann Cimo**, **Noah Davis**, **Eric Hominac**, **Tyler Jackson**, **Megan Kasabian**, **Brian Modelski**, **Daniel Wozniak**, (GCC) **Amber Clark**, **Sydney Davis**, **Kelsey Glennon**, **Margaret Hutchison**, **Emily Lakomski**, **Michelle Meister**, **Anne Stanislawski**, (GGO) **Tida Bowers**, **Priyana Kumar**, **Megan Mayers**, **Ciara O'Malley**, (GSW) **Haya Alsahandi**, **Jaemie Bennett**, **Lea Cejvan**, **Sarah Kenkel**, **Olivia Konieczny**, **Melynda Meyrick**, **Jagoda Muskala**, **Kristine Oh**, **Jessica Palacios**, **Anissa Patterson**, (GTE) **Radhika Patel**, **Shreena Patel**, **Juhi Shah**, **Louise Wang**, (GVB) **Brittany Laskero**, **Yash Nakrani**, **Allison Peacock**, **Camila Rosas**, **Nicole Struzik**, **Nicholas Weishaar**, **Brianna Wilkens**.

## National Merit Scholarship Program

The following students are Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program for 2017: **Michael Borro**, **Piyush Deshpande**, **Ryan Estep**, **Akash Moozhayil**, **Anjali Patel**, and **Kishan Thakkar** The following students have achieved Commended Status in the National Merit Scholarship Program for 2017: **Christopher Borro**, **Colin Fath**, **Samantha Jacobsen**, **Kunal Mahajan**, **Satwick Pachigolla**, **Kailyn Parham**, **Arjun Rao**, **Aarushi H. Shah**, **Keshav Shivam**, **Shahir Taj**, **William Tiessen** and **Alexis Varada**. We also had two National Hispanic Recognition Program students: **Christopher** and **Michael Borro**. *We are proud of their efforts and extend our congratulations!*

## Cold Weather Reminder

Just a reminder, now that it is getting colder, there is a school rule of **"no coats and/or jackets in classrooms, hallways, or between classes."** Please make sure your child keeps a sweater or sweatshirt in his/her locker as some room temperatures can occasionally be cooler than normal.