



Guidance News

Alden Central Schools
13190 Park Street

Alden High School
Guidance Office

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FINANCIAL AID NIGHT—January 13, 2010 - Save the Date!

On Wednesday evening, January 13, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., the Guidance Office will be sponsoring its annual Financial Aid Night in the Library. Mr. Dan Tramuta will be here from SUNY Fredonia to give an overview of the financial aid process. Dan is the Director of Financial Aid at Fredonia and will discuss both the paper and on line versions of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form is required by virtually every college in the country to be eligible for financial aid. We will be handing out the FAFSA on The Web Worksheet and Mr. Tramuta will be going over this in detail. More than 85% of families applying for aid now apply online. Mr. Tramuta will go over the worksheet line by line and give you tips on how to file online in a timely fashion. This is a workshop you cannot afford to miss!

**DECEMBER 7th IS GCC
INSTANT ADMIT DAY @ ACS**

An admissions officer from GCC will be in the Guidance Conference Room on Monday, December 7th to accept applications for August 2011 admission. Applications will be reviewed and admission will be offered at that time if the requirements are met.

APPLY TODAY!

NOW is the time to apply to college. Students should get their applications into Guidance before the Christmas break. Application fees should be paid by check, money order, or credit card and be sure to include your social security number.

Don't Delay—Apply Today!

ATTENTION JUNIORS.....PSAT RESULTS

Juniors who took the PSAT test in October must stop in the Guidance Office to make an appointment to review their results with their counselor on either December 8th, 9th or 10th. Students have the choice of selecting from 6 different time periods in the day (first-come, first-serve). The students will be using computers in the Guidance Office and will be given instructions on how to search for information regarding careers. A thorough understanding of PSAT scores is the best way to improve your performance on the SAT.

SENIORS AND PARENTS....

It's time to start planning for financial aid. The FAFSA On The Web Worksheet will be available in the Guidance Office soon. The FAFSA form needs to be completed for students to be eligible for state (TAP) and federal (PELL) aid.

It is strongly recommended that you use the FAFSA On the Web Worksheet and apply on-line rather than through the mail. You can start working on the form now, but DO NOT submit the form earlier than January 1, 2010. The website for FAFSA is <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. You can apply here and learn about other sources of financial aid. The FAFSA form will be discussed at Financial Aid Night on January 13th.

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Check out these websites:

(For SUNY schools):

www.suny.edu (there are links that will give you access to all campuses)

(For private NYS colleges):

*www.college-guide-nys.org
www.collegenet.com*

(For online campus tours):

www.nymentor.edu (can take you on an online campus tour or allow you to create your own college e-mail account)

(Financial Aid/ Scholarship Sites):

*www.discovercolleges.com
www.wiredscholar.com
www.fastweb.com
www.finaid.org
www.salliemae.com
www.collegeaid.com
www.highschoolhub.org
www.ed.gov
www.scholarships.com— (for a free scholarship search and an online FAFSA guide)
www.citizensbank.com/edu/scholarshipsearch.com*

(Career Web Sites):

*www.careerpathsonline.com
www.nycareerzone.org
www.science.education.nih.gov/LifeWorks
www.collegeboard.com
www.nycolleges.org*

(College Search Information):

*www.citizensbank.com/edu (click on resources for students & families:select college search)
www.mymajors.com (can provide useful advice on college and university majors)*

COUNTDOWN TO TEST DAY

Here are some tips for SAT/ACT preparation.

One Week Before

Gradually taper off your studying, but review areas of weakness to boost your confidence.

Eat healthy and get at least eight hours of sleep each night.

One Day Before

Don't study. Cramming is unlikely to help.

Relax your brain so you can tackle the test with a clear mind.

Put enough gas in the car to get to the test site.

Set out everything you'll need to bring to the test (admission ticket, photo identification, three No. 2 pencils with good erasers, calculator with fresh batteries, a watch, and directions to the test site).

Test Day

Wake up early enough to get there without rushing.

Eat a healthy breakfast.

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

- ◆ **Grants**— You usually get grants because of financial need, although other factors can play a role too. With grants, you don't have to pay the money back.
- ◆ **Scholarships**— Just like grants, except you often get the money because of your academic ability or special talents. Because you don't have to pay back grants and scholarships, you should apply for them before you take out a loan.
- ◆ **Loans**— You may have to borrow money for at least part of your education. You must pay back loans – with interest.
- ◆ **Work Study**— While you are studying at college, you work at a campus job to help pay your expenses.

ALDEN COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Alden Community Dollars for Scholars, a local chapter of the Scholarship America, was established in 1998 by a group of volunteers interested in providing financial support to community young people pursuing higher education. The program is not-for-profit, tax-exempt, and publicly supported.

Alden Community Dollars for Scholars (DFS) is administered by a volunteer Board of Directors made up of community leaders, school personnel, parents, and students. All monies raised by the local chapter are awarded to deserving students who reside within the Alden Central School District. A scholarship committee selects the recipients each year based on an application process which is not need-based.

The chapter awards its own scholarships using monies raised through local fundraising projects and from direct donations. In addition to awarding its own scholarships, DFS administers scholarship funds for other local groups and organizations.

If you would like to support the Alden Community Dollars for Scholars by volunteering your time as a board member or as a volunteer for one of the fundraising events, or if you would like more information, please call the Alden High School Guidance Department at (716) 937-9116 ext. 4160.

The DFS mailing address is *Alden Community Scholarship Foundation: Dollars for Scholars, PO Box 116, Alden, NY 14004*. Their link can also be found on the Alden High School webpage.

Scholarship information for this year's seniors will be available in the Spring of 2010.

Scholarship Opportunities

Here's a list of current scholarship opportunities. Don't let these opportunities pass you by – **applications are available in Guidance or at the website listed below.**

- ◇ AXA Achievement Scholarship – Up to \$15,000 to well-rounded, determined students who have demonstrated achievement at a sport, job or extracurricular activity. For information, visit www.axa-achievement.com (Deadline 12/15/09).
- ◇ Benjamin Milak Memorial Scholarship Fund—Students applying for this scholarship must be impacted by a learning disability, hearing impairment, or a life-altering illness. Students can visit www.milakscholarship.org for additional information and to download an application (Deadline 2/15/10).
- ◇ Burger King Scholars Program— \$1000 scholarships available to all eligible HS seniors who have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, work part time, are active in community service, demonstrate financial need and plan to enroll in a two or four year college. Log on to www.bk.com/scholars to apply. (Deadline 2/01/10).
- ◇ Dorothea Deitz Memorial Scholarship Grant—Scholarships are available to female NYS students who are planning to major in Physical Education Teacher Education. Stop in the Guidance Office for more information. (Deadline 3/01/10).
- ◇ Dr. Seuss's Oh, The Places You'll Go! Scholarship— Recognizes a high school senior who understands and values the limitless possibilities that education can offer with a \$5000 scholarship award. Applications available in Guidance or at www.ohtheplaces.org. Deadline: 2/15/10.
- ◇ Elks National Scholarship—This is a local scholarship available through the Lancaster Lodge #1478. Any HS senior who is a US citizen is eligible to apply; applicants do not need to be related to a member of the Elks. Awards range from \$1000 to \$15,000 per year. Applications must be sent to the Lancaster Elks Lodge by 1/09/10; applications available in Guidance or at www.elks.org/enf/scholars.
- ◇ Empire State Potato Growers— Applicant must be a NYS resident pursuing an agricultural-related area of undergraduate study at a NY college; two essays are required. (Deadline 1/15/10).
- ◇ Erie Community College Foundation —Various scholarships are available for students attending ECC— Applications available online at <http://stars.ecc.edu/stars> (Deadline 2/04/10).
- ◇ KFC Colonel's Scholars— KFC Colonel's Scholars is looking for outstanding seniors with financial need and entrepreneurial spirit to qualify for awards up to \$20,000 for tuition, fees, textbooks, room & board. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.75 and must be enrolling in a public college or university within their state of legal residence. The online scholarship application will be available from December 1, 2009 to February 10, 2010 at www.kfcscholars.org.
- ◇ Marist College Scholarships— Marist College is offering 12 full scholarships (tuition, room and board) to highly talented students majoring in Computer Science or Information Technology and Systems. For information please visit www.marist.edu/nsfgrant.
- ◇ National Co-op Scholarship Program— Students must be accepted for the 2010-11 academic year at one of these colleges: Antioch, Drexel, Kettering, Northeastern, Wentworth, C.W. Post, R.I.T., Johnson & Wales, U. Of Cincinnati, U. of Toledo or Pace. Information and applications available at www.co-op.edu. (Deadline 2/15/10).
- ◇ Ned Carter Scholarship— The Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, Inc. is offering three \$1,500 scholarships to NYS seniors; Applicants must be or be related to a Firefighter in an affiliated member organization of the Association of Fire Districts of the State of NY, and must be pursuing a post secondary career in the Community Service related areas of endeavor. Applications available in Guidance or at www.firedistnys.com (Deadline 3/07/10).
- ◇ NYWEA (NY Water Environment Association) Scholarship—Six \$1500 scholarships available to students enrolled in an environmentally related field in a 4-year college. For more information, visit www.nywea.org (Deadline 1/21/10).
- ◇ The Wilson Center Leadership Award—Four awards of \$1000 each are available to seniors. Applicants must submit an essay of 500 words by 12/11/09. Applications available in Guidance.
- ◇ WNY Safety Conference, Inc.— Offering college scholarships of up to \$1000 to qualified HS students. A 400-500 word essay is required; (Deadline 3/01/10).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December

05-SAT Administration
12-ACT Administration

January

13-Financial Aid Night
23-SAT Administration

March

13-SAT Administration
23-24-WNY College Night
25-Career Fair-Erie I BOCES

April

10-ACT Administration

May

01-SAT Administration
06-AP English Exam
07-AP US History Exam

June

05-SAT Administration
12-ACT Administration
26-Graduation

SCHEDULED VISITS:

December 2 Army
December 3 Navy
December 8 Marines
December 11 Army Nat'l Guard

Representatives come to the Guidance Conference Room during Advisement.

Interested students should secure a pass from Guidance.

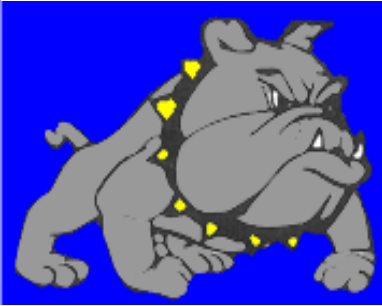
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**Seniors—
Please notify
the Guidance
Office of any
college
acceptance so
that we can
post the news
on our bulletin
board!**

December 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| | | 1 | 2 Army Visit | 3 Navy Visit | 4 | 5 SAT |
| 6 | 7 GCC Instant Admit Day | 8 Marines Visit PSAT Results | 9 PSAT Results | 10 PSAT Results | 11 Army Nat'l Guard | 12 ACT |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Winter Recess Begins | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

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Check out the Guidance Webpage at www.aldenschools.org—click on:

- ◆ Schools
- ◆ High School
- ◆ High School Counseling Center

We will be making updates on a regular basis.

Happy Holidays

