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The  
Northwest  
School

NWS HOME

# E-News

December 16-January 6, 2011

December 16: Holiday Break Begins

December 17-January 1: Dorm Closed

January 3: Quint 3 Begins

## [Now Online: NWS in Many Languages](#)

The NWS has added translated pages of our website to make our school more accessible to all of our parent groups and international audiences. Languages available are: Chinese (two versions, traditional and simplified), French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish (two versions, for Spain and Latin-America). A menu is available on the top righthand side of our [homepage](#).

## [Thank You to Homestay Families](#)

Thank you to the families who are offering homestays to some of our dorm students over the break. The kids are really excited! Please contact Amy Berner-Hays at [amy.berner-hays@northwestschool.org](mailto:amy.berner-hays@northwestschool.org) for information on our homestay program. This is a great opportunity for middle or upper school families!



## A Fashionable Way to Support the NWS Environmental Interest Group

The Environmental Interest Group has a new batch of canvas shopping bags available. The bags feature a student-designed logo and are available for a \$5 donation to help off-set their cost. Anyone interested can contact the group through its [SWIFT Teacher Page](#).

## Friday Night Ski and Snowboard Program

It's time to hit the slopes with The Northwest School Friday Night Ski and Snowboard Program. Our program is different from other schools' programs in that we take our own bus and we don't limit ourselves to just six weeks. The first ski bus ran yesterday and we go on Friday 1/6, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, and 3/9. There are Fridays when we don't have the Ski Bus because there is a conflict with an overnight outdoor trip such as the "Mt. Baker Igloo Trip" on MLK weekend. Please check the Outdoor Program online schedule for specifics on all of the outdoor trips including the ski bus: <http://www.northwestschool.org/calendar/outdoor.shtml>.

General information about the Outdoor Program including Friday Night Ski Bus Information, Guidelines and Expectations, Financial Aid, and NWS Student Season Pass Info can be found here:

<http://www.northwestschool.org/outdoor-program>.

For more information about the NWS Outdoor Program, contact [Glen Sterr](#) or [Herb Bergamini](#). Contact [Mike Mullen](#) with any questions about the NWS Student Discounted Summit-at Snoqualmie Season Passes.

## Ashland Trip Alert

Once again in 2012, Upper School students have a chance to attend a weekend of plays at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The trip runs the weekend after the school year ends, Friday, June 15, through Monday, June 18. Interested students are encouraged to keep these dates in mind as they start making summer plans. Questions can be directed to [Jeff Blair](#) or [Glen Sterr](#).

## Parent Education Event

Parent Edge presents "Teaching Resilience—Strategies for Childhood Worries and Anxiety," on January 10, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., at Island Park Elementary (5437 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island) in the Multi-Purpose Room. Holidays, school, homework, activities got your kids stressed and feeling anxious? They are not alone! Come hear clinical child psychologist Chris McCurry, PhD talk about parenting your anxious Child with mindfulness. Dr. McCurry will explain the roots of the fears, give you a new way to view them and provide specific strategies for responding and helping your child. For parents of kids 5-12 years old. The cost is \$5.00 for non-Mercer Island PTA members, at the door. For more information, visit [www.MIParentEdge.org](http://www.MIParentEdge.org).

## 9th Grade at Seattle Opera

On Wednesday, January 11, 2012, the entire 9th grade will take a trip to see Verdi's *Attila* at Seattle Opera! This fabulous historical piece is set in ancient Rome and fits perfectly with our humanities curriculum. Students should be at McCaw Hall by 6:45 p.m. at the latest, and the performance will be over by 9:30 p.m.. Please contact [Adina Berg](#) with questions. A letter will be going out soon to parents discussing further arrangements, transportation, etc.

## Call for January Open House Volunteers

The Northwest School will host a Middle and Upper School Open House for prospective families on Sunday, January 8. In order to ensure that this is a successful event for our school, we need the help of our parent volunteers.

Meet and Greet Volunteers will greet guests as they enter the school, walk them to their first stop on a self-guided tour, and help to answer any questions the guests may have.

We currently need six more Meet and Greet Volunteers for:

Sunday, January 8, 2012

11:00-2:00 p.m. (includes training) shift time

If you would like to volunteer, please contact [Lauren Nelson](#).

## Vote for NWS Runner Maddie M. '12 for Washington's Female Sports Star of the Year

Maddie M. '12 has been nominated, along with four other accomplished female athletes from Washington, for the Female Sports Star of the Year at the 77th Annual Sports Star of the Year event. This is a huge award and she is the only high school athlete among the nominees. The Seattle Sports Commission and the Sports Star of the Year committee chose Maddie from among all the non-professional female athletes in Washington. Winners will be announced on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at Benaroya Hall. Cast your [vote](#) today! For more information on the awards, visit the website [here](#).

# UNIQUELY NORTHWEST



We are ***Uniquely Northwest!***

Annual Fund Parent Co-Chairs Bob Evans and Scott Guettinger have coauthored a NWS blog about what makes us *Uniquely Northwest* and the benefits of supporting our Annual Fund. To read this blog, please [click here](#).

All gifts made to our Annual Fund, Uniquely Northwest, are 100% tax-deductible. In order to receive the tax benefit for 2011, please make your gift on or before December 31st.

You may give [online](#), or by mail:

The Northwest School  
Attn.: Annual Fund  
1415 Summit Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98122

You may also give over the phone by calling [Lauren Nelson](#) at 206-816-6208.

Thank you in advance for your support of *Uniquely Northwest*.

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## Upcoming Parent Coffees

Come chat with Megan, our school counselor, and Ben or Tuney, our division directors, about parenting joys and challenges. We'll provide the coffee, you provide the conversation (we'll come armed with interesting topics, just in case). The following are the details for the Quint 3 parent coffees:

- Middle School Parent Coffee with Megan and Tuney: Thursday, January 5, from 8:00-9:00 a.m.
- Upper School Parent Coffee with Megan and Ben: Friday, January 6, from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

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## College Counseling News

11th Grade College Night for Students and Parents

Thursday, January 12, 2012

7:00-9:00 p.m.

NWS Commons

The official "kick-off" to the college search process is just around the corner! During this meeting, Peter and Morgan will walk you through the upcoming college search calendar and will discuss all the nuts and bolts of the process here at NWS. Additionally, our guest speaker Jennifer

Delahunty, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Kenyon College, will also speak on the exciting time ahead and answer any questions you might have from the college perspective.

### Upcoming College Visits

Maryland Institute College of Art, January 5

Parsons School of Design, Paris, January 6

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, January 6

### National Portfolio Day/Seattle

Saturday, January 7, 2012

Cornish College of the Arts

Check-in: 10:00 a.m.

Portfolio reviews: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

No RSVP necessary

Is your child considering applying to art school? If yes, please plan to attend the National Portfolio Day. Art colleges from around the US will be meeting with students to review their art portfolios. The feedback students receive during this program will help them further develop and shape their portfolios. This event is busy and chaotic, so plan to arrive early and stay the entire time. It is recommended for students to bring a family member or two to stand in lines. The event is free of charge.

### College Application Update for the Class of 2012

The fall has been very busy for the senior class on the college search and application front. As of December 14, members of the class have indicated to the college office that they intend to submit 668 applications to 199 different colleges. As of December 14, 16 students have been awarded 20 offers of admission to 15 different colleges, including Brown, Carleton, Princeton, Stanford, University of Arizona, and Willamette. The next few weeks promise to be active on this front, with the balance of Early Decision and Early Action applicants being notified of decisions.

### Service Academy Information Night

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

6:30-9:00 p.m.

U.S. Coast Guard Base Seattle Gym, Pier 36, 1519 Alaskan Way South (west of Safeco Field)

This special event for students, parents, and educators will help you learn how to qualify for an appointment to the prestigious Service Academies and earn a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as an officer in the Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy, or Coast Guard (Scholarship Value: over \$400,000!).

Speak with Cadets, Midshipmen and Admissions Representatives from all 5 academies: United States Military Academy, West Point, NY; United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD; United States Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT; United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY; and United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO.

\* All attendees must show a government-issued photo ID (e.g. a driver's license) to enter the U.S. Coast Guard Base \*

### SAT/ACT Practice Exam for Juniors

Saturday, January 21, 2012, from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

As in years past, The Northwest School and Kaplan will provide an optional, free SAT/ACT combination practice test to members of the Junior Class. The goal of the practice test is to provide participants a sense of which of these two tests is their best instrument.

To register, students should log-in to their accounts on Naviance. Under the "Colleges" tab, they will find the exam listed under "Upcoming Visits." Click on "See All Visits." In the first column of the Event List, click "Sign Up." After registering, this link should change to "Attending." Registration can only be made via a student Naviance account; parent accounts are not allowed this function. The registration deadline is Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE.** Students should only register if they are planning to take the exam. We need accurate numbers to plan for rooms, proctors, and testing materials.

Score results will be given back to students at the SAT vs. ACT Workshop hosted by Kaplan on Thursday, February 2 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at NWS. Parents are welcome to attend this workshop.

Please see Morgan or Peter in the College Counseling Office with any questions you may have.

### PSAT Results for Juniors

The College Counselors anticipate mailing PSAT results home to juniors the last week of class before the winter break. Students and parents are encouraged to review the score report and the letter accompanying it. Additionally, students should log-in to their free My College QuickStart Account to review actual test questions and explanation of answers (Instructions on how to access are also in the cover letter.). Should students desire their original test booklet, they may come by the college counseling office to collect it. If you have any questions about the results of the PSAT, please contact Peter or Morgan in the College Counseling Office.

The E-News will return Friday, January 6. Have a wonderful Holiday Break!

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