

FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. Greg C. Hatzis, Headmaster

Headmaster's Report

October, 2013

Dear parents/guardians of FLHS,

Here is our monthly newsletter with important updates and information:

Student Progress

As we enter the second half of the first marking period, teachers have been updating student scores through Infinite Campus. You can track your child's progress by clicking on the "Grades" tab in the parent portal. Please direct any questions you may have regarding grades to your child's teacher. A large number of parents still have yet to enter their email address in the "Contact Preferences" portion of the portal, which will limit the school's ability to contact them. If you haven't already, please make sure you update your email address in Infinite Campus.

After-School Library Media Center Hours

Our Library Media Center is now open to students after school until 4:00 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and until 3:30 on Fridays. We still do not have late bus service for students, but we are glad that we can now provide a place for students to do homework or conduct research every day of the week. Please encourage your children to take advantage of this opportunity if they need to stay on campus after school hours.

Website

The development of our website has been coming along. It is still under construction, but much of the structure is in place. At the very least, you can visit it to get the latest copy of the **Falcon Flyer**, our daily newsletter that goes to homeroom teachers to share to students. Many parents find this a great resource for what is happening at FLHS. The website is at:

<http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/flhs/>

Freshmen Parents: Upcoming Opportunities

This **Thursday, October 17, 9-10 a.m.**, please join Headmaster Greg Hatzis for a Freshmen Parent Coffee. The PTA will sponsor the event which is located in the Falcon's Nest, our student restaurant. Bring your appetite as the students will be preparing breakfast treats. Mr. Hatzis will share recent news from FLHS and take questions from those in attendance.

Also, on **Tuesday, October 22, 7-9 p.m.**, Mr. Bob Esposito (Director of Pupil Services and Counseling) will present "High School 101" in the auditorium. High School 101 provides parents of freshmen an overview of what they can expect in the coming four years and tips on navigating the high school experience.

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National Drug and Alcohol Awareness Month

The month of October is National Drug and Alcohol Awareness month. On October 28, we will be hosting various prevention programs relating to this topic as well as other risky behaviors. Teachers will have an opportunity to bring their classes to the small gym, where students can receive information and engage in conversation around many topics. The following programs will be represented:

- **The Center for Women and Families** will be talking about healthy relationships
- **The MADD program** will be presenting on drinking and driving
- **The New Learning Therapy Center** will be sharing about Anxiety Disorders
- **The Renfrew Center** will be discussing Eating Disorders
- **Fairfield Counseling Center** will be discussing Depression as well as Anxiety Disorders
- **Causeway Collaborative** and Vince Benevento will be discussing a new innovative way of counseling
- **RYASAP** will also be presenting on Prevention, Bullying and Healthy Relationships.

We address many of these topics throughout the year through various programs and curricula as well.

Parking Lot Update

So far the newly numbered parking spaces are working quite well. While the parking lot scene is always a little crazy, it actually seems a bit calmer with students directing themselves to their own spots across the entire lot instead of everyone racing to the “best spot.” Students are still upset about the price increase to \$150 for the year, and this has caused some great discussions about why the fee exists, how the budget process works, what might have been cut if the fee wasn’t applied, and how they can appropriately express their opinions through the democratic process. As a reminder to parents, if students park in the lot without a decal or take another student’s spot, we will “boot” the vehicle and charge \$75 to have the boot removed. We ask that ALL parents and students drive with caution through the parking lot and remember that we have new drivers and a number of pedestrians in this area each morning.

Courtyard Furniture

During lunch periods, we allow our students to access our courtyard in seasonable weather. Recently we have had to remove several benches and picnic tables from the courtyard because of inappropriate and offensive graffiti all over the furniture. While we regret removing the furniture, we cannot stand for this behavior and opted not to expose all students to the foul language and drawings. As a creative solution, students from our AP art class have offered to paint some of the tables with their own designs, and we will cover their work with a protective coating. We are hoping that with student work painted on the tables there is a better chance their work will be respected by their peers and not vandalized. We applaud the efforts of our students to come up with such a great solution and in turn make our school more inviting.

Thank you for your continued support of FLHS. I look forward to seeing you at school events throughout the year.



Greg C. Hatzis
Headmaster