

SENIOR LETTER

November 2016

- SEND IN YOUR **COLLEGE APPLICATIONS** NOW!! Set a goal of getting them in by December 1. Thanksgiving Break would be a great time to work on them!!

Transcript info for the two most popular colleges:

GRCC – Your transcript can be faxed but you need to tell me that you have officially submitted your application.

GVSU – Submit the application online; bring a **stamped, addressed envelope** to Mrs. Bazen; your transcript will be mailed to GVSU.

For the easiest way to apply, go online and submit your application. Your transcript will need to be sent to the college(s) you apply to. After submitting your application, you will need to tell Mrs. Bazen where to send your transcript. Note: Some applications require recommendations from teachers, principal, or counselor. **Allow one week for these recommendations.** ***If you are not sure which college you want to go to, narrow your options to 3 or 4, and send applications to them. You will lose your application fee, but this allows you more time to make a final decision.
- FINANCIAL AID:**

-The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) should be completed by all students intending to go to college. This form is available to submit beginning October 1 and received by March 1. This is FREE and available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You can also download a "FAFSA ON THE WEB WORKSHEET" which will help you in filling out the form online. **PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FOR SUBMITTING THE FAFSA.** In years past the FAFSA could be submitted beginning in January and you needed your taxes for the previous year done. Now, the process begins in October and you will submit "prior-prior" years' taxes. When submitting the FAFSA for the 2017-2018 school year, you will be entering your 2015 tax information. The sooner you submit this form, the earlier you will find out how much financial aid you will receive. Money does run out so apply as soon as possible!!!!

-The State of Michigan has valuable resources and information available at their website. Tips on planning for college, loans, scholarships, grants, and eligibility for all types of financial aid can be found at www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid.

-CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE is another financial aid resource. Applications are available by e-mail at **help@cssprofile.org** or call **1-305-420-3670** or via Internet **www.collegeboard.org/college-search** then click on "Pay for College" and then the CSS/PROFILE link. There is a fee for this service.
- SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME:**

 - *2016 Blood Drive Scholarship** – To be eligible for this scholarship a student must 1) be a senior, 2) have donated, or attempted to donate blood at least once during his/her high school career, 3) write a 200-300 word essay persuading fellow high school students to donate blood. See the counseling office for a form that must be attached to your typed essay. Deadline: April 21.
 - *SAE Engineering Scholarships** - for those students who intend to earn a degree in engineering or related science, meet minimum requirements with regard to GPA, SAT and/or ACT as outlined in the individual requirements of each scholarship. For full details and an application go online to www.sae.org. Deadline: January 15.
 - *MI Competitive Scholarship** - Eligibility for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship Program is determined in part by the student achieving a qualifying score on the SAT Assessment. The next SAT test date is December 3. (register by November 3, late registration is November 22). See attached fact sheet.
 - *AXA Achievement Scholarship** - The AXA Foundation in association with U.S. News & World Report is offering the AXA Achievement Scholarship. Students have the opportunity to receive \$2,500, \$10,000 or \$25,000 in scholarships. To qualify, students should be well-rounded, committed to making a difference and have demonstrated achievement at a job, sport or extracurricular activity. Visit **www.axa-achievement.com** to download an application. Deadline: The first 10,000 applications are accepted or December 15 whichever comes first.

- *American Legion Scholarships** - There are various scholarships available to seniors. Visit www.michiganlegion.org to obtain scholarship information. Deadlines vary depending on the scholarship.
- *Burger King** - Burger King awards numerous scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000. Selection criteria includes GPA, work experience, and extracurricular activities and school service. Log on to www.bkmcclamorefoundation.org. Application deadline: December 15.
- *CollegeSTEPS Program** - This program created by Wells Fargo gives seniors the opportunity to win \$5,000 toward college tuition. Go to www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps. Enroll between now and June 30, 2017. There are random drawings during this time period and no essays or applications are required.
- *Hugh & Eve Meeter Calvinism Award** – This \$3,500 first prize and three \$2,000 second prize awards are given to students who write a research paper dealing with “John Calvin and Martin Luther: Comparison and Assessment”. This award is payable to student tuition accounts at the following colleges: Calvin, Dordt, King’s (Canada), Redeemer (Canada), Kuyper, and Trinity Christian. Detailed information is available at www.calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/fellowships-scholarships/high-school-seniors/. Deadline is January 16.
- *Lake Michigan Credit Union Lloyd F. Hutt Scholarship** - To be eligible for one of ten \$2,000 scholarships, students must be members or dependent children of Lake Michigan Credit Union members. A short application and a 750 to 1500 word essay are required. Applications are available at www.lmcu.org/hutt. Deadline: January 31.
- *NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award** - \$2,000 - \$15,000 awards are given to students who have demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit or initiative. Graduating high school seniors who operate their own small business are eligible to receive this award. Visit www.NFIB.com/YEA to apply and for more information. Deadline: December 18.
- *GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program** – This program awards approximately twenty \$10,000 renewable scholarships to students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship. For more information visit www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships. Deadline: January 5.
- *Ronald McDonald House Charities** - This program offers scholarships to students who do not have the finances necessary to attend college. Applications are available at www.rmhc.org. Deadline: January 18.
- *Elks National Foundation** – This foundation will lessen the cost of tuition to 500 deserving students from around the country. The foundation awards 20 top winners of at least \$20,000. The remaining 480 runners-up receive \$4,000 scholarships. Judging is based on scholarship, leadership and financial needs. Applications are available online at www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.cfm. The deadline is November 30.
- *RARE Everyday Heroes** – This \$2,000 scholarship competition is based strictly on a one-page, single spaced essay. GPA and test scores are not a part of this scholarship. Students must submit an essay about someone whom they consider to be an Everyday Hero because, through their life’s work, they are making a difference for others. For more details and the online entry form, visit www.winningfutures.org/rare-everyday-heroes/scholarships/. Deadline: December 1.
- *University Club of Grand Rapids Scholarships** - Three scholarships will be awarded to students who express a strong desire to remain in West Michigan upon completion of their studies. Applicants may attend any school: in-state, out-of-state, two year or four year education. Each \$1,000.00 scholarship is renewable for three more years. Application deadline is February 1. Forms are available in the counseling office or go to UniversityClubGR.com.

***Prospective Teachers:** For students who are baptized or professing members of First Netherlands Reformed Congregation (Beckwith), specific funds are allocated to assist students who are going into the field of education. See Mrs. Bazen for details.

Individual Colleges - Most colleges also have specific scholarships of their own. Check with the counseling office, college catalogs and college admissions or financial aid offices for details.

4. **LOCAL COLLEGE INFO**

VISIT COLLEGES - Examine the place you are going! If you decide to visit a college, you must fill out an excused absence form (available in the office) two days prior to your visit.

- **GVSU** - the application deadline date for scholarship consideration at Grand Valley is December 31, 2016. This means that your **transcript** has to be in their office by December 31. Do **NOT** go online on December 31 and submit an application and expect to be in the running for GVSU scholarships because your transcript will not be in their office which means your application is not complete!!!

-**GRCC** – **NO** application fee.

- “Fridays at **Calvin**” dates are November 4, 11, and 18 and December 2. You must fill out an excused absence form two days prior to your visit. You must make a reservation at least two weeks in advance. To register, call 1-800-688-0122 or register online at www.calvin.edu/visit. Also, Calvin will waive the application fee (\$35) if you apply before December 1

- **The Common Application** – The Common Application simplifies the college admission process by saving time and eliminating duplication of effort. Once completed online or in print, copies may be sent to any of over 600 participating colleges and universities that accept The Common Application. Go to www.commonapp.org.

- If you plan on living on campus, most colleges are on a first come first serve basis. After being accepted, put in for housing right away. Some colleges have a housing deadline of March 1.

www.fastweb.com - This website is highly recommended by various college representatives for finding scholarships, grants and loans to fund your college education.

Questions??????? Send me an email at sbazen@plymouthchristian.us.