

SENIOR LETTER FEBRUARY 2017

1. SEND IN YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS NOW!!
*****The most convenient way to apply is online. After you have submitted your application, your transcript will need to be sent in. Some colleges accept emailed or faxed transcripts while others require it to be mailed in. Please see Mrs. Bazen for the correct way to send in your transcript.** Note: Many applications and scholarships require recommendations from teachers, principal, or counselor. **Allow one week for these recommendations.**
2. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME:

Engelsma Homes Scholarship

One \$1,000.00 renewable scholarship (for a total of four years) will be offered to a graduating senior. See attached sheet for more details.

American Legion Scholarships - There are various scholarships available to seniors. Some scholarships require you to be a relative of a veteran. Visit the website at www.michiganlegion.org. Deadlines vary depending on the scholarship.

2016/17 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.

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.

Community West Credit Union Scholarship – Three scholarships will be awarded to area students who have shown outstanding efforts in leadership, volunteerism and community involvement. You must be a member in good standing for 12 months at time of funds disbursement. Applications are available at any branch, at communitywestcu.org or from the counseling office. Deadline is March 31.

Educational Community Credit Union - The Educational Community Credit Union of Kalamazoo is offering 21 scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000. To be eligible you must be an ECCU member for a minimum of one year and have a 3.0 GPA. Download an application at www.eccu1.org. Deadline: April 1.

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!!!!

Grand Rapids Community College Scholarships – Applicants are considered for over 300 different opportunities by completing the general application. Access to the scholarship application is at www.grcc.edu/money, click on grcc.academicworks.com and then log in using your GRCC Blackboard login credentials. Deadline is March 15.

Grand Rapids Community Foundation Scholarship - a variety of 60 scholarships are offered via one application. Awards are based on academics, financial need, a statement of aspirations and goals, and outside activities. Applications must be postmarked by April 1. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Scholarship information is available at www.grfoundation.org.

Jay Mol Family Scholarship - A \$2000.00 four year renewable scholarship is available to one graduating senior of Plymouth Christian High School. This scholarship is based upon GPA, recommendations, financial need, school involvement, and extracurricular activities. Additional scholarships are sometimes offered with this same application form. Deadline is March 30.

Junior Achievement Scholarships - These scholarships are available to seniors who have taken part in a high school Junior Achievement program during any year of their high school tenure. Visit their website at www.westmichigan.ja.org for an application and more information. Deadline: March 24.

Mary Jane Dockeray Science Scholarship – At least two \$1,500 scholarships sponsored by the Regional Math & Science Center at Grand Valley State University are available to students pursuing a career in science. Deadline: March 3. Applications are available online at www.gvsu.edu/rmsc.

Michigan Retailers Association - At least 17 \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded this year - \$1,500 for four-year colleges and \$1,000 for community colleges or training institutes. The awards are not based on financial need. To be eligible, the student or parent must be employed at a business that is a member of MRA. Apply online at www.retailers.com. Deadline: April 1.

Right to Life of Michigan Education Fund – Right to Life of Michigan will award a \$500 scholarship to one outstanding prolife high school senior in Michigan. Selection criteria includes the application, essay and a list of prolife activities. Applications are available at www.rtl.org. Click on “Faith/School” then “Prolife Youth Award”. Deadline: March 17.

Rockford Sportsman’s Club – The Rockford Sportsman’s Club Bob Bond Scholarship awards a \$500 scholarship to a student who is interested in furthering their education in the Conservation or Environmental Law Enforcement area. The link for the scholarship page is www.rockfordsportsmansclub.com/about-rsc/scholarship/. Deadline is May 1.

Roger B. Chaffee Scholarship Fund - recipients are awarded \$3000 toward his or her higher education. This scholarship is a continuing memorial to the Kent County astronaut who lost his life in the tragic Apollo I - NASA shuttle fire January 27, 1967. This award has been given for the past 49 years to an outstanding student who wishes to pursue an education in the sciences or engineering related to space technology with a minimum GPA of 3.5. All applications should be sent no later than February 28. Application forms are available at www.rogerbchaffeescholarship.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 more 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.

3. 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.

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