



# BROOKS SCHOOL

PARENT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 29, 2018

[RESOURCES](#) | [GET INVOLVED](#)



*Brooks' rock bands — the Red Hot Scuito Peppers and District Maylo — will take the stage to perform in our new Center for the Arts theater this Saturday night. All are welcome!*

### **Brooks Together -- Current Standings**

Our sincerest thanks to those parents who have donated or pledged to the Brooks Fund thus far. Please know how grateful we are for your support.

With just two weeks left in our *Brooks Together* initiative, we have work to do to reach our goal of 82 % participation. The current numbers by form are:

2019 - 33 %

2020 - 42 %

Gifts of all size matter and are appreciated. Please help us deliver on our mission by signaling your commitment that you stand behind Brooks. Click [here](#) to make a gift today, or [email Gage Dobbins](#) to make a pledge of support. Pledges count toward participation and can be fulfilled up until June 30, 2019. Thank you!



---

## Students' Exam Schedules

Click [here](#) for students' schedules for the next two weeks (and view a [downloadable version here](#)).

---

## Visiting Actor

Artist, actor and director Hank Rogerson will be on campus for a day of teaching in residence on Dec. 4. The creator of documentary films *Shakespeare Behind Bars* and *Still Dreaming* will hold talks and presentations about his work as a filmmaker, as an actor (with roles in the movies *Sicario* and *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot*), and as an artist in the genre of film. He will speak in the Chapel at 10:05 a.m. All are welcome!

---

## Fifth-Form Parent Reception/College Counseling Workshop

Please join us for a College Counseling Kickoff weekend!

Mingle with fellow parents and college counseling staff members at Head of School John Packard's home on Friday, Jan. 25 from 6-7 p.m. The program continues on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. featuring panel discussions with college admissions officers ([see list here](#)), a presentation of Brooks School's program and a Q&A session. Please [click here to RSVP](#). If you have any questions, contact Assistant College Counselor [Christine Jackson](#).

---

## Parents Committee Nutcracker Sweets

On Dec. 13, we treat our students, teachers and staff to holiday goodies before they head off for break! We're particularly in need of volunteers who can bake or buy a treat and drop it off in the Wilder Dining Hall. If you can stay and work the table, that's great too! If you would like to help, please contact [Joan Ziady](#) P'18, P'20, P'22.

---

## All-Community Read

With increasing demands on our students for summer work, we decided this year to move the [All-Community Read](#) — Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers* — to a time which provides more breathing room and can allow for a more thoughtful approach. The end of fall exams and the start of winter term should provide us that space.

Gladwell's books and columns in the *New Yorker* have sparked thought-provoking debate for years. His unique perspective coupled with thorough research results in hidden truths found in data. It is the hope that *Outliers* will engage our community in valuable discussions about how hard work, access to opportunity, and luck all interact with success.

We would like all students to obtain a copy of the book by the start of Winter Break and to have read the book by the completion of Winter Term. If you have any questions or need assistance purchasing the book, please contact Chair of Mathematics [Dave Price](#) P'17, P'19.

---

## Parents' Independent School Network Meeting

Brooks School is a member of the PIN network, a volunteer groups of parents with children who are students at

New England-area independent elementary and secondary schools. It was formed to help parents share ideas and promote worthy programs at these schools and provides speakers and meetings throughout the year. Tomorrow, Nov. 30, they are pleased to offer the following presentation at Milton Academy and welcome any parents who are interested in attending.

### **Resisting the Irresistible: Understanding and Combating Addictive Technology, by Jonathan R. Werner**

9 a.m. coffee, 9:30-11 a.m. presentation

Why can't we put our phones down? How are they affecting our relationships, our children, and our lives? And what can we do about it? Join us to explore this important topic. This discussion derives its focus and title from Adam Alter's book, *Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked*. The discussion will address the rise of behavioral addiction and examine how and why technology's extraordinary and sometimes damaging magnetism is no accident. We will also think through ways we can effectively fight against the tide of distraction both as families in our own homes and as partners in our school communities.

---

### **Last Call for Toys for Tots Donations!**

Saturday is our last day collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Community Activities Board (CAB)'s Toys for Tots drive. Gifts can be dropped off in Wilder Dining Hall during the day or students can bring them to the Ugly Sweater Dance on Dec. 2. In the past, four boxes of toys were collected. We are hoping to make it even more this year!

---

### **Winter Athletic Gear**

Reminder: Check your email if you'd like to order winter athletic gear. Orders must be placed by Monday.

---

### **Student Activities This Weekend**

Check out the [full schedule here](#). Highlights include a rock bands concert and various Winter Wonderland events!

---

### **Class of 2019 School Rings**

There will be an informational meeting regarding school ring ordering for students on Dec. 4. Rings will be available to order on Dec. 6 in the Wilder Dining Hall and require a \$75 deposit. If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Dean of Students [Ashley Johnston](#).

---

### **School Store Holiday Shopping**

Looking for the perfect holiday gift? Look no further than the Brooks School Store. If you can't get here, just call use at 978-725-6300 x3216 and we will ship directly to you. Gift certificates are also a great idea! In addition to regular hours, there will be extended shopping hours on Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Happy Holidays from your friends at the school store!

## **The P.A.C.: Parents' Academic Corner**



Students ask, "How can I improve my studying?" In the Learning Center, we talk about time management, organization, note-taking skills and active reading. We also must include the importance of concentration.

Below are some suggestions to improve concentration:

- Study in a distraction-free area — away from disruptive sounds and actions.
- Avoid other activities while you are studying. Close all unnecessary devices.
- Clear your mind of other thoughts. Think only about the task at hand.
- Establish a desire to study. Find an interest in the topic.
- Have good physical and mental exercise. Take breaks and move your body.

Concentration, along with time management and organization, will continue to allow your student to “study smarter not harder” and be prepared for the upcoming final exams. Read [here](#) to learn more about the importance of concentration.

## Upcoming Events

- **Dec. 1: Rock Bands Concert**
- **Dec. 14: Winter Break begins**
- **Jan. 3 - 19: Winter Term**
- **Jan. 18: Winter Term Symposium, 7 p.m.**
- **Jan. 25: Fifth-Form Parent Reception, 6 p.m.**
- **Jan. 26: Fifth-Form Parent College Counseling Workshop, 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

Follow Brooks on [social media](#) for news, photos and more!

