



# BROOKS SCHOOL

PARENT NEWSLETTER

**DECEMBER 6, 2018**

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*Lights and ribbons and wreaths — Brooks School is decked out for the holidays!*

## ***Brooks Together***

Our most sincere thanks to those of you who have donated or pledged and have shown your support for Brooks during this parent participation effort. In the past two days alone, we have received 22 additional gifts and pledges to help us toward our goal. At this pace, we can reach our goal of 82 percent parent participation by Dec. 14. To achieve our goal, we need your help. With one week left, now is the time! Please remember, gifts of all sizes matter and make an impact.

To make an online gift now, click [here](#); to make a pledge, please email [Gage Dobbins](#). Pledges can be paid any time up until June 30, 2019. Thank you for your care and support for our school!



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## Winter Break Transportation Logistics

Sign up in the Deans' Office for [transportation to Logan Airport or CT/NYC for Winter Break](#). Please finalize plans by Dec. 7.

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## Next Week's Schedule

Read details about students' responsibilities, deadlines and expectations regarding the two days leading up to Winter Break [here](#).

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## Semester 1 Grades

Semester 1 Grades and Advisor Report will be available for parent viewing in OnBrooks on the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 21. Questions? Please contact Registrar [Lisa Saunders](#): (978) 725-6255.

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## Students' Exam Schedules

Click [here](#) for students' schedules for the next week. (View a [downloadable version here](#)).

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## Afternoon Activities Awards

Brooks celebrated its athletes and teams at the annual Fall Afternoon Activities Awards ceremony during school meeting last week. Coaches presented team awards, as well as ISL honors, NEPSAC recognitions and Brooks School's Best Teammate awards, given to members of 2nd and 3rd teams. For a full list of the winners, details about the ceremony, and a photo album, click [here](#).

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## Last Call for Flu Vaccinations

If your student had signed up and did not receive one yet, please make sure he or she visits the Health and Wellness Center before Dec. 14, as all flu vaccines will be returned over Winter Break.

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## Attention, Third-Form Parents!

On Jan. 10, the third-form Winter Term classes will travel to Boda Borg in Malden, Mass. Boda Borg organizes small group challenge activities ("quests") that promote teamwork and collaboration. For students to participate, parents must sign an electronic waiver, and the waiver must come from a [parent's email address](#). Please complete the waiver [here: Boda Borg Boston Brooks School Waiver](#) as soon as possible. Thank you!

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## 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 Jan. 25, from 6 to 7 p.m. The program continues on 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](#).

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## Parents Committee Nutcracker Sweets

Next Thursday, Dec. 13, we will 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 help at the table, that's great too! Please contact [Joan Ziady](#) P'18, P'20, P'22.

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## Student Activities This Weekend

Check out the [full schedule here](#). Highlights include Skate with a Date, open house at the Packard's, and our beloved pre-exams tradition: [Barn Babies!](#)

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## 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 us at (978) 725-6300 x3112 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 this Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The store will be closed the following Saturday, Dec. 15, but will re-open on Saturday, December 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for last-minute, holiday-shopping needs. The store will resume regular business hours on Jan. 2. Happy Holidays from your friends at the school store!

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



Over the last few weeks, the Learning Center has shared different suggestions that encourage students to "study smarter, not harder." Memorization strategies, along with time management, organization and concentration, work together to build a strong foundation of smarter study skills. Higher-order thinking skills are often the focus, but the ability to memorize is still very important. The following are suggestions to improve memorization skills:

- Use mnemonic devices: Think of a silly sentence or word that will correlate to what needs to be remembered.
- Chunking words and activities: Group things into categories or words.
- Students teaching others: Learn a concept and teach it to another person.
- Using mental imagery: Use a visual picture.
- Connecting to emotions: Relate what you're trying to memorize to something that has emotional weight.

Click to [read more about "studying smarter, not harder."](#)

## Upcoming Events

- **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.**
- **Feb. 13: Boston Reception, 6 p.m.**

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

