

February 1, 2010

Well, I think this may be my last newsletter to the Class of 2010. Congratulations on all your hard work the last 13 years!! Here's a little info to get you through the rest of the school year – I can't believe it's almost over!

Folsom Lake College

I'm glad to see how many of you have been asking about FLC!! Here's the latest info:

- You can **apply to FLC** anytime (the Fall 2010 online application opened today!!) – the sooner the better. They'll email you right away with your Los Rios Student ID# – don't lose it, you'll need it for everything!
- **FLC representative** Von Bielefield will be visiting the Career Center at **lunchtime on Thursday Feb 4th** to answer your questions & provide general information. She'll also help you fill out the online Los Rios application on that day if you want. There is no charge to apply.
- **Assessment tests will be held at EDHS in April** but I **strongly recommend** that you sign up for an earlier assessment at either El Dorado Center or the Folsom Lake campus. Waiting until April is do-able but it is cutting the deadlines really close if your goal is to have the earliest possible class registration time slot. **The next assessment date at EDC is February 24th** and you can access their full assessment schedule at http://www.flc.losrios.edu/Student_Services/Student_Success/Assessment_and_Orientation.htm
- Attend the **March 24th Orientation/Academic Planning** session from 5-7 pm at EDC. (If that date doesn't work for you, there is a schedule of additional Orientation/Academic Planning sessions available in the Career Center.) You must have **already received your Assessment results** to be able to attend the Academic Planning portion. (And, yes, it's ok to attend Orientation on one day and Academic Planning on a different day.)
- **Summer & fall class schedules** will be available online at the beginning of April. There probably will not be any printed copies available. Take some time in advance to plan out your class schedule the way you want it, & have a couple back-up plans in case some of your first-choice classes are full. **Expect to receive your registration time around mid-April.** Check your email regularly!!! Make sure to clear your calendar & get online during the registration time slot they give you in order to maximize your chances of getting the classes you want.

Sierra College

- If you're planning to attend **Sierra College**, follow this link <http://www.sierracollege.edu/StudentServices/financialServ/index.html#910> and look at the

“Incoming Student Scholarships.” Eighteen scholarships, one application. Due date is February 8th, so you better hurry!

- Sierra College online application is also available. Get online, **apply**, then sign up for an **assessment** date. If you call the Counseling Office to sign up, you may be able to arrange to take your assessment and have your **counseling appointment** on the same day, and save yourself a second trip down there.

Job Shadow

There are still openings for job shadows. Be listening for the sign-up announcements in the Daily Bulletin; or, come by the Career Center between 7:00am and 9:25am to let Ms. Sharp know what you are interested in shadowing.

Cal Grant

Get your Cal Grant GPA verification **turned in to the counseling office NO LATER THAN Wednesday Feb 24th**. I know the deadline says March 2nd, but you really need to give Mrs. Pesce time to calculate your GPA & get it turned in on time. So play it safe & take care of it early... there's no reason to wait. It's an easy form – just make sure you have your correct social security number.

Important Cal Grant Reminder

Also remember it is your responsibility to go to www.calgrants.org and **check your status** to make sure your GPA verification form made it clear to the end of the process. Believe it or not, there's a lot that can go wrong from point A to point B. And one of the things that sometimes catch students by surprise is that **the world is harsh**. A missed deadline is a missed deadline, **even if it isn't your fault**. Get into the habit of asking questions, being proactive and advocating for yourself. Our first gpa upload will be sometime this week - so go online this Saturday to check your account, and **come talk to me asap if you find anything amiss with your Cal Grant status**.

Scholarships

Don't forget that most of the local scholarships are due on March 2nd. That's only 4 weeks away! There are scholarships available for community college & technical school, as well as 4-year degree programs. Take a look at how many scholarships are on your list, and divide it up to see how many scholarship applications you need to finish each week. **Make sure to read the directions so you know which ones to mail, and which ones to bring to the Career Center**. Visit these websites for scholarship possibilities:

www.edc-scholarships.org

<http://cougar.eduhsd.net/counseling/cc/schRes.html>

<http://cougar.eduhsd.k12.ca.us/counseling/cc/SchReg.html>

<http://mrsbastian.pbwiki.com>

Four-year College

Check your deadlines – especially for housing & financial aid. It's very odd, but sometimes your housing deposit is due before you even know if you've been accepted. This is not a mistake. **Get your housing deposit in by the deadline.** I know sometimes it's hard to come up with the cash, but if you get enough financial aid to cover housing, you will get it back later in the form of a loan, grant, or work study. If you're not accepted, they'll send your money back.

If you're planning to attend **any of the CSU's** and you need to take the **ELM and/or the EPT**, you can take the test(s) at Sac State on 3/20, 5/1, or 6/19 (Sac State applicants have some additional dates to choose from). Here's the link for signing up: <http://www.csus.edu/testing/>. Many CSU's require that this test be completed by **May 1st** (including Sac State) – check your portal(s) weekly for deadlines!

And regarding financial aid, colleges each set their own deadline, and some of those deadlines could be sooner than you think! The well-publicized March 2nd deadline is for Cal Grant, and a lot of the California colleges also go with that date – but some don't. **Make sure your FAFSA is done by the earliest deadline**, which I've seen as early as Feb 1st at some private colleges. Visit your colleges' financial aid websites to check.

Enjoy the rest of your year, keep your grades up, and come visit me at lunchtime if you have any questions. 😊

Mrs. Bastian
Career Guidance Specialist
El Dorado High School
11:00 am – 4:00 pm