

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
January 21, 2016

As we and the rest of the east coast prepare for Winter Storm Jonas, WVU will be closed tomorrow and Saturday: <http://bit.ly/1nq6ski>.

Hello from snowy Morgantown, with more to come! With two weeks of classes now behind us, winter has finally arrived as we knew it would. Please note that students, faculty and staff were issued a statement on inclement weather procedures and expectations prior to the start of the spring term. This *Weather Advisory Reminder* is included below so you, as parents, are also aware – as it is a rare event that the University closes. With that in mind, remind your students to be safe this weekend.

Students should also be settling into the spring routine with good habits and high expectations (and an unusual college snow day is a great chance to catch up on classwork or work ahead!) The new semester brings new opportunities and chances for a fresh start as President Gee mentions in his first Gee Mail of 2016: <http://go.wvu.edu/22VqIKA!>

Lots of important information follows on May graduation application deadlines, upcoming changes to the PRT schedule, Parents Club Spring Break buses, and the release of the much anticipated Dean's and President's List for Fall 2015, among other announcements. So read on or curl up by the fire and read on this weekend. And now that we all have that song from Frozen stuck in our heads – go build a snowman decked out in gold and blue and send us your pictures. Stay warm and safe, everyone! In this edition:

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WEATHER AND TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Weather Advisory Reminder

Students, faculty and staff were e-mailed the following at the start of the term to alert them to procedures concerning possible inclement weather, which is timely as winter has arrived and more is in the forecast: <http://bit.ly/1PlvAEX>!

Students should note that it is quite a rare occasion when the University will close entirely due to weather or low temperatures. If a closing or delays do occur at WVU, a "WVU Alert" will be sent: <http://bit.ly/1pojeeY>. Notifications will also be posted on the WVU main page: wvu.edu and the Student Website: student.wvu.edu, e-mailed through MIX and broadcast through local media venues.

It is important to remind your students that they should treat classes as they would a job. If they feel it is unsafe, they should be proactive and contact the instructor to let them know why they will be missing or running late. Also remind your students to plan ahead and dress warm (I actually passed a student with shorts on Tuesday and it was single digits outside!) and if inclement weather is in the forecast, they should leave early and allow extra time to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances or travel delays.

The beginning of the semester is also a good time to remind students that there are absences built in to nearly every syllabus. However, they should remember that these absences are there as a courtesy and should be used sparingly. As in any other situation, safety is most important and they should use their best judgment for their particular circumstances and follow up as needed.

PRT Schedule change details

Parents – we have had some questions recently about the upcoming changes to the PRT schedule for spring: <http://bit.ly/1WyTCvE>. With these changes, additional WVU buses – in addition to the daily Mountain Line buses that already run between campuses – will be put into circulation so students can still get from campus to campus in the evenings and on Saturday. *(In light of the University closure for weather this weekend, students should follow WVUDOT on Facebook or @WVUDOT Twitter for PRT and Bus updates.)*

WVU will operate these buses on a continuous loop before and after PRT operating hours during the week and from 9: 30 a.m. to 5: 30 p.m. on Saturdays. The route covered will be between Mountaineer Station and the Mountain Lair, with stops at Towers, Ag. Sciences, Engineering PRT, Creative Arts Center and Knapp Hall. Saturday bus service will have additional stops at the Coliseum and ST-10 lot across from the Business and Economics building downtown. The full weekday and Saturday schedule for the supplemental bus support can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1PHJSd2>. Again, the Mountain Line buses that students can ride for free to various locations in town and between campuses with their student ID will also remain available: <http://bit.ly/1JC7HTp>. These include the Mountain Line Blue & Gold, Campus PM, Valley View, West Run, Tyrone, and Red Line.

Please know that these changes are in place to accommodate system testing as part of the comprehensive PRT Modernization process that is underway and will provide the vendor with ample time to test the PRT's new automatic train controls system and continue with software development. WVU Transportation and Parking appreciates your patience and looks forward to serving your student's transportation needs.

Transportation Reminders

For transportation news and status updates at WVU, you and your student can follow WVUDOT on Facebook or Twitter @WVUDOT. Each day, real-time PRT status updates, busing changes, road closures and other valuable information are posted here. If your student is not following these pages or Tweets, encourage them to do so for the most up-to-date info! This and other helpful information can be found at: <http://bit.ly/1BG2ntD>. Also, the Mountain Line Buses (students can ride for free with their student ID) offer a free mobile app that highlights real-time bus tracking. This can be downloaded for Apple or Android phones by searching "Mountain Line Transit" in their app store.

PARENTS CLUB NEWS

Mountaineer Parents Club Winter 2016 Newsletter Online Edition

In an effort to go green, the Winter Edition of the Mountaineer Parents Club Newsletter is available online only. It's a great issue filled with some fantastic stories, so please take a few minutes to catch up on the latest: <http://bit.ly/1zpKINc>.

Mountaineer Parents Club basketball ticket discounts

The Mountaineer Parents Club and the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics have teamed up to make available to Mountaineer Parents Club members a special men's basketball ticket offer for WVU's Big 12 Conference matchups with Iowa State on Monday, February 22 and with Texas Tech on Wednesday, March 2. By clicking on the link below and entering the promo code WVUPARENTS, Parents Club members will have an opportunity to purchase a special \$20 ticket for each game. To order: <http://bit.ly/1opr2Qx>. Let's Go Mountaineers!

Parents Club Spring Break Bus Info

WVU's spring break is coming up in March and the Mountaineer Parents Club has organized buses to various locations. Residence halls will close for spring break Friday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. and reopen Sunday, March 27, at noon. Please note that Sunday, March 27 is Easter Sunday and classes resume on Monday, March 28. If your student needs to make travel arrangements home, let us help. The Mountaineer Parents Club spring break bus information can be found here including details concerning times and locations: <http://bit.ly/1vStQFj>. Local Parents Clubs are also sponsoring buses to central Maryland, northern Virginia, Long Island, and southern New Jersey. For more details, check on the website above.

OTHER NEWS AND UPDATES

Fall 2015 Dean's and President's List released

West Virginia University has announced its Dean's and President's Lists for the 2015 fall semester. Nearly 5,400 undergraduate students made the Dean's List, including more than 1,900 who received President's List honors for getting all As. Students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher in 12 credit hours of graded courses with no incompletes or withdrawals to be named to the Dean's List. We would like to congratulate all the students who have achieved such great academic success this past semester! Dean's List: <http://bit.ly/1eySE1J> and President's Lists: <http://bit.ly/1OJzgdP>. A press release template can also be found on the top of these pages for parents wishing to publish this honor in their local newspapers.

Off Campus Housing Fair – Date Change – Jan 30

Due to an inclement forecast, the Off Campus Housing Fair scheduled for this weekend has been postponed. The new date for the Evansdale Off Campus Housing Fair is Saturday, January 30. The event will take place in the Evansdale Residential Complex Blue and Gold Rooms from noon to 3 PM. Students looking for a place to live next year are invited to attend to learn more about the process, meet area landlords, and learn about resources available such as WVU Student Legal Services that offers free lease reviews. <http://bit.ly/1ZPOOHC>

Student Employment Job Fair – Feb. 9

Student Employment will be hosting the 2nd Annual Student Employment Job Fair on Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. The event will provide an opportunity for on- and off-campus employers to hire students for spring, summer and fall part-time and seasonal jobs: <http://bit.ly/181cdNG>.

May Graduation Application now live – Due by March 4

Those anticipating a May graduation should be sure to apply for graduation in a timely fashion and check in with their school or college to assure they have completed all requirements. Students must officially apply to graduate during the semester in which they intend to graduate –

graduation is not automatic. Though some schools and colleges have earlier deadlines, the Office of the University Registrar's final deadline is March 4: <http://bit.ly/1xlqTgR>. Details on Commencement Weekend, May 13-15, such as dates, times, and lodging info can be found at <http://bit.ly/1Bdbyjd>.

A note on Honoraries

We often get questions from parents and students regarding invitations to join national honoraries they get in the mail. Here are a few helpful notes when considering what to join and how students might best spend their time and resources.

- Is there an active chapter of the national honorary on our campus? Students can check our Student Activities website and look under "Honorary" to see if a local chapter exists and determine if it is active: <http://bit.ly/1OJzmSO>.
- There are many honor societies and honoraries available ranging from the more general Golden Key National Honor Society to major-specific honor societies such as Psi Chi (Psychology Honorary.) Perhaps one makes more sense than another to join depending on your student's area of emphasis or interests.
- Students should join organizations they plan to participate in. Putting something on a resume means they may be asked about it in an interview and they need to be able to speak about their involvement.

Our Office of Student Engagement and Leadership oversees all student organizations and can help guide students with additional questions: 304-293-4397.

Mountie Bounty

With Spring semester underway, we'd like to update folks about several new merchants who have been added since the fall term including the Mountaineer Pharmacy located in the Health and Education Building and the eateries in the new Evansdale Crossing building. These as well as many other on and off campus merchants offer a range of services for your student. For a full list, go to: <http://bit.ly/1r98kxI>. Parents and students can add funds to the Mountie Bounty plan by visiting <http://bit.ly/1rrdX5R>.

/Katie Gallagher

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University