

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
November 22, 2016

Before you eat your turkey, be sure to celebrate Thursday morning with the Pride of West Virginia, the Mountaineer Marching Band as they kick off the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade at 9 a.m.! During his latest Gee Mail, President Gee checked in with the band regarding their trip: <http://bit.ly/2ggvC2y>. Lots of important information follows on *Parents Club Winter Break Buses* that are now accepting reservations and new *Parents Club Athletics Discounts* for men's and women's basketball. Some games correspond with dates you may be bringing your students back to campus for spring semester, so take a look and maybe cross a gift off your shopping list with tickets to a game!

Also there are some prompts and helpful tips for timely Thanksgiving conversations while your students are home with you. *Finals Prep and End of Semester Academic Reminders* gives some good tips on ways to check in with your students on advising, final exams, fall grades and spring registration and *Housing Conversations* highlights some points for consideration and pitfalls to avoid in signing leases for next year. The Bookstore, Dining and Commencement reminders also give key end of the semester deadlines that are fast approaching read on for more! Finally, don't forget to go online while your student is home to pay those spring bills and please keep the billing feedback coming – we've heard from a number of you with some great suggestions already! Just reply to this e-mail with your thoughts and suggestions today.

Happy Thanksgiving to all our parents and families – and our thanks to you for all you do to support your WVU students throughout the year! In this edition:

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Parents Club Winter Break buses

The Winter Break bus reservations are now live and buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; and new for this year is a bus to Highland, NY, to service the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. The Southern

New Jersey, Central Maryland and Long Island, NY Mountaineer Parents Clubs also offer buses to their areas.

Please note that the dates for the winter break holiday buses are as follows:

Buses leave Morgantown – Thursday, December 15

Buses return to Morgantown – Saturday, January 7

These dates, as always, correspond to the residence hall closing and opening schedule. To make reservations, follow this link: <http://bit.ly/1vStQFj>. The last day to request a refund for the winter buses is Thursday, December 1, 2016.

New Parents Club Athletic Discounts

The Mountaineer Parents Club and the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics have teamed up to make a special ticket offer available to Mountaineer Parents Club members for two of WVU's Big 12 Conference men's basketball matchups, one WVU women's basketball game and the final home game of the WVU football season.

Men's Basketball: Coach Bob Huggins and the Mountaineers are currently ranked 19th in the AP Top 25 poll and were ranked second in the preseason Big 12 poll. The Mountaineer Parents Club discount is available for the men's basketball games against TCU on Saturday, January 7 at 1 p.m. and Kansas State on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Noon. Upper level sideline tickets are available for \$20 with upper level baseline seating priced at \$17 per ticket. This represents a savings of \$7 per upper level sideline ticket and \$5 off each upper level baseline ticket.

A Family Day package will be also available for the Mountaineers' matchup with TCU on Saturday, January 7. Family Day packages will be made available for purchase on Tuesday, November 29. Parents interested in the family day package, which consists of four tickets and a voucher good for \$25 at the Coliseum concession stands for \$70 per package, should log on <http://bit.ly/1BMvB9i> and click the Men's Basketball image starting November 29.

Women's Basketball: There is also a special offer available for the 21st ranked WVU women's basketball team's nationally televised matchup with the 16th ranked Oklahoma Sooners on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. Tickets for the matchup of nationally-ranked teams are only \$2 each with free print-at home and mobile ticket delivery available as options to receive your tickets.

Football: As a reminder, the discounted offer for the 9th ranked WVU football team's matchup with Big 12 foe Baylor on Saturday, Dec. 3 is also still available. Parents Club members can save \$10 per ticket by following the ordering instructions below.

Parents Club members can take advantage of these special offers by visiting <http://bit.ly/2bR005I> and entering the promo code WVUPARENTS. Please note that WVU students can attend football and men's basketball games for free using students tickets, but will be seated in the Student Section. If you wish for your student to sit with you, you are advised to purchase a ticket for them as well.

Students can, however, reserve their own tickets for free noting the following distribution dates for men's basketball: <http://bit.ly/2flrlIB> via the online student ticketing system: <http://bit.ly/2gdLBAp>.

Housing Conversations

As students begin looking ahead for housing for the 2017-18 school year, staff members from Student Legal Services and the Off-Campus Housing Office remind students and parents to look at all the details and consider individual circumstances before signing a lease. Leases are legally binding contracts, and after signing a lease – no matter what happens to your status as a student – students are bound by the terms of that lease for the stated period. While many landlords and property managers will tell students that they must sign early, in reality there is a healthy supply of housing. Many leases in the Morgantown area are joint leases so a potential pitfall is signing a lease with another student who will not return for next year. Consider waiting to avoid the risks of signing a lease many months prior to moving into an apartment. Here are other thoughts for consideration:

Lease Start and End Dates matter: Is your student graduating next year? 2018 Graduation Weekend Dates are listed as May 11-13, 2018. Students should be sure to read the fine print and consider their personal situation in regards to the lease such as, what is the last day on the lease regarding graduation for those graduating in May or is there an option for early termination or subletting for those graduating in December? For those staying on in town who might simply be moving out from the residence halls or on to a new apartment, be sure the lease start and end dates match up or consider storage options now.

Only in Morgantown half the year? If your student is graduating mid-year, or leaving the area for study abroad, co-ops, internships, student teaching, National Student Exchange or other similar programs next year, residence hall housing options could make sense because of their flexibility. Students in these circumstances may be released from a WVU Residence Hall Room and Meal Plan contract for that period, with proper documentation. A limited number of upperclassmen spaces are held for returning students. If interested, students can apply, pay their deposit and choose their room/roommate online now: <http://bit.ly/1xW0Z4v>.

Free Lease Reviews: It's a great idea for students to have a lease review performed by Student Legal Services prior to signing. Services are free for students, and it is important for them to understand the legal document they are about to sign. Call 304-293-4897 for an appointment: <http://bit.ly/1DUWwCr>.

Residence Hall Options: Limited spaces do exist for upperclassmen who wish to remain in the residence halls next year and are available now. If interested, students should log on now to apply, pay their deposit and choose their room/roommate online: <http://bit.ly/1xW0Z4v>.

Consider University Apartments: With four properties managed and operated by WVU (University Place, University Park, College Park and Vandalia) these properties offer a convenient, secure and independent living environment with the freedom of 24-hour access all-year long: <http://bit.ly/1DUWA5f>.

Off Campus Housing Fair: Please encourage your students to attend the final Off-Campus Housing Fair located on the Evansdale campus to educate themselves about the process and explore all housing options: *Saturday, January 21, noon to 3 p.m., ERC Blue and Gold Rooms*: <http://bit.ly/1xKgZYV>.

Finals Prep and End of Semester Academic Reminders

The end of the semester is almost here! While your students are home for break, we encourage you to talk with your student about his or her academic performance this fall – and plans for the spring semester. Below, we highlight information about Spring and Summer Registration, withdrawing from the Fall Semester, finals prep and final grades, academic probation and the Mid-Year Academy.

Registering for Spring 2017 - Students must meet with their academic advisor and clear any holds prior to registering each semester. Ask to see their spring schedule or degree progress in DegreeWorks while they are home. If they have not yet registered for spring, encourage them to meet with their advisor and do so as soon as possible. Successfully completing 15 credits per semester will help your student stay on track for graduation in four years. It's important that students register for spring classes prior to returning home for the winter break.

Withdrawing from the Fall Semester - We want all students to remain enrolled and in good standing at WVU, but we also understand that sometimes students need to completely withdraw from a semester. If your student is considering a withdrawal from the current term, before he or she makes any changes to their schedule, be sure they discuss their options with an academic advisor, a professor, financial aid counselor, or another WVU faculty or staff member. Students can also call Regan Bruni, Student Success Director, at 304-293-5804. The last day to withdraw from this semester is Monday, December 5th.

Preparing for Final Exams - Final examinations are scheduled at different times than the original class meeting time and, in some instances, different building locations. Has your student planned out their final exam schedule with dates, times and building locations to make sure they are prepared? Refer to the Fall 2016 Final Exam Schedule at <http://bit.ly/1MZda1V> for details. Finals week begins December 8.

Fall 2016 Final Grades - Final grades for the Fall 2016 term will be posted to the WVU transcript on Tuesday, December 20th. Your student may view their final grades by logging on to DegreeWorks or into STAR to access their unofficial transcript through the WVU Portal: <http://bit.ly/1m8XLtH>. Please remind your student that faculty are also on winter break and may not immediately respond to inquiries regarding the authenticity of a final grade. If your student granted you access to view their grades in the Parent Guest Portal, these will also be viewable there at this time.

Academic Probation & the Mid-Year Academy - Students are placed on academic probation if their cumulative grade point average (GPA) falls below a 2.0. All students will be notified by mail and e-mail during the winter break if they are on academic probation. All first-time freshmen on academic probation are asked to return to campus no later than 1:00 PM, Sunday, January 8, 2017 to participate in Mid-Year Academy (MYA). MYA is a program that connects students with academic advisors in an effort to build a success plan for the spring term. Our faculty and staff are committed to helping your student succeed and getting him or her back on track.

Summer 2017 - Have you begun to discuss with your student their prospects for Summer 2017? Will they be taking courses at WVU or an institution near home, pursuing summer employment (i.e. internships) or engaging in an international experience (i.e. study abroad)? It's never too early to plan for the next summer!

Bookstore Updates

Parents, with the end of the semester approaching, here are some tips and reminders from the WVU Bookstore. And if you are visiting campus for a football game or to pick up your student, check out the NEW Evansdale Crossing Bookstore complete with Starbucks Café! For game day, it is a short 15 minute walk to the stadium.

New Sales/Discounts - 25% OFF all Cold Weather Gear starts Monday, Nov. 28th (*continues through Dec. 9th*)!!! – Start your holiday shopping with 25% Off ALL Fleece.* Available in store and online at <http://bit.ly/1SQRqfD>.

Rental Returns due by December 14 - Please remind your students to bring back their Fall 2016 rental titles to the Bookstore they originally rented them from by the deadline - December 14th. (*Per the rental agreement signed by all customers at the beginning of the semester, customers who do not bring back their rentals will be charged the full price of the book, and an additional late fee*).

Book Buyback - also known as "Cash for Books" - The best time to do book buyback is December 1st through December 14th. Students must have valid WVU ID to conduct buyback, and it must be done in person at the stores.

Purchase spring books today! Did you know that your student can purchase or rent their spring textbooks as soon as they register for the spring term? More on online Registration Integration here: <http://bit.ly/2flnjA6>.

The WVU Bookstore is here to help you through your student's journey, in the classroom and on campus. For emails that include everything you need to know about textbooks, supplies, & more, sign up at <http://bit.ly/2f2JT55>. Shop with confidence and trust as the WVU Bookstores are proud to give \$1.5 million each year to West Virginia University in the form of non-athletic student scholarships.

**Sorry, discounts cannot be combined.*

Dining reminders at the semester's end

Parents - as the semester approaches its end, here are a few reminders from WVU Dining:

Care Packages – With holidays and final exams coming fast, visit <http://bit.ly/2bZSsMf> for a variety of care package options. We've got a whole list of baked goods that can be delivered to WVU Residence Halls or held for pickup in the Mountainlair.

Dining Dollars Expire – Dining Dollars are flex funds good at all WVU Dining locations and do not carry over to the next semester. If funds remain, students can use these to now stock up on study snacks for finals or restock for spring! Students can consider going to the Lyon's Den convenience store at the ERC to stock up on packaged food, beverage items, laundry detergent or other toiletries they may need to resupply their room. They can grab a snack at any campus dining location or retail location - including those in the Libraries - while studying for finals! Dining Dollars can also be used at the Mountainlair or Evansdale Crossing for lunch when dining plan exchanges are not accepted. *NOTE: Mountie Bounty is separate and can be carried over to the spring term:* <http://bit.ly/2f2LKXR>.

Dining Plan refills are now available – If your student is running low on their Gold, Blue, or Upperclass Dining Plan, refills are available online at <http://bit.ly/1rrdX5R>. This is a student-only WVU web portal, so be in communication with your student if you're anxious about their dining plan running out.

Spring Dining Plans – Does your student need to make changes to their spring dining plan? They can do so online at <http://bit.ly/1rrdX5R> from now until January 17. Spring Dining Plans can also be purchased through this site for students residing off campus.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to reach out to us at dining@mail.wvu.edu or visit <http://bit.ly/1tWs6JP> for more information.

December Commencement Reminders

As a reminder for our soon-to-be graduates who will be walking in the December Commencement scheduled for December 16, registration to walk must be completed by December 9 online: <http://bit.ly/2cyQK04>. If you or a family member will be needing accommodations while attending graduation, please contact the Office of Accessibility Services as soon as possible: 304-293-6700. For other important details for the day, go to: <http://bit.ly/2gdMtFm>.

Wellness Workshop –Seasonal Blues: Coping with Winter/Holidays/Finals – Nov. 29

The Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services is offering monthly Wellness Workshops around mental health topics, in order to raise awareness and provide students with tools for managing different concerns. The next workshop is *Seasonal Blues: Coping with Winter/Holidays/Finals*. With the end of the semester approaching, students often experience mounting stress related to a variety of academic and personal issues. From managing finals and winding down the semester, to preparing for the Holiday season, or even dealing with sadness often brought on by change of seasons and cold weather, December can be a challenging time. This free workshop designed to help students learn about and develop tools for managing stress will be on Tuesday, November 29 from 6:30-7:30 in CPASS Room 101 and is open to all students: <http://bit.ly/2cQXqZ9>.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

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