

West Virginia University
Parent Electronic News
October 28, 2009

Happy Halloween everyone! A lot of important information is included in this E-News so be sure to browse now or print and read later. With November upon us, Thanksgiving Break is now less than a month away. As you finalize plans to get your student home for break, along with the MPC Holiday Buses, included is a list of other transportation options including a new ride share program offered through WVU - Zimride. Also as you make plans, please remember that residence halls will close Friday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m., so plan accordingly.

There are a number of activities and deadlines approaching - including the last day to drop a class which is this Friday, October 30. An important final reminder for students who have not yet turned in their immunization forms – please do so immediately! Because nearly 1,000 students are still missing this requirement, please be sure to follow up with your student. With class registration right around the corner, accounts will be put on hold if this requirement is not met, delaying class registration. Read below for more on these and a number of other events and reminders.

Finally, as many of you know WVU hosted UCONN this past weekend in football shortly after the tragedy that took one of the Huskies - Jasper Howard. A tragedy of this nature highlights just how close-knit and interconnected all college communities are. No matter the school rivalry, these are our colleagues, and these are our peers. If you didn't have the chance to be here in person, check out the linked article written by a UCONN student in their school paper: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1176>. Our sympathy and support remains with the Huskies as they continue their football season. In this edition:

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H1N1 UPDATE FROM DR. JAN PALMER

Director of Well WVU Student Health Service

H1N1 influenza is still increasing on the WVU campus, with at least 674 cases of influenza-like illness that we are treating as if they are H1N1, diagnosed to date. To prevent further spread until we can begin to vaccinate students, it is important for them to follow the precautions of cover your cough, good hand washing, and isolating themselves until the fever has resolved for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. Isolation means going home if this is convenient, or staying in their local residence, and not attending classes, social functions, going to dining halls, or even going to see the doctor. Students should call a health care provider, if needed. Recommendations for self-diagnosis and treatment can be found on the WELL.WVU website:

<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1177>.

National supplies of H1N1 vaccine have been delayed. WVU is still hoping to receive some vaccine by the end of November, and students will be notified as soon as the vaccine has been released. Free vaccination clinics will be set up as soon as the vaccine is available.

UPCOMING EVENTS/REMINDERS: FINAL CALL FOR IMMUNIZATIONS FORMS

To finalize enrollment at WVU as a new freshman or transfer student, students are required to submit their completed immunization record to the Office of Admissions. This form can be found online at: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1163>. While most students have completed this requirement, nearly 1,000 students are still missing this completed form. If your student is missing this document, they have been notified of this and MUST either submit the completed form or contact the Office of Admissions; otherwise they may not be able to register for spring 2010 classes. In some instances, we recognize that students may be waiting to complete the shot series for their hepatitis B; however, they must notify Admissions of this so that they will not have a hold placed on their records for spring registration. For more information or for a complete list of required immunizations, please go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1164>.

CRIME PREVENTION AND ALCOHOL SAFETY FAIR - Thursday, October 29
Joining forces with Well WVU, University Police will be teaching students and employees to replace fear with confidence and discussing smart choices at WVU's Crime Prevention and Alcohol Safety Fair, held on Thursday, Oct. 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Vandalia Lounge in the Mountainlair. The fair will conclude WVU's first

Crime Prevention and Safety Week. The week is designed to help raise awareness and reduce victimization in the campus community. Representatives from Fatal Vision, West Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control, West Virginia State Police, WVU Student Affairs, U92, the WVU Forensic Club, Governor's Highway Safety Program, and University Police are expected at the fair.

Highlights of the week include a workshop titled "Shots Fired on Campus and Flash Point on Campus" on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Gluck Theater. This event instructed students and employees what to do in case of a shooting. The presentations also talked about recognizing behaviors of concern. WVU Police have provided videos for Parents Club Members that speak to these and other issues. Be sure to check them out and share them with your students. They can be found online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1174>. The username is: letsgo and the password is: mountaineers.

Well WVU will be hosting the "Inmate Presentation" on Thursday, October 29, at 2:30 p.m. in the Gluck Theater. This presentation brings young adults currently incarcerated for crimes involving drugs and alcohol to campus to share their stories. The WELL WVU website also provides resources on alcohol education, including a virtual blood alcohol calculator, tips on staying safe while drinking, and a screening for signs of alcohol abuse. Encourage your students to check this out at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1177>.

LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS - October 30, 2009

Just as a reminder, if your student is considering dropping a class, the last day to do so is this Friday, October 30. Students can do this through their online STAR accounts but should be sure to consult their catalog: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1165>, and/or check with their academic advisor, as dropping a course could affect academic progress.

Dropping or not successfully completing an excessive number of courses can also have an impact on a student's future financial aid status. For financial aid purposes, students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress, which includes maintaining a certain GPA as well as completion percentage. For more on this, go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1166> or have your student stop by the Financial Aid Office.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING AWARENESS WEEK - Kicks off Sunday, November 8

Off-Campus Housing Awareness Week kicks off on Sunday, November 8. Representatives from WVU Off-Campus Housing, WVU Student Legal Services, SGA, and City of Morgantown officials will make presentations to students living in residence halls about searching for off-campus housing, the legalities of signing a lease, and the ramifications of living in Morgantown communities. We will also have two large forums during Off-Campus Housing Awareness Week featuring officials from the Morgantown Fire Department, the Morgantown Police Department, City Code Enforcement, and other

interested parties. For more information, visit the WVU Off-Campus Housing website at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1167>.

WELL WVU OFFERS "FIGHT LIKE A GIRL" - Sunday, November 15

WELL WVU will again be offering a "Fight Like a Girl" class for female students. This three-hour self-defense class for women is designed to teach them practical skills to prevent sexual assault. Given that a woman is attacked every two minutes in the United States, these are good skills to know. We are encouraging parents to encourage their daughters to get this training. Their lives and safety could depend on it. The class will take place Sunday, November 15 from 1:00 to 4:00, and the cost is \$40. Students can register at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1178>.

THANKSGIVING BREAK - RESIDENCE HALLS CLOSE, Friday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.

With the first official break for WVU coming up in a few short weeks, don't forget to finalize plans to get your students home. Remember, if your students are living in University housing, their plans should take into consideration that halls will close and doors will be locked for Thanksgiving Break beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 20. Students living in University housing must leave the residence halls by this time. University housing will reopen at noon on Sunday, November 29. Please note: residence halls WILL NOT open early for the WVU vs. Pittsburgh football game on Friday, November 27. More Thanksgiving Break details will be sent in the next edition of Parent E-News. For the entire 2009-2010 residence hall opening and closing schedule, go to: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1168>.

HOLIDAY TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS:

THANKSGIVING BUS RESERVATIONS ONGOING

Spaces still remain for several of the Thanksgiving Break buses. To make a reservation, go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1169>. For questions, call the Mountaineer Parents Club at 304-293-2506. Remember: Thursday, November 5, 2009, is the absolute last day to cancel Thanksgiving Bus reservations and expect a refund.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BUS RESERVATIONS BEGIN, Wednesday, November 4

The Mountaineer Parents Club will again be hosting Holiday buses for Winter Break. Reservations for Christmas bus trips to destinations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey will begin Wednesday, November 4 and will be accepted until all spots are taken. The last day for cancellations for Christmas buses will be Thursday, December 3. After that date, no refunds will be issued. There are also buses sponsored by local Parents Clubs to Maryland, Virginia, and New York. For more information on all of these or to make a reservation, go to: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1169>.

ZIMRIDE - ANOTHER OPTION FOR HOLIDAY BREAKS

Looking to help your student find a ride home for Thanksgiving or Winter Break, or maybe just the weekend? WVU recently launched a private Zimride rideshare community for students to find and share rides with one another. Students register for an account with a valid West Virginia University e-mail address at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1170> and can find and share rides where they need to go. If your student has a car on campus, they can find others students headed the same way to split costs and provide some company. If your student doesn't have a car on campus, they can find classmates and friends who are already driving the same way (while saving you an extra trip). Encourage them to sign up for WVU's private Zimride rideshare community at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1170>.

OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION: GREY LINE, MORGANTOWN AIRPORT, LIMO SERVICES

The Mountain Line Transit Service offers a daily shuttle to the Pittsburgh Greyhound station and Pittsburgh Airport via the Grey Line. This shuttle departs the Morgantown Depot daily at 10:00 a.m. Students can catch the Grey Line via a converging Mountain Line bus route (go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1171> for the complete schedule) or short cab ride (Yellow Cab - 304-292-7441). For a complete schedule, more information on the Grey Line, or to make reservations, log on to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1171> or call Grey line at 304-296-3869. Note: for November 20 ONLY, Mountain Line will be adding an extra trip to the Pittsburgh Airport at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Mountain Line at 304-296-3869.

For other modes of transportation, including links to the Morgantown Airport with daily United flights through Dulles and limo services to other destinations including the Pittsburgh Airport, go to: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1172>.

WVU INTERMODAL FACILITY - MOUNTAINEER STATION - NOW OPEN

Last week, WVU opened Mountaineer Station at 1112 Van Voorhis Drive (in front of the Health Sciences Center PRT station.) A 7,000-square-foot facility, Mountaineer Station features a 500-space parking garage for both permit and short-term use, a commuter student lounge with lockers, interior bicycle storage and showers, a waiting area for Mountain Line and campus bus passengers, direct access to the Health Sciences Center PRT Station, and information stations for Mountain Line and WVU transportation services. WVU Parking Management and the Department of Transportation and Parking's administrative offices have also been relocated to Mountaineer Station.

The construction on Mountaineer Station began in October of last year, and the project cost about \$16 million, with \$5.1 million coming from a U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration grant. U.S. Rep. Alan Mollohan was instrumental in securing the federal funds for Mountaineer Station.

For more information on WVU Transportation and Parking, visit
<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1173> or call the office at 304-293-5502.

Katie Utterback - Parent Advocate
Tommy Napier - Graduate Assistant

Parent Advocate Office
West Virginia University
WVU Parents Club Helpline
1-800-WVU-0096