As students prepare to don costumes and alter egos in the coming days to have fun and celebrate with friends, remind them to make smart decisions along with great memories, staying safe and taking care of one another. Here are a few Halloween safety and costume tips you might pass along:

Tip 1. If “Superman” gets in trouble, unfortunately “Clark Kent” will be the one in the mug shot; alter egos are tough like that. So be smart, Superman.

Tip 2: Some people dressed as police officers on Halloween really are police officers – and they will be out and about to ensure everyone’s safety. Right now is actually a great time to seek out a University Police Officer as part of the LiveSafe App Contest going on (see below!)

Tip 3. You don’t know who may be behind that mask. Many staff, administrators and community leaders will also be getting in on the fun as part of our joint campus and community Scary Safety Squad. This group will be dressed up and out Friday night to offer help and snacks – so again, be good and watch out for one another. You don’t know what the dean of students or President Gee will be dressed up as!

As we turn from October to November, I have included articles about our WVU Day of Giving, transportation details on Getting Home for the Holidays, tips for those Coming in for the November 4 football game (discounted parent tickets still remain) and dates for Spring Charges and E-Bills along with the 2018 Fall Family Weekend date!

In the spirit of the season, reply with a picture or let us know what your student’s first costume was or post it to our WVU Mountaineer Parents Club Facebook page and tag your student; I am sure they’d love to see this blast from the past! In this edition:

UPCOMING DATES
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FINANCIAL AID AND BILLING UPDATES
- Spring Charges/E-Bills – Due January 2
- Academic Progress Reminder for Financial Aid Recipients
- How to Pay for Off-Campus Housing
- REMINDER: Next Year’s FAFSA Available! Students Could Win a $1,000 Scholarship for Completing the 2018-19 FAFSA by October 31

UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS
- UPD LiveSafe App Contest Runs until October 31
- Donate and Get a Parking Ticket Forgiven – November 1-15
- Professional Development Seminar: Personal Finance – November 1
- WVU Day of Giving – November 8
- A Note on Honoraries
- Getting Home for the Holidays
- Tips for the November 4 Football Game

UPCOMING DATES
- Daylight Savings Time (fall back): Sunday, November 5
- University Housing Closes for Thanksgiving Break: Friday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.
- University Housing Reopens: Sunday, November 26, noon
- Spring Bills Post to WVU Portal and Parent/Guest Portal: Week of November 27
- Finals Week: Thursday, December 7-Wednesday, December 13 http://bit.ly/1MZdalV
- University Housing Closes for Winter Break: Thursday, December 14, noon
- December Commencement: Friday, December 15, 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. http://bit.ly/2eiJKFF
- Spring Bills Due: Tuesday, January 2
- University Housing Reopens: Saturday, January 6, noon
- First Day of Spring Classes: Monday, January 8


2018 Fall Family Weekend Date Set
Mark your calendars for September 28-30 for Fall Family Weekend 2018.

FINANCIAL AID AND BILLING UPDATES
Spring Charges/E-Bills – Due January 2
Students are in the process of registering for spring classes now. Once this process is complete, starting the week of November 27, spring charges, financial aid and any resulting balance due will be viewable via the WVU Portal and Parent/Guest Portal (if access has been granted.)
If a student has not yet registered for spring classes by the time spring charges post, tuition and fee charges will not show. Students should check back after making any adding classes/making changes. If they have not already done so, students who anticipate a spring refund (http://bit.ly/1WzCXLv) should log on today and submit current banking information to receive an electronic refund.
Students with an amount due will receive an E-Bill in their MIX email account in mid-December, which will be due January 2.
Per federal guidelines, financial aid will officially pay toward spring charges on December 29, ten days prior to the start of the term. Please note that the University will be closed December 22-26, as well as January 1.
The best method to pay bills is online via the WVU Portal for students and via the Parent/Guest Portal for parents who have been granted access: http://bit.ly/2ya7EC1.
Academic Progress Reminder for Financial Aid Recipients

With the end of the fall semester coming, we want to remind parents that students must maintain certain academic progress standards to receive financial aid. Academic progress is measured at the conclusion of the spring semester. Students are evaluated on all attempted versus earned credit hours and overall grade point average (GPA). Those not making satisfactory academic progress at the end of the spring semester will immediately be suspended from aid and notified via the student’s MIX email. Students can view their academic progress status by logging on to the STAR system after spring grades are released. If your student thinks he or she may be in danger of financial aid suspension, we strongly encourage them to contact our office. More information can be found at [http://bit.ly/2wYN1T1](http://bit.ly/2wYN1T1).

How to Pay for Off-Campus Housing

We have been asked if students moving to apartments after their first year can use financial aid funds to pay for rent and utilities. While aid is unique to each student, the simple answer is yes. The federal financial aid process allows students to accommodate for tuition and fees as well as room and board charges (whether on- or off-campus) as well as a number of other educational expenses. On-campus room and board charges are determined using an average residence hall charge and average dining plan cost. Off-campus room and board charges are estimated from an annual survey of living costs by current students. These figures are accommodated in the overall estimated cost of attendance each year. [http://bit.ly/2gIDQkD](http://bit.ly/2gIDQkD).

When a student fills out the FAFSA each year, they indicate whether they will be residing on- or off-campus, and this helps guide their cost of attendance for budgeting purposes.

If a student does move off campus, any aid they receive would first pay toward direct institutional costs (tuition and fees, etc.). Any remaining portion could then be sent to the student via direct deposit or check to be used for indirect costs such as paying monthly rent, food, utilities, transportation, books and other education expenses. As students explore apartment options, they are encouraged to keep in mind that this figure is an average cost over nine months (typical school enrollment), thus it might not fully cover the cost of all apartment charges. Students should still do their best to budget and live within their means. Aid cannot assist with costs while the student is not enrolled.

REMINDER: Next Year’s FAFSA is Available! Students Could Win a $1,000 Scholarship for Completing the 2018-19 FAFSA by October 31

By completing the 2018-19 FAFSA by October 31, students will automatically be entered for a chance to win up to $1,000 of scholarship money. Students who submit a FASFA in October have three chances to win.

Submit between October 1 - October 31 = $1,000 scholarship drawing.
Submit between October 1 - November 30 = $500 scholarship drawing.
Submit between October 1 - December 31 = $250 scholarship drawing.

Some aid is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students. Make sure your student receives the best financial aid package available. Students and families can use 2016 tax information to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [http://1.usa.gov/146X9ep](http://1.usa.gov/146X9ep) for the 2018-2019 academic year. You may be eligible to automatically pull your and your student’s tax information into the FAFSA from the IRS, making it easier than ever. Students can get their financial aid award offer as early as February.

If you need assistance, please contact the Mountaineer Hub at 304-293-1988. We are here to help.
UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS

UPD LiveSafe App Contest Runs until October 31

Have your students check out the LiveSafe App Contest today. Once downloaded they can look for the contest button within the app. By simply submitting the required items between now and October 31 (one of these items is a picture with a UPD officer and serves as a great chance to meet our great officers) they can be entered for a chance to win great prizes: http://bit.ly/2zcgy1Z. LiveSafe also has great features such as SafeWalk, where they can have someone (a roommate or maybe even you) virtually walk with them if they are ever out and about late at night to make sure they get where they are going: http://bit.ly/1XoTTBX. LiveSafe also features an anonymous reporting feature that allows video and pictures to be uploaded to help with investigations. We each play a part in the safety of our community – have your student get in on the contest!

Donate and Get a Parking Ticket Forgiven – November 1-15

Does your student have a parking ticket they need to pay? Looking for a way to give back? Here is a chance to combine the two. The Transportation and Parking Office has announced the Hands of Hope Campaign, which will run from November 1-15. This is an opportunity to support Pantry Plus More http://bit.ly/2ljqQ1a, a nonprofit organization started by a now-WVU student, that accepts donations to stock local school pantries with much-needed items – and have a parking ticket forgiven. For details see http://bit.ly/2IEPwU.

Professional Development Seminar: Personal Finance – November 1

Once an internship or job offer is accepted, there’s a new challenge to tackle – managing finances. When working full-time after graduation, it can be overwhelming to budget living expenses, student loan repayment, retirement savings and fun money. Help your student learn strategies to successfully plan their personal finances. Open to all students, the third session of a Professional Development Seminar Series will be held November 1 from 4-5 p.m. in B&E 458 http://bit.ly/2yS72jI. This seminar will be presented by Wes Richardson, Managing Partner for Northwestern Mutual. Snacks will be provided.

WVU Day of Giving – November 8

If you had one day to help West Virginia University accomplish one amazing thing – what would it be? A cure for Alzheimer’s? Economic prosperity for all? Or maybe a scholarship that could fulfill a student’s dreams? That one day is coming on November 8 – WVU’s first-ever Day of Giving. For 24 hours, we will tackle our greatest needs head-on. By making a donation on the WVU Day of Giving, you can help raise dollars for the University’s greatest priorities and opportunities, as well as the greatest needs of your favorite school, college or department. Visit http://bit.ly/2zduAjU to find out more information leading up to November 8.

A Note on Honoraries

Here are a few helpful notes when your student has been invited to join a group.
- Is there an active chapter of the national honorary on our campus? Students can check our Student Engagement and Leadership website and look under "Honorary" or their major heading to see if a local chapter exists and determine if it is active: http://bit.ly/2xUyBJF.
- 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 actively. 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.

GETTING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Here are a few key modes of transportation and common pitfalls to avoid to help students and families safely get home for the holidays.

For Winter Break travel, have your student check their finals schedule first – Exams are held at different times than their actual fall class schedule: http://bit.ly/2gP3Y10 so students will wrap up the fall semester at various times throughout finals week. To maintain a quiet study environment for others who are still studying, students are expected leave the halls within 24 hours of their last final.

Check residence hall closing and opening schedules – once halls close for the breaks (with the exception of Holiday Break Housing) http://bit.ly/2gP4Lz0, students must be out of their residence halls until they reopen. Be sure to check these hall closing and opening dates and times as you make plans. http://bit.ly/2zRNiut

Mountaineer Station serves as on campus bus stop for daily service via MegaBus, Greyhound, Iride79 Buses and Grey Line to Pittsburgh – Mountaineer Station is attached to the Health Sciences PRT station, and students can easily reach it via the PRT, Uber, free Mountain Line buses or taxi services to connect with various regional bus lines including MegaBus, Greyhound, Iride79 Buses and Grey Line to Pittsburgh. Check under “Regional Transits” here: http://bit.ly/2yYiVo3.

Don’t book the flight or train first! – Before you book and spend money on a flight, be sure you know that your student can get to the airport in time. Here are some connections to various airports:
- Grey Line Routes to Pittsburgh Airport and Greyhound Station/Amtrak – Mountain Line Transit Authority operates the Grey Line daily trips from Morgantown to Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Greyhound Station (the Pittsburgh Amtrak station is just across the road). Buses pick up on campus at Mountaineer Station and run seven days a week, twice daily, Saturday through Thursday, departing at 8:15 a.m. and 5:40 p.m. Friday there are three trips departing at 8:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:40 p.m. For a full schedule and reservations: http://bit.ly/2yXj6Ab. Students can check out the bus finder app: http://bit.ly/2y8EXFA.
- Grey Line WVU Send Off Service – During official WVU breaks, Grey Line runs additional routes to the Pittsburgh Airport and Greyhound/Amtrak station (called WVU Send Off Services) to offer more options at these heavy travel times: http://bit.ly/1FkaooK.
- Morgantown Airport Southern Air connector – This affordable flight shuttles from our regional airport, MGW (this is located a short 5-10 minute drive from campus via Uber or a taxi) to Pittsburgh International (PIT) or Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) multiple times daily, where students can easily connect with other airlines. http://bit.ly/2yWHvWc
- Airport limo shuttles – If none of the above options work, there are some airport shuttle services available from Morgantown to Pittsburgh: http://bit.ly/2ySePGe or students can consider Uber.
**Carpool** – Are you or your student driving to and from Morgantown? Zimride is the online equivalent of the campus ride board of the 1980s and 90s. Consider having your students post to rideshare to help others get home or post that they are looking for a ride on our WVU Zimride website: [http://bit.ly/2yP5eYZ](http://bit.ly/2yP5eYZ). There is a “Thanks4Giving Me A Ride Sweepstakes” kicking off November 1-30 for those who simply log on to [http://bit.ly/2gJTkVJ](http://bit.ly/2gJTkVJ), sign up or update their profile and post a ride. This is only open to Mountaineers with a WVU e-mail account.

**Mountaineer Parents Club Buses** – These buses run for all breaks when residence halls close including Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring breaks:

- **Thanksgiving bus reminder and November 2 cancellation deadline** – Interested in the Parents Club buses for Thanksgiving? Make your reservations soon. Buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; King of Prussia, PA; and Highland, NY, for those living in the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. The deadline to cancel a reservation for one of these destinations is November 2, 2017.

The Long Island, NY, and Central Maryland local Mountaineer Parents Club chapters also offer buses to their areas. (The Northern Virginia and Southern New Jersey buses are now sold out). For information on making reservations or to review the schedules and details, please go to [http://bit.ly/2yGUzii](http://bit.ly/2yGUzii). No phone reservations for the buses will be taken. Tickets are not issued. Students’ names will be added to the boarding list for each bus.

- **Winter Break buses to go live the week of November 6** – Parents Club Buses will again be offered for Winter Break. They will depart campus on Thursday, December 14 in the morning and head back to campus on Saturday, January 7. Full Winter Break bus schedules and reservations will go live the week of November 6. [http://bit.ly/2yGUzii](http://bit.ly/2yGUzii).

**Tips if Coming in for the November 4 Football Game**

We had promoted a parent discount for the November 4 football game as a parent discount, and tickets still remain at the discount. Members can follow this link [http://bit.ly/1opr2Qx](http://bit.ly/1opr2Qx) and enter the promo code WVUParents to purchase tickets for $45 each. Please keep in mind that student tickets are good for the student section only, so if your student wants to sit with you, you should purchase an extra ticket for them. For more on athletic tickets to all events, contact the WVU Athletic Ticket Office at 1-800-WVU-GAME or [http://bit.ly/1BMvB9i](http://bit.ly/1BMvB9i).

As this game approaches, here are a few tips:

- **Game time**: This was recently announced as a 3:30 p.m. kickoff. Knowing this, here are some items to plan into your day.
- **Parking**: Most of the pre-game and tailgate activities take place around the parking lots and close to the stadium. Many parking spots are reserved for pre-sold permits, but some do sell day-of parking passes as well. For more on all parking options, check out this link: [http://bit.ly/2yb0ehF](http://bit.ly/2yb0ehF) and for a parking map: [http://bit.ly/2yP7Yp5](http://bit.ly/2yP7Yp5). There are also a host of private lots close by that sell spaces, as well as some free spaces such as the Coliseum (first-come, first-served).
- **Tailgate**: I have had several questions about tailgate options. No specific parent tailgate will be held. Bring along your student’s favorite cookies or take a stab at making the famous West Virginia pepperoni rolls for a pre-game snack before heading out to check out all the other items below.
- **The Hall of Traditions**: Located inside the Puskar Center, the Hall is open briefly on game days but worth the visit. For the Iowa State game, fans can enter through the home team tunnel from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The building opens four hours prior to kickoff and closes once the team arrives. [http://bit.ly/2zU7ThH](http://bit.ly/2zU7ThH).

- **The Mantrip**: From the Hall of Traditions, head to the WVU Mantrip that takes place approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes before kickoff. This is where the football players, coaches and cheerleaders and band walk through the Blue Lot on their way into the stadium. It is a neat chance to see and cheer on the team in advance. Fans are encouraged to line up at least 2.5 hours before kick or around 1 p.m. at the latest. Here is a link to more info and location details on the Mantrip - [http://bit.ly/2zVuFpB](http://bit.ly/2zVuFpB).

- **Gates Open and the Pride of West Virginia**: An hour and a half before kickoff, gates will open at 2 p.m. Milan Puskar Stadium just underwent a number of renovations so get in early and check these out after the Mantrip. This will also ensure you are in your seats for warm-ups and ready for the Pride of West Virginia, the Mountaineer Marching Band pre-game show (ask any fan and they will tell you this is a must see!). The Pride’s pre-game takes place a half hour prior to kickoff around 3 p.m.

- **Clear Bag Policy**: Be sure to allow ample time to get into the stadium for pre-game and please note the new Clear Bag Policy so this doesn’t slow you down as you head into the game. [http://bit.ly/2wVHGRx](http://bit.ly/2wVHGRx)

- **Traditions**: Finally, before kickoff, be sure to brush up on some key traditions such as the First Down and Let’s Go Mountaineers cheers, our fight song, “Hail West Virginia!,” and be sure to stick around to sing “Country Roads” after the game! [http://bit.ly/2yY3Jd](http://bit.ly/2yY3Jd). Let’s Go Mountaineers!

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman
Office of Parent Relations
West Virginia University