The lighted snowflakes now line High Street right next to many still colorful fall trees as the seasons collide in Morgantown! You can also almost hear the tick of the clock as students are counting the hours until they head home for Thanksgiving break a week from today. Before your students leave town remind them to lock and clean up their rooms/apartments, and take what they need for the week because residence halls will be closed and locked over break (except those hosting holiday break housing). Check out the Housing Updates below for more on this and the first Off-Campus Housing Fair coming up on November 15. Semester Wrap-up Reminders include finals prep and help on stress management as well as dining reminders regarding dining dollars and meal plans among others. We also highlight a new pilot program – our first-ever WVU Winter term. Students can take classes in a condensed version while home over winter break.

As a reminder, spring charges will post online the week of Thanksgiving Break to STAR accounts and the Parent/Guest Portal [http://bit.ly/PGPortal](http://bit.ly/PGPortal). If your student hasn’t granted you access to the Parent/Guest Portal, have them do so or have them pull up their bill in their STAR account when they come home for break so you can plan. **Spring charges are due (or students must be enrolled in a payment plan) by January 2, 2018.** I will be in touch over Thanksgiving Break with a few other reminders and helpful topics for conversation with your student. Until then, safe travels to all our students and families. In this edition:

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PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

Thanksgiving Break Buses

Holiday buses will be leaving for the Thanksgiving break next Friday, November 17 and returning Sunday, November 26. Details will be e-mailed to those registered next week. Space still remains for some routes. As a reminder, no tickets are issued for these buses. [http://bit.ly/2yGUzii](http://bit.ly/2yGUzii).

Parents Club Winter Break Bus Reservations Go Live Next Week

The reservation system for the Winter Break buses will go live next week. Please note that the dates for the winter break holiday buses are as follows:

Buses leave Morgantown – Thursday, December 14

Buses return to Morgantown – Saturday, January 6

These dates, as always, correspond to the residence hall closing and opening schedule. For details and to make reservations, next week go to: [http://bit.ly/2yGUzii](http://bit.ly/2yGUzii). Reservations must be made online. The last day to request a refund for the winter buses is Thursday, November 30.

HOUSING UPDATES

Closing for Break

Residence halls will close on Friday, November 17 at 7 p.m. for Thanksgiving Break. Students who wish to stay on campus two additional nights for the football game ($25/night) must request this online: [http://bit.ly/2gP4Lz0](http://bit.ly/2gP4Lz0).

Holiday Break Housing is available in limited locations for anyone who cannot make it home or needs a place to stay over break. This option also must be requested in advance: [http://bit.ly/2gP4Lz0](http://bit.ly/2gP4Lz0). Otherwise, residence halls will be closed and locked for break so students can leave items in their room but should take any belongings they need. They will not be able to access their room until Sunday, November 26 at noon when halls reopen: [http://bit.ly/2zRNiut](http://bit.ly/2zRNiut).
**Off-Campus Housing Fair**

The first Off-Campus Housing Fair will be held next Wednesday, November 15, in the Mountainlair Ballrooms from 10-3. Students (and families) can drop in to meet landlords, check out housing options, make appointments to visit properties, shop around, ask questions and educate themselves about the process. Encourage your student to drop by!  

Downtown Housing Fair: Wednesday, November 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mountainlair Ballrooms

Evansdale Housing Fair: Saturday, January 20, noon to 3 p.m., ERC Blue and Gold Rooms

**Have Your Student Live on Campus Again Next Year!**

The application process opens today, November 10, for current students wishing to remain on campus in our residence halls next year. Living on campus means students are living in the heart of the WVU experience: close to everything, 24/7 support and safety and no utility bills or landlords to think about. Students can go to [http://bit.ly/2i2WJjx](http://bit.ly/2i2WJjx), click on “Apply for Housing” and pay their deposit ($225) online. Deposits are partially refundable until May 1, 2018. They can also select their space and roommate. Residence Hall spaces are limited for upperclassmen, so students are encouraged to act fast. Questions? Just call 304-293-2811 or send an email to WVU-Assign@mail.wvu.edu. If students would prefer apartment living, but still want the security and convenience of staying on-campus, they can consider a WVU Apartment — College Park, University Park, University Place and Vandalia Hall: [http://bit.ly/2yPoXbU](http://bit.ly/2yPoXbU).

**SEMESTER WRAP-UP REMINDERS**

**Relax, Finals Are Coming … No Seriously!**

With the end of the semester just around the corner, we have a variety of activities across campus where students can step out and take a deep breath, relax with mindfulness exercises, catch some free yoga classes or simply find some quiet to decompress. As you speak with your students, remind them to stay positive as they approach finals and the end of the semester. Studies show your brain is 31% more productive when it is in a positive state rather than a neutral, negative or stressed state. A deep breath and an effort to look for the good can make a big difference! Some helpful online tools for dealing with stress can be found here: [http://bit.ly/2hj5RiX](http://bit.ly/2hj5RiX). This is also a great time to look ahead and prepare for finals to avoid the last-minute cram. Here are some great tips:

**Decompress and Take Some Me Time – What Can You Do this Weekend?**

This weekend alone, there are a host of activities where students can just decompress and take some time for themselves from our Gaming eSports Tournament on November 11: [http://bit.ly/2zxobz7](http://bit.ly/2zxobz7), to the Roaring 20s-themed WVUp All Night on November 10-11:

Drop by a WellWVU ChillFest

Check out the WellWVU Calendar for activities throughout November, including ChillFests offering free massages for students as well as stress-relieving activities between classes such as Rock Mantra, Mindful Coloring and HeartMath: http://bit.ly/2hq4sLt.

WellWVU is offering additional stress management yoga classes free of charge. All materials are provided. Encourage your student to check one (or more!) out. http://bit.ly/2zunkj3

Check out Collegiate Recovery Programming

From mediation to yoga or book groups and student support meetings, Mountaineers for Recovery offers support in an alcohol- and drug-free environment at the Collegiate Recovery House, Serenity Place (located behind the Evansdale Residential Complex). http://bit.ly/2mfbm7w

Get Active with WVUGo

Physical activity can also help in stress reduction. From intramurals to group exercise or programs, classes or adventure trips, the WVUGo App allows students to find Rec Center activities in a central location and plan them into their schedule. http://bit.ly/2ipatSJ

Set and Revisit Goals

As students prep for finals, have them review what they need to stay on track (whether a certain number of credit hours, a minimum GPA or something different) to maintain their scholarships and financial aid: http://bit.ly/2xc8qJN. This is also a good chance to review what is needed to make the Dean’s and President’s List this semester. http://bit.ly/2i1CoL9.

BUT Don’t Forget to Start Studying Now to Avoid the Cram

Final exams are sometimes comprehensive, so the night before is not the time to start studying. This is a great time to see faculty during office hours about any questions, catch up with a tutor at our numerous free tutoring centers across campus http://bit.ly/2i1wDNs or start reviewing notes and study guides.
Dining Reminders

As the semester approaches its end, here are a few reminders from WVU Dining:

Dining Dollars and Meal Plans Expire at the End of the Semester – Dining Dollars are flex funds good at all WVU Dining locations and do not carry over to the next semester. Meal plans are also charged semester by semester, and also expire at the end of the semester. If Dining Dollars remain, students can use them now to stock up on study snacks for finals or restock for spring. Students can consider going to the Lyon's Den convenience store at the Evansdale Residential Complex 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 for lunch at Hatfields when dining plan exchanges are not accepted. Students can check their Dining Dollars balance, as well as their remaining Dining Plan swipes, at http://bit.ly/29E3p34. Whenever they make a purchase, the remaining balance will appear at the bottom of their sales receipt. NOTE: Mountie Bounty is separate and balances can be carried over to the spring term: http://bit.ly/2i20ntP.


Care Packages – With holidays and final exams coming fast, visit http://bit.ly/2fj0Xp2 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 Plan Refills Available – If your student’s fall dining plan is depleted, refills are available at http://bit.ly/2yOdzwB. Refills must be purchased through a student-only WVU web portal, so be in communication with your student if you’re anxious about their dining plan running out.

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.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

WVU Online New Winter Intersession

Students who want to lighten their spring course load, catch up from switching majors or accelerate their time to graduation will be able to do so during Winter Intersession. Winter
Intersession offers the opportunity to earn up to three credit hours in three weeks, and runs from December 14 – January 4.

All Winter Intersession courses are offered 100% online. Cost is a flat rate of $349 per credit hour regardless of residency; 13 courses are offered across four colleges, and most fulfill GEF requirements. To see available courses and registration info, visit http://bit.ly/2i3kzvo.

**PRT Schedule Adjustment**

As the PRT continues to undergo upgrades as part of a multiyear improvement plan with an outside vendor, we are aware that the PRT has had some excessive downtimes lately. The Provost’s Office has alerted faculty about these issues. As the vendor works to address these matters, we will be adjusting the hours next week to allow some additional testing for phase II modernization. During this time, WVU Bus service will supplement picking students up at PRT locations: http://bit.ly/2zNXR4Q. Please remind students that the WVU buses are in addition to the Mountain Line Bus routes that run daily between campuses. Students can ride for free with their student ID: http://bit.ly/1JC7HTp. The Mountain Line routes include two dedicated campus connectors that loop every 20 minutes in opposite directions between the two campuses. Students can download the Mountain Line Bus Finder app for real-time bus tracking.

**Student Ticketing Open for Men’s Basketball**

With men’s basketball season kicking off next week, online student ticketing is under way for November home games. Similar to student football ticket requests, students must log on and request their free tickets. For men’s basketball they can request all games during the month rather than one game at a time. After the weeklong request/claim period is over, if tickets are left, the remaining tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis until tipoff of each game. Full schedule: http://bit.ly/2i3FyhN.

**WVU Day of Giving – a Success!**

On November 8, the WVU family came together to forge a brighter future for WVU through WVU’s inaugural Day of Giving. With the support of our generous donors, over 2,500 gifts were received totaling more than $2.9 million. To those of you who gave, a huge thank-you! To learn more about the Day of Giving, check out this video: http://bit.ly/2hjCq0e.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University