



Robert E. Fitch High School

101 Groton Long Point Rd.

Groton, CT 06340

FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Our mission at Robert E. Fitch High School is to educate our students to become outstanding citizens equipped with 21st century learning skills. The faculty and staff collaborate with home and community to promote academic excellence, personal wellness, and social awareness. We guide students into deeper cognitive awareness and increased levels of understanding, and we encourage our students to use their individual talents to their fullest potential. Our graduates are informed, responsible adults who respect diversity and value life-long learning.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

The Winter Sports season continues through the month of February; please attend an athletic event to support the Fitch Falcons. The second semester has officially begun. Students, this is a good time to reflect on what went well during the first semester and what you need to improve upon for the second semester. If you are starting a new class, be sure to learn what your teacher expects so you can do your very best.

As part of our Fitch Reads effort, we have started a Sustained Silent Reading program in the SRBI/advisory block on Friday. Students need to bring something to read: reading for school, reading for pleasure, or reading just to be informed. Students can bring a book, a magazine, an article, a graphic novel—something that will occupy them for approximately 25-30 minutes. We will be rewarding those students who take this initiative seriously. Students, remember: **READING IS AN IMPORTANT SKILL FOR LIFE!**

CAPT testing will take place during the month of March. Please be on the look-out for the CAPT schedule, the different school days that will be impacted, and any other information pertaining to CAPT that may affect you. Students and parents please remember that passing the CAPT test is a **REQUIREMENT** for graduation. Should you have more specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact a guidance counselor.

Have a great February! And remember to achieve more, believe more, and care more.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Arcarese
Principal

THE FHS WEB SITE

Please visit the FHS web site for up-to-date information on what's happening at our school. The web site offers links that provide information about all that Fitch has to offer, including the PowerSchool parent portal and information on how to contact faculty and staff.

FHS Faculty Email

In most cases use the teacher's first initial and last name followed by @groton.k12.ct.us

Example:

ateacher@groton.k12.ct.us

There are exceptions to this. If you have any questions on an email address, please call the school at 860-499-7200.

ATTENTION FHS SENIORS!!!!



SENIOR CAP & GOWN ORDERS ARE NOW PAST DUE!

Order forms are still available in the Main Office
As of February 1st Graduation Cap, Gown & Tassel = \$32.00
Checks payable to Jostens \$32.00

THE FITCH PARENT COUNCIL

Please join us at a meeting!

•All meetings are held in the Fitch Library at 6:30•

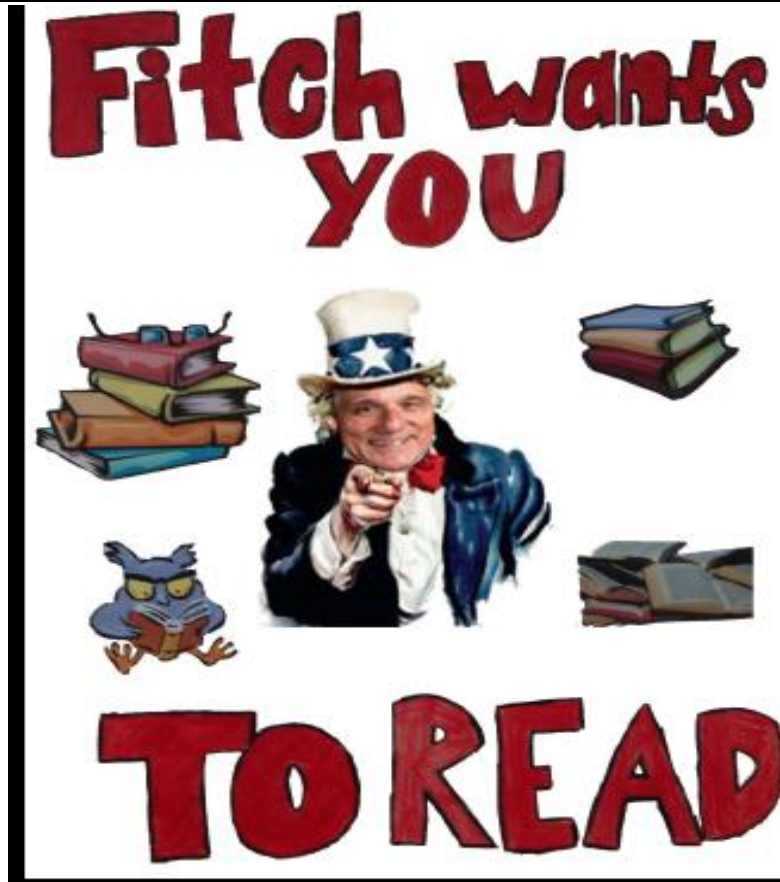
Thursday, February 23: TBA

Thursday, March 22: What is the CAPT test and why is it important? Look at district to federal result trends.

Thursday, April 26: Open; Coordinator nominations.

Thursday, May 24: End of year SRBI study; Coordinator election

Please email us at fitchparentcouncil@hotmail.com with any questions or to suggest a topic for discussion.



FITCH READS

After midyear exams, we will have SSR every Friday during the SRBI block. The expectation is quite simple: students are to select something to read. This can be reading for class, reading for pleasure, or reading on a Kindle, if possible. Every two weeks, advisors will submit names of students who are taking SSR seriously and these names will be entered into a drawing for a prize. Parents and guardians, please join us to support our Fitch Reads effort by encouraging reading at home, by telling your students about this program, and by supporting your students to be active readers.

THE FHS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM:

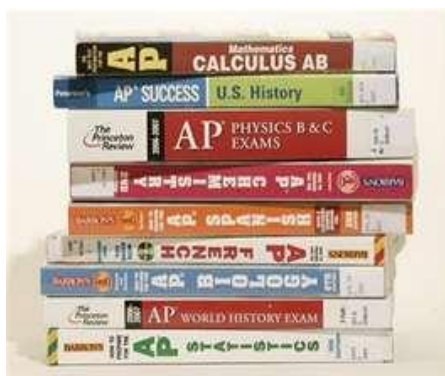
Please consider joining the FHS School Improvement Team or attending a meeting. To

learn more, contact the chair, Alex Smith at

asmith@groton.k12.ct.us

NEXT SIT TEAM MEETING: 2/15/12 @ 2:30

IN ROOM 3212



Advanced Studies Programs Information Night

for

Freshmen, Sophomores, and Parents/Guardians

February 8, 2012

6:30 pm

FHS Cafeteria

If you are curious about the AP courses and/or the IB program, please attend for this special overview session.

Not able to attend? Please contact Mrs. Porter at eporter@groton.k12.ct.us

QUICK REFERENCES FOR GBOE POLICIES

If you would like to know more about the Groton Board of Education policies, you can visit the district web page and link to the policy sites. Fitch High School will keep the Board of Education's harassment and bullying policies posted to our web site all year long.

NEWS FROM FHS'S COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER



The following college trips are scheduled for February & March 2012:

UCONN/Avery Point - February 10

Three Rivers Community College – March 8

Eastern Connecticut State University – March 29

THE ADULT EDUCATION JOB & CAREER FAIR WILL TAKE PLACE @ WEST SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14TH FROM 6-8 PM. FITCH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND GROTON RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND FROM 6-8 PM. GROTON AREA COMPANIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COLLEGES WILL BE REPRESENTED.

The Fitch High School College Fair is scheduled for Thursday, March 22 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm in the cafeteria. College representatives from over 100 colleges will be here along with representatives from all branches of the service. This is open to the public and free! All students are encouraged to attend.

THINK SUMMER

FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, SENIORS

There are many summer programs at the colleges. Some are open to grades 9-12, others for grades 11 & 12. The Career Center has a file with summer programs received. Everything from travel abroad, art programs, equestrian camps, Global Works (community service), pre-college Courses and more.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS: GIVING STUDENTS A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



What is the Model United Nations Club?

The Model United Nations Club is a fairly new club at Fitch, but it has existed on an international scale for decades, and is widely recognized by major institutions around the world. The goal of the Model United Nations (MUN) is to give students an opportunity to understand global issues that affect the world on a daily basis. MUN believes the best way to understand this is by experience, so club members participate in simulations where they represent a country in the United Nations at a conference. Delegates at the conference then debate international issues to reach a resolution.



Why Join the Model United Nations Club?

MUN is an excellent way to not only learn about and discuss international issues, but to see how they are resolved first hand. Although MUN conferences are only simulations, the impressions and experiences they give are empowering. Students will feel like they are actually a member of the United Nations solving the world's problems. It also provides an opportunity for students to connect with club members from other schools as they participate in conferences together. In addition, it is a perfect CAS activity for IB

students.

What Have We Been Up To?

This past fall, the Fitch Model United Nations Club attended its second Model UN Conference in Storrs, CT. It was a great time for all with new friends made, lively discussions and a professional atmosphere that gave the conference a sense of prestige. All of the delegates performed admirably, with one member receiving the Most Improved Delegate award as a first-time delegate. With the club's growing success, it now hopes to reach out to other students and parents in the community to educate them on this great personal opportunity at Fitch.



Now is the Perfect Time to Try MUN!

The Fitch MUN Club meets Thursdays after school in Ms. meeting is about an hour long, but members with sports or other leave at any time. Currently, the club is planning to attend UMass Massachusetts, this upcoming March. This is a perfect opportunity students to try MUN for the first time. **If you have a passion for global or social issues, history, politics, or debate, MUN could be a great club for you!**

Place's room. Each activities are able to MUN, a conference in for interested

Questions?

Alexandra Place – aplace@groton.k12.ct.us
Club Advisor

Sarah Dinovelli – sdinovelli96@gmail.com
Student Contact



NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS AT CHARTER OAK CREDIT UNION

Busting Money Myths with Your Teen

What does your teen know about money? Chances are it's not that much. In an economy where teens spend billions of dollars annually and one in three high school students use a credit card, it is evident that financial understanding and education needs to take place before they head off to college.

In last month's article, we discussed how as a parent, you can step in and educate your teen in areas of credit, budgeting and saving. To guide you as you mentor your child to become better savers, spenders and consumers, take a look at the Top Ten List of Money Myths Held by Teens, which was generated by the Consumer Federation of America and Foolproofme.com.

Top 10 Money Myths Held by Teens:

1. I don't have to worry about credit at my age.
2. Bad credit can't keep me from getting a job.
3. All loan companies have the same rates.
4. All credit cards are alike.
5. The job of financial advertising is to tell the truth.
6. It's OK to bounce a few checks.
7. It's OK to make minimum payments on a credit card.
8. Paying late occasionally can't hurt my credit.
9. Fine print isn't important.
10. Young people don't have credit scores.

If you're a parent and you think your teen might believe some of these myths you're probably not alone! Speak from experience, visit financial literacy websites online or have your teen pick up a free copy of the National Endowment for Financial Education's Student Workbook at Charter Oak's Fitch branch so you can sit down and go over the reality of spending, debt and other critical aspects of personal finance. Just think of all the myths you can bust!

Parent Workshop Series – Winter/Spring 2012

Offered by **LEARN Special Education**

February 28, 2012

6:00-8:00 PM

Nutrition, Self-Awareness & Hygiene



Guest speakers:

**Emrys Tetu,
Wellness With Food**

**Carol Barans,
Autism Speech Resource Center**

**Lois Eldridge,
Transition Coordinator, LEARN**

This workshop will provide resources and handouts to help parents, students and educators in Special Education 8-21 years old to address and create a foundation for good student hygiene and self-awareness.

March 20, 2012

6:00-8:00 PM

Independent Living Skills



Guest speakers:

**Traci Resler,
Kennedy Center, Transition
Education Coordinator**

**Precious Putnam,
Disabilities Network of Eastern
CT, Job Placement Vocational
Advocate**

This workshop will provide resources and handouts to parents, students and educators in Special Education 16-21 years old for travel independence, independent living and working.



April 26, 2012

6:00-8:00 PM

What Parents Need to Know About High School Transition Planning and Services



Guest speakers:

**Beth Reel,
Transition Specialist, CT Parent
Advocacy Center (CPAC)**

**Lois Eldridge,
Transition Coordinator, LEARN**

This workshop will familiarize teachers, parents or other family with the laws and regulations specific to transition services and the high school level with a focus on the writing of Post-School Outcome Goal Statements (PSOGS). This workshop is sponsored by SERC, State Education Resource Center.

Register online at www.learn.k12.ct.us. Click on Workshops and browse our offerings by title. If you need assistance please call Lois Eldridge at the Special Education Office at 860-434-4800 Ext. 182 or email transitionservices_list@learn.k12.ct.us.

44 Hatchedts Hill Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371

UPDATES FROM THE FHS COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

SAT TESTING INFORMATION

Test Dates	Test	U.S. Registration Deadlines	
		Regular	Late (a fee applies)
March 10, 2012	SAT only	February 10, 2012	February 24, 2012
May 5, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	April 6, 2012	April 20, 2012
June 2, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	May 8, 2012	May 22, 2012

COURSE REGISTRATION TIMELINE AND INFORMATION

Course Registration for the school year 2012-13 will begin soon. Course registration and selection should be a combined effort of students, parents, counselors and teachers. We are still firming up a few remaining issues with courses and dates, and the following timeline is tentative. Please see the high school website for important updates.

Early February:

- Fitch High School Course of Studies to be posted online.
- Student will be given their passwords and a scheduling form that will allow them to go onto
- PowerSchool will allow students to select classes. Parents should already have passwords that will allow them to review selections. Please call the FHS Guidance Office for assistance.
- Guidance Department will present course selection information and demonstrate online course selection.

Mid- February:

- The portal will be open for students and parents.
- Teachers will finish making recommendations for students.

End of February

- FHS students who have not completed the process will be called down to work with a counselor in the computer labs.
- Counselors will start to work with Middle School students.

First Week in March

- Middle School Students will use Powerschool to select classes.
- STUDENTS should direct any questions about the scheduling process, graduation requirements and college course recommendations to their counselors. Counselors will review all selections.
- Please take the time to choose courses that are the best match for your child. Take into account interests, abilities and the student's goals. Gather information from teachers, counselors, and parents to build an academic program.

Guide to Selecting Classes

The Course of Studies is a very important document that is housed online at Fitch High School Website. It is also important that you take the time to review and discuss with your child the course descriptions and important policies and programs that are published there. Please help your child select appropriate class levels by looking at the title and number of the course. Each department is identified by a number and the second number tells you the level of the class

1 = Honors

2 = College Prep

3 = Basic or Foundations level course

8 = IB Level

9 = at a UCONN or AP Level Course

First Number 3 indicates Math Department

Second Number 2 indicates the academic level

Third Number indicates what year a student normally takes the course

For example, Algebra 1 is Course Number 3212 which means it is taught in the Math Department; it is taught at the college prep level and is normally taken in ninth grade.

We are very excited to announce the following new courses for the Academic Year. Course Descriptions will be in the Course of Studies.

Art Department

7067 Digital Photography II- Advanced Photography (.5 credit)

English Department

2076 Horror Stories (.5 Credit)

2075 Graphic Novels (.5 Credit)

Family and Consumer Sciences

7361 Child Development II (1 credit)

7941 Individual and Family Development through University of Connecticut Early College Experience.
(1 Credit-Category 1)

Math Department

3233 Mathematics in Games and Sports (Open to Juniors and Seniors) (1.0 credit-Category II)

Social Studies Department

5238 Introduction to Psychology (Open to juniors and seniors) (.5 credit- Category 2)

5239 Introduction to Economics (Open to juniors and seniors) (.5 credit- Category 2)

World Language

6412 American Sign Language (1.0 Credit- Category II)

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

The following scholarships have recently been updated on Naviance and added to the scholarship drawer in the Career Center:

Alpha Delta Kappa – Zeta Chapter of Connecticut - \$1,500 scholarship for a female student who plans to major in Education. Applications are available in the scholarship drawer in the Career Center. Deadline is March 27.

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences-CT Affiliate will award two \$1,000 scholarships. Student needs to be majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences education or a FCS related field of study. An essay is required. Deadline is March 15.

Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter, Inc. – Essay contest open to seniors who live in New England and have asthma or severe allergies. Deadline is Feb. 29. www.asthmaandallergies.org

Big Y Foods Scholarship – For a student whose permanent residence is CT. Awards are given for traditional and non-traditional students at undergrad and graduate levels. Deadline is Feb. 1. www.bigy.com

Black Engineering Council of Electric Boat Corporation – For a graduating New London County senior of African-American descent who will be attending a college or university. Essay required. Deadline is March 2.

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. – Middlesex County Blue Star Mothers Two scholarships – One male and one female high school senior in CT. Must be going to a four year college and have a parent actively serving in the military or a parent who is an honorably discharged Veteran. Military service includes the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves. April 1 deadline.

Bohdan “Bo” Kolinsky Memorial Scholarship-CT Sports Writer’s Alliance – For a senior planning to attend a four year college with hopes of pursuing a career in sports print journalism. Deadline is Feb. 6. www.ctsportswriters.org

Buick Achievers Scholarship Program – Rewarding achievers inside and outside the classroom, yet are unable to attend college without financial assistance. Open to seniors and current undergraduates. 100 scholarships each up to \$25,000/year and 1,000 scholarships each at \$2,000. Encouraged are those who plan to major in a field of study that focuses on engineering, technology, design or business, with an interest in the automotive industry. Feb. 29 deadline. www.buickachievers.com

CASIA Scholarship Awards – For children or police and fire officials. March 9 deadline. www.casiact.org

Connecticut Building Congress Scholarship – For CT seniors entering college-level programs in construction-related fields such as architecture, construction-related engineering or construction management. Scholarships are renewable (four years for a four year program; five years for a five years or longer program). Deadline is March 30. www.cbc-ct.org

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union Scholarship – For a student whose parent is a member of the Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, who maintains a solid 2.5 GPA or better, and is accepted at a 2 or 4 year college, technical, vocational or business college. March 15 deadline. www.CharterOak.org

Commander Kenneth Robert Kee, U.S.N. Memorial Scholarship – For a son, daughter, or step-children of enlisted navy personnel (active or retired), living in the New London or Groton area. Deadline is March 31.

Connecticut Nurserymen’s Foundation, Inc. – Horticultural Scholarship Award

\$5,000 grant, per year – renewable for up to four years of study to a CT resident to a senior or a student currently enrolled at the college level, majoring in the field of Horticulture. The deadline to apply is March 16. www.flowersplantsinct.com

Dominion Engineering, Technology Scholarship at Three Rivers Community College

Millstone Station full scholarship at Three Rivers. Deadline is Feb. 15. At least 16 awards will be given. During the two years of full time study, students receive all tuition, fees, and books, a small stipend of \$50 during the nine month academic year and a guaranteed summer co-op position at Millstone Station for twelve weeks (40 hours per week) during the summer between the first and second year of studies. www.trcc.commnet.edu Click student services, then scholarships.

Dorothy R. Hadden Memorial Scholarship – For a deserving student seeking a higher education without the financial means to do so. A higher education would include any education that leads to a Certificate, Degree or License specifically in the field of education (teaching degree). Must have at least a 2.0 GPA, extracurricular activities and community service. A \$2,000 award will be given.

Elks National Foundation – Scholarships for Elks families. Deadline is Feb. 1. www.elks.org/enf/scholars

Glenn Moon Scholarship – Assn. of Retired Teachers – For students who want a career in teaching. One 4-Year (\$2,000 per year) and Two 1-Year (\$1,500) www.artct.org Deadline is March 31.

Hartford Whalers Booster Club Scholarship – For a student who has played hockey and intends to play hockey in college. Deadline is March 1. www.whalerwatch.com

Hood Good Sportsmanship Scholarship – Essay explaining how they have demonstrated the value of sportsmanship both on and off the field. Feb. 1 deadline. www.hood.com

Meggie Dawn Memorial Scholarship – Lighthouse Vocational Education Center

For a senior who is planning on attending college for a degree in Education, Social Sciences or Therapy Services. The \$1,000 award will be based on academic achievement, leadership, contributions to school, community service, and interest in assisting others to reach their full potential in living a productive life. An essay is required. May 1 deadline.

Milton Fisher Scholarship, Community Foundation of New Haven – Student must be a junior or senior and a CT resident attending any accredited post-secondary program, who has exhibited innovative and creative problem solving skills. April 30 deadline. www.rbffoundation.org

Portuguese Foundation, Inc. Scholarship - Two essays required. The first essay must elaborate on and describe your financial needs and the second must detail proof of your Portuguese Ancestry and interest in the Portuguese language and culture. March 15 deadline. www.pfict.org

Ronald McDonald House Charities – Applicant must be a legal U.S. resident. Jan. 27 deadline. www.rmhc.org

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of CT – Three scholarships annually of \$1,500 each. For a worthy senior (male or female) who is a resident of Connecticut. Deadline is March 1. www.ctmayflower.org

Ted Martocchio Scholarship (Building and Trades Union) – CT State University System

Two scholarships available, \$1,000 each. Must be a child of Building and Trades Union member, minimum GPA 2.75, leadership or examples of volunteer work, resident of CT, accepted full time to any of the four universities (CCSU, ECSU, SCSU or WCSU), and have financial need. Deadline is April 30.

Three Rivers Community College – Scholarships and Awards – Application deadline is

April 13. www.trcc.commnet.edu Under student services – scholarships

Todd Williamson Memorial Scholarship – Poquonnock Bridge Professional Firefighters Union Local 2704. Applicant must have a continuing record of community/civic involvement. Fire/EMS service involvement is preferred but not required. \$1,000 award. An essay no more than 500 words is required discussing your community/civic involvement. Deadline is April 27.

Williams Memorial Institute Pre-1955 Alumnae Association Scholarship – Four scholarships of \$1,000. Student should be a direct descendant of a Williams Memorial Institute Pre-1955 Alumna, and be a graduating senior of any New London County or out of state high school. Deadline is April 30.

Juniors and Seniors

Nathan Hale Branch of the CT Society of the Sons of the American Revolution scholarship award contest – For high school juniors and seniors attending a public high school located in southeastern CT. The contest is for an original researched and proven essay which shall deal with an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the U. S. Constitution. One \$750 award along with documentation of recognition. March 31 deadline.

New England Institute of Technology – Scholarships and Contests – Top three winning students in each contest will be recognized with NEIT tuition scholarships. First place \$2,000, second place \$1,500, and third place \$1,000. Competitions offered: Technology Essay Contest, Automotive Technology Essay Contest, Interior Design Technology Contest, Architectural Building and Engineering Technology Design Contest, Computer Aided Design-Mechanical Technology Contest. March 21 deadline. www.neit.edu

Any seniors wishing to be nominated for the New England Institute of Technology Senior Scholarship Program (27 categories) should see Mrs. Wisniewski in the Career Center for more information no later than March 15.

College Transition Workshop for High School Students with Disabilities – Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 1:30 – 3:30 pm at the Disability Resource Center at Southern CT State University

STUDENTS 9-12

Best Buy Scholarship Program - For students grades 9-12 living in the U.S. or Puerto Rico who have made extraordinary contributions both inside and outside of the classroom. Minimum GPA of 2.5 is required. Deadline is Feb. 15.

Apply online at www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com

First Amendment Essay Contest – American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of CT

Open to all CT high school students. First prize is \$1,000, second is \$500, and third is \$250. This year's essay question reflects a relevant issue for today's high school students, bullying and the First Amendment: A new CT law requires schools to prohibit bullying, including communication that causes "emotional harm". Explain whether the mandate to stop bullying can be reconciled with the right to freedom of speech and support your argument. Entries are due Feb. 8. The maximum length is 1,000 words; there is no minimum. www.acluct.org/essay

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Please email submissions by 2/23/12 to Sean McKenna, Assistant Principal, at:
smckenna@groton.k12.ct.us

