

January 2008

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

THIS MONTH:

- Financial Aid with FAFSA
- Getting started now with apprenticeships
- Important upcoming dates in January

You don't need fancy highbrow traditions or money to really learn. You just need people with the desire to better themselves.

--Adam Cooper and
Bill Collage

A Monthly Newsletter for Seniors at West Anchorage High School

Available online every month at www.asdk12.org/staff/barker_debbie

FAFSA: Getting Financial Aid

"FAFSA" is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is the form you fill out for any and all aid dispersed by the government for college. You can start the application process NOW (January 1st) to get financial aid for the 2008-2009 school year.

First, you will need to visit the official FAFSA website at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The site walks you through everything you need to start, apply, and check up on results. The home page looks like this, and you'll need to start with number one:

Before Beginning a FAFSA 1	Filling Out a FAFSA 2	FAFSA Follow-up 3
<p>Get organized! To simplify filling out the FAFSA, gather the required documents and other information.</p> <p>FAFSA on the Web Worksheet Find my school codes Students & Parents apply for a PIN Check FAFSA Deadline Dates</p>	<p>Fill out the FAFSA! It has seven steps that ask about you, your school plans, financial information and more.</p> <p>Fill out a FAFSA Llenar la FAFSA en español Fill out a Renewal FAFSA Llenar la FAFSA de Renovación en español Continue working on saved FAFSA Sign Electronically with your PIN</p>	<p>Find your FAFSA online! You can go back to your FAFSA to check status, make corrections to a processed FAFSA and get other information.</p> <p>Check Status of a submitted FAFSA or print Signature Page Make Corrections to a processed FAFSA Add or Delete a School Code View and print your Student Aid Report</p>

First off, you will need to apply for a PIN. This allows you to access your personal information in various U.S. Department of Education systems, and also serves as your electronic signature when applying. DO NOT LOSE THIS NUMBER OR SHARE IT WITH ANYONE. It takes at least three business days to receive this number, so do this first.

The actual application is an itchy-bit overwhelming (good practice for preparing your taxes later in life). You will need several things to get started, including your parent's most recent tax return and your social security number. You should "practice" by printing off the "FAFSA on the Web Worksheet" (click on the link as seen above, or go to www.fafsa.ed.gov/fafsaws78c.pdf).

Once you've done some math (well-worth it), figuring, and filling in, you can fill out an official application online or by mail. Use your PIN as your electronic signature for the online application, and your REAL signature by mail.

You may check the status of your application after about a week (with electronic application) or about two to three weeks (mailed application). Check online to view and print your Student Aid Report (SAR) or to get answers to frequently asked questions. The colleges you list on your application use your SAR to prepare financial packages to help you meet your financial need. But they can only do this if you get started! ☺

No dream comes
true until you
wake up and go
to work.

--Anonymous

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NEXT MONTH!

Cultural Awareness
Black History Month

Apprenticeships: Following the Leader

Are you interested in working in the trades as soon as you graduate from high school? The trades include all of the following careers:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| † Asbestos Worker | † Millwright |
| † Building Maintenance and Repairer | † Operating Engineer |
| † Bricklayer | † Painter / Glazier / Floor Coverer |
| † Carpenter | † Piledriver and Commercial Diver |
| † Cement Mason / Plasterer | † Plumber and Pipe- / Steam-fitter |
| † Electrical Lineman | † Roofer |
| † Electrical Wireman | † Sheet Metal Worker |
| † Iron Worker | † Teamster |
| † Laborer | |

There is a growing need for workers in these trades, especially in Alaska where the current work force is growing older. Consider getting a foot in the door with an apprenticeship.

An *apprentice* is “a person who is engaged in learning a trade through employment” (Alaska Apprenticeship & Training Coordinators Association). You can apply for an apprenticeship in one of the trades above by filling out an application at www.aatca.org (be sure to sign and date the application). Make sure you meet all of the basic requirements of age, education, and residency. You may need to furnish a birth certificate, high school transcript, and / or an Alaska driver’s license. Read the requirements for your chosen field carefully to determine which fits your interests best.

If you are accepted as an apprentice, you will work alongside others in the profession who will serve as your mentors and teachers. The term of your apprenticeship may vary, but usually it is two to five years. The best part is that while you’re learning, you’re GETTING PAID! Find out more at www.aatca.org.

Getting the Most Out of Second Semester

Whew! You’re halfway through your senior year! This semester will be shorter than most, as you will be taking finals and graduating before the rest of us finish the school year.

They say that high school holds some of the best memories of your life. Take this to heart! Take pictures, be kind to your fellow classmates, challenge yourself in these last classes, tell your teachers you appreciate them, hug your parents. And when you have a moment, read Charles Sykes’ advice for high school students at www.kubik.org/lighter/dumbing.htm. Good reading for good living. Enjoy!

Important Dates in January...

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|----------------|--|
| 1/1-1/4 | Winter Break |
| 1/7 | First day of 2 nd semester |
| 1/16 | UAA Director of Admissions in the CRC 9am through lunch |
| 1/21 | Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – Holiday |
| 1/23 | Senior Seminar II (Financial Aid) at 6:30pm in the library |

TUESDAYS Every Tuesday in January, Ms. Rutz will be holding Scholarship Portfolio workshops in the CRC during lunch. Don’t forget that these are due next month!