

Saturdays are for learning and fun

Take advantage of all your opportunities!

Crusaders, do you want to make new friends, learn about interesting jobs and careers, and get tips on doing well in school? Sign up for one of our Saturday programs this winter! Watch the mail for our letters with details about **Saturday Academy**, **Saturday Cru Club**, and the **Crusade Adventure and Academic Program (CAAP)**. See for yourself how much there is to do!



Middle school Crusaders enjoyed a Saturday college visit to the University of Rhode Island this fall. Later, at the football game, URI mascot Rhody the Ram posed with some of them for a picture!

Seniors: Apply for scholarships now!

Now is the time when high school Crusaders in their senior year should get started on applying for college scholarships. These three steps will keep you on track:

- 1 Complete your Crusader Pledge Affirmation Form** If you did not receive this form in the mail, ask your College Crusade Advisor or print it from the Scholarship section of our website. You can also call us at 854-5500 and ask us to mail you the form. Fill it out and send it to us.
- 2 Complete your FAFSA** You must complete a FAFSA to apply for a College Crusade Scholarship. Your FAFSA also serves as your application for a federal Pell Grant and a RI State Grant. **You must complete your FAFSA application after January 1 and before March 1** to be considered for a state grant. Complete the

FAFSA online by following the steps at **www.fafsa.ed.gov**. To get a paper application, call 1-800-433-3243. **We can help you fill out your FAFSA! See page 3.**

- 3 Research other sources of free aid** Colleges often award their own grants or scholarships. This is free money that you do not need to work for or to pay back. Go to college websites or ask their admissions offices how to apply for these free awards. Have your FAFSA sent to all the schools where you wish to attend. Research other organizations that provide grants or scholarships to qualified individuals. Make a list of application deadlines and other details. Here are some good places to start:
www.riheaa.org/borrowers/grants
www.riheaa.org/borrowers/scholarships
www.fastweb.com
www.rischolarships.com

Crusader Recognition Awards

Crusaders can qualify for a special recognition award this year by showing achievement in academics, school attendance, or participation in our programs. Keep doing your best, and maybe one of those award winners will be you! If there is no College Crusader Advisor in your school but you want to be considered for an award, be sure to send us your report card at the end of the year.

**Inspire.
Support.
Believe.**

Thank you:

Many thanks to the Joukowsky Family Foundation for a gift of \$5,000 to provide match for our federal GEAR UP grant, and to the MAXIMUS Foundation for their donation of \$1,500 to support our after-school literacy programs.

Inside:

Important news for middle school and high school Crusaders and their families.

On the web:

Find the College Crusade Advisor in your school by going to our website at www.thecollegecrusade.org and clicking on the Quick Links box. If your school does not have an Advisor on location, call us at 854-5500 to get connected!



A message from the President, Mary Harrison

Dear Crusaders and Families,

Happy New Year! I hope school is going well and that you are taking advantage of all the programs we are offering this winter. They will help you develop the problem-solving, teamwork, time management, and study skills you need to be ready for college. The more you participate in what we have to offer, the more ready you will be.

Remember that getting to college is a realistic goal. You can make it happen by aiming high and staying committed. This newsletter describes many activities that will keep you motivated and increase your "college knowledge."

One of the best ways to build your knowledge is to come with us on a college visit. It's exciting! You can explore campus and talk with actual students. By the end of the day, you'll know a lot about what it means to go to college. We are also here to help with the process of applying for college admission and financial aid. At our Financial Aid Nights, we walk you through all the paperwork and make sure your application is correct.

Keep your college and career dreams alive. Get ready!

Sincerely yours,

Mary S. Harrison

Middle school Crusaders! Register now for 2008 winter programs

We don't want you to miss any of our exciting winter programs this year, especially during your February school vacation. Watch your mail for more details, ask your Advisor, or call Lauren Schechtman at 854-5506 ext 114. Sign up as soon as you can and save yourself a spot!

For Grade 6

Exchange City – February 18-19 and 21-22 – Johnson & Wales University, Providence

Exchange City is an interactive learning environment for RI students. For two days, Crusaders can take on roles as politicians, bankers, broadcasters, and business owners and participate in running a real city!

For Grades 7 & 8

URI Shadow Day – February 20

Crusaders spend all day with a URI student, going to classes, meals, and events and seeing firsthand what college is all about. We'll match you up with a college student who is majoring in a career area that interests you, so make sure you pack a long list of questions to ask!

For Grades 6, 7 & 8

Career Day – February 16 – New England Institute of Technology

Career Day gives you a chance to hear lots of interesting people talk about careers you can choose. In the past, we've offered workshops by pharmacists, civil engineers, forensics experts, toy designers, fire marshals, neurosurgeons, pediatricians, chefs, judges, and many more! This event is for Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket Crusaders only.

Grade 8

Step Up Conference – January 26 – Providence Academy for International Studies (PAIS)

Sign up for this special required workshop designed to ease your transition from middle school to high school. This event is for Providence Crusaders only.

Saturday Cru Club heats up for 2008

For Crusaders, the place to be is Saturday Cru Club, at Johnson & Wales University's Harborside Campus. Come ready to learn a lot! You can get extra help with schoolwork, work on your study skills, learn about careers, and talk one-on-one with a College Crusade Advisor. Last fall we had career speakers from health care, education, law enforcement, law, business, arts & entertainment, and design.

Remember that all Crusaders must participate in a minimum of 10 hours of Cru Club each school year.

If you attend a school that has an Advisor, your Cru Club is held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons in your school. If your school does not have an Advisor, your Cru Club is held on Saturday. Stay tuned for more information in the mail about Saturday Cru Club, and mark down these dates for 2008:

- January 12 & 26
- February 2 & 9
- March 1 & 15
- April 5 & 12
- May 3 & 17
- June 7

Watch your mail for more details!

Middle school Crusaders:

Save these dates!

Crusade Adventure & Academic Program (CAAP) – March 1 to May 3

Saturday Academy – February 2 to April 12 (no class on March 22)



College Crusade Advisor **Brandon Ramos** and Crusader **Jaidee Bennett** learn about starfish at Biomes Marine Biology Center in North Kingston.

Seniors! Get help with your 2008 financial aid form at these workshops

Plenty of help is available for high school Crusaders who have their sights set on college next year. Filling out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form has never been easier!

College Goal Sunday – January 27

College Goal Sunday is a free program that helps students and families fill out the FAFSA, which is the form you must submit to apply for financial assistance for college. Come get hands-on help and advice from financial aid professionals. College Goal Sunday runs **from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at three campuses of the Community College of Rhode Island:

CCRI Flanagan Campus, 1762 Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln

CCRI Newport County Campus, One John H. Chafee Boulevard, Newport

CCRI Liston Campus, One Hilton Street, Providence

For details about the information you and your family must bring to complete your FAFSA, and to pre-register, go to www.collegegoalri.org.

Crusade Financial Aid Nights – January & February

If you are unable to attend College Goal Sunday, don't worry! Every year, The College Crusade sponsors many Financial Aid Nights to help parents complete their child's FAFSA and to answer questions about the process. This service is free to all Crusade families. Counselors who are knowledgeable about financial aid will assist you, using the information you provide. See below for the dates, locations, and times of our Financial Aid Nights for 2008. Although walk-ins are welcome, priority is given to those who have set appointments. Please contact your Advisor or call Maria Carvalho at 854-5506 ext 108 for more details.

Date	Location	Time
January 17	Woonsocket High School Library	6:00-8:00 p.m.
January 22	William E. Tolman High School Library	6:00-8:00 p.m.
January 23	Shea High School Guidance Office	6:00-8:00 p.m.
February 4	College Crusade Office	5:30-7:30 p.m.
February 5	College Crusade Office	5:30-7:30 p.m.
February 7	Central Falls High School Library	6:00-8:00 p.m.
February 13	College Crusade Office	5:30-7:30 p.m.
February 20	College Crusade Office	1:00-4:00 p.m.



Middle school Crusaders learn how to put a computer together during Career Day at New England Institute of Technology.

Find out what college is like...

Go on a Visit!

High school Crusaders! Here is our schedule for college visits this winter:

- January 23: Pine Manor College
- January 24: New England Institute of Technology
- January 31: University of Rhode Island
- February 13: Johnson & Wales University
- February 19: Dean College

To sign up, ask your Advisor or call Maria at 854-5506 ext 108.

Crusade Spotlight



College Crusade Advisor **Alicia Procter** (left) with high school Crusader **Dominique Reid**

Not many juniors at Shea High School in Pawtucket spend a month in Italy, but that's where **Dominique Reid** went last summer. She traveled to Tuscany in June and July with the Experiment in International Living. Her College Crusade Advisor, **Alicia Procter**, helped her apply to the program.

Alicia and Dominique are together a lot during the school week. "We've had a great relationship from the day I walked into Shea," says Alicia. "Dominique comes to me whenever she has a question because she knows I want the best for her."

A former Crusader herself, Alicia grew up in East Providence. As a high school senior, she joined a dual-enrollment program sponsored by East Providence High School and the Community College of Rhode Island. Eventually she enrolled at Rhode Island College, graduating with a B.A. in Psychology in 2005. Alicia is planning to do graduate work in educational psychology and agency counseling.

Dominique is also making plans for more education. She knows healthcare professionals are in high demand and is considering a career in nursing. "Dominique stays informed about her options," says Alicia, "so I know she'll do well."

E-Mentoring keeps Crusaders on track

Thanks to the energy and dedication of former Crusader **Jorge Beron**, our E-Mentoring Program is getting a big boost. Jorge is currently a junior at Bryant University and is majoring in finance. In a project for his Management 200 course this fall, he recruited 36 other Bryant students to serve as e-mentors for high school Crusaders!

Jorge is a very involved College Crusade alumnus. In addition to volunteering as an e-mentor, he taught study skills to sixth-grade Crusaders as a Ways to A's instructor last summer. Jorge is grateful for the educational opportunities he received as a Crusader and enjoys helping other students achieve their college dreams. "Now that I reflect and look back," he says, "I wonder what I would have done without my College Crusade Advisor reminding me about the steps to take to get to college."

College Crusade e-mentors send weekly emails to Crusaders to encourage you in your schoolwork, answer questions, and help you stay on track with college planning. Could you use extra guidance and encouragement to reach your college goals? **If you would like to participate in our E-Mentoring Program, call Maria Carvalho at 854-5506 ext 108 and sign up now!**



The Bryant University E-Cru team (left to right) is **Jerry Laguerre, Jonathon Gauthier, Jorge Beron, Nichole Shaw, Mike Howe, and Elizett Pires**. Many thanks to the team for caring about Crusaders!

High school Crusaders: Save these dates!

February vacation activities – February 18-22

Saturday Academy – Saturdays from February 2 to April 12 (no class on March 22)

Please keep us notified

Families, have you changed your address or phone number, or has your Crusader changed schools? Call (401) 854-5500 or write to **info@thecollegecrusade.org** to let us know.

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CruNews Family Newsletter

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