

# New Way Senior Newsletter

January 6, 2016

## GAME OF LIFE

The Transition Team is thrilled to share this final semester or high school with each of our seniors. This quarter, CORE students will participate in a simulated "Game of Life". Each student will select a career of interest and choose a car and housing option. They will then pay bills and manage a budget. Through various lessons and activities, students will become familiar with financial vocabulary and comfortable with basic money management principles. We will explore financial planning, budgeting, taxes, loans, credit, banking and beyond.

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSES

Both Paradise Valley Community College and Rio Salado Community College courses will begin Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Both Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Keathley have sent detailed directions regarding registration, payment and textbooks. Please reach out with any questions or concerns you may have.

## SAVE THE DATES

With the excitement of graduation around the corner, we wanted to share a few important dates to add to your family calendars now.

**January 6** | Senior [Yearbook Tribute](#) Deadline  
**January 11** | Transition Workshop: UofA & SALT Spotlight  
**January 16** | Martin Luther King Holiday – No School  
**February 9-10** | Parent/Teacher Conferences – Noon Dismissal  
**February 15-17** | Trip to [Pali Institute](#)  
**February 20** | Presidents' Day Holiday – No School  
**February 22** | Transition Workshop: Guardianship, Trusts & SSI  
**March 13-17** | Spring Break  
**March 29** | Transition Workshop: Independent Living Experience  
**April 14** | April Recess – No School  
**April 12** | Transition Workshop: Post-Secondary Accommodations  
**May 18** | Senior Dinner  
**May 17** | Senior Field Day  
**May 25** | Graduation

## AUTISM JOB FAIR

Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> | 9am-2pm

On January 11, 2017, [Arizona@Work](#) and [Autism Society](#) will sponsor an Autism Job Fair. The Purpose is to help adults on the autism spectrum meet companies interested in hiring them. The event will be held at Arizona Industries for the Blind at 515 N. 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85043. The event will run from 9am to 2pm. RSVPs are requested but not required prior to January 5 – click [here](#) to register.

## TRANSITION WORKSHOP

Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> | 5:30-6:30pm

A [UofA](#) and [S.A.L.T.](#) representative will visit the New Way Library on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Students and families are invited to attend the presentation to learn more about UofA's nationally recognized supports, centers, and programs for individuals with learning differences.

## MARICOPA SKILLS CENTER

Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> | CORE Class Time

After learning about diverse post-secondary opportunities last semester, the senior class expressed interest in touring vocational and trade programs. We are excited to spend our CORE class time at Maricopa Skills Center on Thursday! Students will have the opportunity to learn more about vocational preparation programs while touring the hands-on facilities and exploring the diverse course offerings. Students will leave campus during lunch and will return by the end of the day. This fieldtrip will not conflict with any other class time.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

As a requirement for graduation, students need to complete 40 hours of community service. Students have a log at the front of their daily planner to record their hours and are encouraged to complete 10 hours each quarter. These hours provide an opportunity for students to practice their professional skills in the community while exploring areas of interest. As we begin the second semester, students are encouraged to have at least 20 hours completed.

## FINANCIAL AID

Families do not need to wait for 2016 tax information to complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#). The application is open now and you are able to use 2015 tax documentation! We recommend that students complete scholarship applications as soon as possible as it will help determine what federal aid they qualify for. Thus, allowing for more time to make informed financial decisions before enrolling in a post-secondary program. [College Goal Arizona](#) will host workshops in the greater Phoenix area; and [here](#) is another great resource for filling out the FAFSA.

## SENIOR PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL TESTING

Marilyn Michie has been in touch with students and families (who have not yet completed testing) about scheduling senior testing. We recommend that all students complete psychoeducational testing on adult scales before graduating from high school. This ensures that students will meet all documentation guidelines on the post-secondary level. Please contact [michie@newwayacademy.org](mailto:michie@newwayacademy.org) with any questions.