

November 6, 2015

**In this issue**

[From the Dean of School](#)

[School News](#)

- [Student of the Quarter - Sarah H.](#)
- [Veterans Exhibit & Assembly](#)
- [Veterans Day - No School](#)
- [Change of Date - Retake Picture Day Nov 10](#)
- [Vaccination Records are Due!](#)
- ["Inside the Classroom"](#)
- [Parent-Teacher Conferences](#)
- [Admissions Information Night - November 16](#)
- [Quarterly and Yearly Mastery](#)
- [Two Changes to Drop Off and Pick Up](#)
- [Report Cards](#)

[Fundraisers](#)

- [Mr. Waterbury's Fundraiser](#)
- [The Founders Academy Snow Shovels](#)
- [Tiny Owl Fundraising](#)
- [Adopt-A-Plot](#)
- [Hannaford Fundraising Opportunity](#)

[Student Life](#)

- [Fun Lunches](#)
- [Sign Up for the Europe Trip!](#)
- [Karate Opportunity at TFA](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

- [School Store](#)
- [Wanted: Substitute Teachers, Lunch & Study Hall Monitors](#)
- [School Cancellation Notifications](#)

[Club/Committee News](#)

- [Random Acts of Kindness Committee](#)

[Important Dates](#)

- [Follow The Founders Academy on social media](#)

## From the Dean of School



Happy Friday!

Another Friday is here again! What an exciting week it's been for the students - a visit from a presidential candidate, the Student of the Quarter has been selected, and grades close for the first quarter today. There's a lot to read in this email.

Please note the new categorical format for the emailed Parent Newsletters:

- From the Dean
- School News
- Fundraisers
- Student Life
- Miscellaneous
- Club/Committee News
- Important Dates

Enjoy your weekend, and thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Maureen Mooney  
Dean of School

## School News

### Student of the Quarter - Sarah H.



Congratulations to Sarah for being nominated Student of the Quarter!

Sarah H. made the plans to host a Baby Shower for Mrs. Lopez. She told administration that she would plan the shower (with school permission) during a morning advisory so that her classmates could attend. Sarah relayed all the plans for the shower including her setting up a website link so that classmates would know what to bring. Sarah set up a link like this before for her Girl Scout Troop and it was successful. During the secret preparations so that it would be a surprise for Mrs. Lopez, Sarah was mindful of the timing so that the surprise would occur before Mrs. Lopez took leave.

During the preparations, everyone was struck by Sarah's maturity, independence, and thoughtfulness during the frequent meetings she would request to plan the shower. She truly demonstrated the qualities of the Founders Code of Conduct, in particular being responsible, respectful, determined, polite, open-minded, courageous, confident, and helpful. The shower was a huge success, and her leading the way can make everyone at Founders proud!

NOTE: A binder full of all the student nominations for Student of the Quarter will be at the Front Desk soon. Feel free to browse through and see who our students are nominating!

## Veterans Exhibit & Assembly



During the months of November and December, the Veterans Affairs Committee at Founders will display photos of Veterans near and dear to the hearts of our students and staff. If you would like to participate in this display, have your student bring in a **framed photograph of their Veteran**.

On **November 13**, the Veterans Affairs Committee is hosting an assembly where students can bring in a Veteran guest. Please fill out the form attached to this email and bring to the front office.

Founders appreciates Veterans!

## Veterans Day - No School

A reminder that there is no school next **Wednesday, November 11** since it is a holiday. A shout-out to all our veterans: THANK YOU so much for your service!

## Change of Date - Retake Picture Day Nov 10

**CHANGE OF DATE:** Retakes have been rescheduled for **Tuesday, November 10** due to the visit from Governor Bush on November 4. Individual photos and codes were sent home with students last week. If you are unsatisfied with your student's picture, please make sure he or she is ready for retakes on Tuesday. If you have any questions, [C3 Photography](#) invites you to contact them directly.

Thanks!

## Vaccination Records are Due!

Dear Parents,

Please remember all students must have a current copy of their vaccination records on file at school. These can be mailed, sent in with your child or faxed to 603-624-0057. **The deadline for this is next Friday, November 13th.**

If your child is exempt from vaccinations, please send the appropriate documentation in place of the vaccination record.

Thank you,

Kimberly Lavalley  
Assistant Dean

## “Inside the Classroom”

*A message from Dr. Yellin:*

Students in my English and Writing Lab classes sprinted to the finish line at the end of the quarter! In English 2A, students found seats at King Arthur’s round table. There, they considered the meaning of Merlin’s prophecy, and discussed ways they could incorporate Arthur’s Code of Chivalry into their lives at TFA.

In English 2, students began reading *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*. Like them, Crispin is a 13 yr old who is trying to find his place in the world. Students created graphic organizers to explain “What’s on Crispin’s Mind?” as their most recent assignment, to help them get into the head of a character they can relate to.

In Writing Lab, students “grew” poems based on nature walks classes took around TFA. They also learned and wrote quatrains, haikus, and name poems. In the coming weeks, they will write personal narratives. The first assignment, titled “That’s When I Knew,” asks them to write about the moment they realized they were really, really good at something.

Read Dr. Yellin’s full syllabus for his classes [here](#).

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are scheduled **for Monday, November 16**, a little over a week from today. Sign ups are online and in 15 minute blocks, and students have no school that day while teachers meet with you. If you have any questions or encounter any problems, feel free to call Deb Waitt at the school.

If a teacher is filled with appointments on the 16th, please contact the teacher directly to schedule another date/time to meet. If you need to have a meeting **longer than 15 minutes**, please contact the teacher directly to schedule another date/time.

The link to sign up and schedule meetings was sent out in a previous email by Dean Mooney.

## Admissions Information Night - November 16

Our next Admissions Information Night is on **November 16**. Again, this is for incoming students and parents to hear more about the school and meet the faculty. It'll start at 6:00 p.m. and will go until 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about TFA is welcome to come.

Those current parents who wish to apply for a sibling must complete the application process with the newly established deadline including placement tests. **The application deadline is January 29, 2016 at 4:30pm.**

## Quarterly and Yearly Mastery

TFA has quarterly and yearly mastery now. Please carefully review the description below of Quarterly and Yearly Mastery. Quarterly reviews will enhance mastery of the concepts and keep parents regularly updated on academic progress. TFA cares about its students!

### A Quarterly and Yearly Approach to Mastery

#### Definition of Mastery: (Visible Learning for Teachers by John Hattie)

**Mastery is a process, the underlying claim of mastery is that all students can learn when provided with clear explanations of what it means to master the material. There must be high levels of teacher feedback, frequent and specific by using diagnostic, formative tests, and regular correction of mistakes.**

- There must be numerous feedback loops based on small units of well defined, sequenced outcomes.
- There must be supplementary instruction for not attained objectives.
- There must be variable time to achieve mastery.
- There must be testing preceding a unit, in the middle and at the end of a unit to determine progress.

#### Procedure for Demonstrating Quarterly Mastery

1. The mastery process shall start at any termination point during the school year. For any given unit of study, a student doing poorly or failing that unit shall start the process of attaining mastery in that unit without waiting until the end of the quarter. The sooner that students' lack of understanding or performance is addressed, the better.
2. Within one week after report cards are issued each quarter, teachers can determine which student have not scored a grade of 80% or above (2.67-4.33) in each subject. Parents shall be notified of those students who need further work to achieve mastery. Parent teacher conferences may be arranged.
3. Teachers must determine a form of demonstrated mastery based upon individual student needs. The student has first three weeks of the new quarter to demonstrate mastery, unless more time is needed if the student shows significant effort earlier in the current quarter. Forms of demonstrated mastery may include:

- Projects
- Oral exams
- Written exams
- Re-takes
- VLACS
- Khan Academy
- After school tutoring
- Other assignments that a teacher deems appropriate

4. If the student demonstrates mastery it will be indicated with the notation "PM" for "pass mastery" on the next quarterly report card. The quarterly grade will not be changed.

5. At the end of the school year, a student with a final grade of 80% or higher proceeds to the next level of the course. A student with a final grade between 70-79% must (if the teacher allows) determine an alternative way to demonstrate mastery with the possibility of summer school to advance to the next level in the course. A student below 70% in a class at the end of the year may repeat the class.

6. At the end of a course, students with final grades of 70%-100% receive credit for their work if the course is worth credit.

See Student Handbook [here](#).

## Two Changes to Drop Off and Pick Up

**Drop Off:** Starting last Monday, Nov. 2, parents **do not need** to come in the school to sign in their student if the student is late. If a student is late, that student must sign in **the “pink” binder** at the front desk in order to gain a tardy pass for class. If the student is late because of a doctor’s appointment, the student must bring a note. Remember, every third unexcused tardy shall constitute an one- full day unexcused absence. Please review the TFA's entire Attendance Policy in the handbook [Section 2.2](#).

**Pick Up:** All students being picked up early must be picked up **by 2:45pm**, not any later. Parents/guardians must still come into the building to pick up students early.

## Report Cards

Report cards for first quarter will be emailed to primary parents/guardians only on **November 13**. Grades close today, November 6.

# Fundraisers

## Mr. Waterbury's Fundraiser



Mr. Waterbury has created a fundraising opportunity through Donor's Choose for his history class.

He's asking for books to help increase the accessibility and understanding of Classical Greek figures. The goal is \$459, and we've already had donations! Thank you for your willingness to help out the school and its teachers. Founders would never be as great as it could be with the parents of our students.

For more information on Mr. Waterbury's project, and to donate, please click [here](#).

## The Founders Academy Snow Shovels

The shovels have arrived, in blue and pink! Check out the samples at the front office.

*A message from the Chairman of the Board:*

Winter is fast approaching! What better way to prepare for winter and to help your student's school than by buying one of The Founders Academy snow shovels. These SnoFighter 18" heavy-duty snow shovels are manufactured in Frankfort, Maine by Mount Waldo Plastics, and are the only snow shovels manufactured in New England. They are made with a solid ash shaft and D-grip handle for ease of use, and the shovel is made of heavy duty plastic that is easy on deck edges.

Support The Founders Academy and prepare yourself for this coming winter! Tell all of your family and friends about this exciting opportunity to support a local New England business and your student's school.

Please feel free to send the link to this [pre-order form](#) to family and friends.

Sincerely,  
Rick Hyotte



## Tiny Owl Fundraising

Hello Fellow Parents and TFA Fans!

*Have fun creating personalized holiday cards, calendars, ornaments and much more - while supporting our school with much needed funds!*

Founders Academy kicks off the holiday season with Tiny Owl - a photo gift service that pays our school THIRTY PERCENT of every dollar spent by TFA families and friends.

Simply ask friends and family if they are going to create photo gifts this year, and if they will use our service to do it. The initial purchase of a gift card for \$15 or \$20 allows them to set up an account. Anything they purchase from that account throughout the year continues to pay our school.

The catalog that your son or daughter brought home with them today has a sign-up sheet on the back. Fill it out with the names and amounts collected (make check payable to Founders Academy with note "Tiny Owl") and have your child turn it into your advisory teacher **by November 6th**. Your gift cards will be available then and you can begin creating!

See the instruction sheet we sent home with the catalog. If you have any questions, you may call Doris St. Pierre at (603) 315-5385 or send her an email at [doris@tinyowlgifts.com](mailto:doris@tinyowlgifts.com).

Thanks for your support!

Larry Bartlett  
TFA Parent

## Adopt-A-Plot

**From the Garden Committee and Adopt-a-Plot:** *Trimmers Landscaping* has completed the prepping of the soil. If you have signed up for a plot(s), please check with Deb Waitt for payment and the adoption process will be complete!

Each plot will be marked with yellow flags and you will be given your plot number.

There is a pile of mulch at the end of the parking lot for you to use to complete your landscaping.

### Ideas for fall:

- \*plant bulbs for a beautiful surprise in the spring
- \*design a fall landscape with a pumpkin or scarecrow, perhaps
- \*think ahead for some ideas for fall/winter.....or at least until the snow flies!



## Hannaford Fundraising Opportunity

Shopping at Hannaford can help raise money for TFA! When buying participating products, marked by a

“helps schools” tag, you also donate money to your child’s school. Forms will be going home with students today for your convenience.

**This opportunity ends November 28.** For more information, click this link [here](#) for Hannaford.

## Student Life

### Fun Lunches

The forms for November are now available and included below. They can also be found on the website under “Parent.”

For the D’Angelos Fun Friday form, click [here](#). For the Johnny Troy’s Pizza Fun Monday form, click [here](#).

If you missed the deadline, all is not lost! Turn in the forms as soon as you can for the rest of month.

### Sign Up for the Europe Trip!

Bonjour!

I have some good news about our upcoming trip to Europe in 2017:

First of all, 9 people have already signed up, so we are off to a great start!

Secondly, Explorica has informed me that they are extending the \$200 off early bird special deadline through **December 15th!**

Remember, you just need to go to [explorica.com/Barlow-5126](http://explorica.com/Barlow-5126), and make sure you type in the code **earlybird2017** when signing up. And please keep in mind that you only need \$99 as an initial deposit to hold your spot, with a number of payment plans available between now and 2017.

Please feel free to ask me, if you should have any further questions.

Merci,  
Madame Barlow =)



## Karate Opportunity at TFA

The last **FREE** karate class with House of the Samurai is **today, Nov 6**. Information to register for classes is being giving to students who have participated in the week long session of free classes. If someone is still interested in learning more about upcoming 6-week sessions, call Deb Waitt at the school or the House of the Samurai directly. The number for the House of the Samurai is [\(603\) 434-2265](tel:6034342265).

Watch for information and the registration form [here](#).



## Miscellaneous

### School Store

Thank you all for donating to the TFA store. We have plenty of office supplies to last us for a while! Now we find ourselves in need of some food supplies: healthy snacks and drinks for students to buy, and we would appreciate any donations of nonperishable meals like Mac & Cheese for those who forgot lunches or simply didn't have enough time to get them ready.

The store is open twice per week (on Tuesday and Friday) during lunch time. We're also looking for more volunteer parents to help out with running the store. Please contact Cindy Lacasse ([cindy.lacasse@tfanh.org](mailto:cindy.lacasse@tfanh.org)) if interested.

Thanks again!

### Wanted: Substitute Teachers, Lunch & Study Hall Monitors

Founders is seeking volunteer substitute teachers, study hall monitors, and lunch monitors! If you are interested in helping Founders for full days, half days or even a period or two, please contact Deb Waitt at 603.952.4705 or [debra.waitt@tfanh.org](mailto:debra.waitt@tfanh.org). We'll add you to the list!

### School Cancellation Notifications

In the event school is cancelled (or delayed) due to weather, the cancellation (or delay) will be announced

by the following means of communication:

- Email to parents,
- Facebook,
- [www.thefoundersacademy.org](http://www.thefoundersacademy.org),
- ch 9 - WMUR,
- 90.7FM WLMW
- 610AM WGIR,
- 95.7FM WZID,
- 96.5FM WMLL,
- 1370AM WFEA,
- NECN
- Automated call system.

When school is cancelled, each student is responsible for completing work that is posted on the portals and emailed from the teachers. School work (i.e., "snow packets") will be posted by teachers on snow days by 8 AM.

Additionally, teachers will be monitoring the portals and their emails throughout the day. It is a **requirement** that students (contingent on having electricity and internet) log into the portals and complete assigned work on snow days.

***It is essential that all students complete the work during the snow day. If we demonstrate participation from our students we will avoid having additional days added at the end of the school year in June. If less than 80% of our students choose not to login and perform the assignments the day counts as a snow day and may result in the school needing to extend the year.***

## Club/Committee News

To see all clubs and committees (and more to come), click [here](#).

## Random Acts of Kindness Committee

The Random Acts of Kindness Committee is collecting **nonperishable food items** for the Liberty House in Manchester. The Liberty House is a housing community for American Vets transitioning out of homelessness. If you are able to donate, please send in any canned goods and nonperishable items. We'll be collecting them until **November 20, 2015**. The advisory which collects the most cans will win a pizza party!

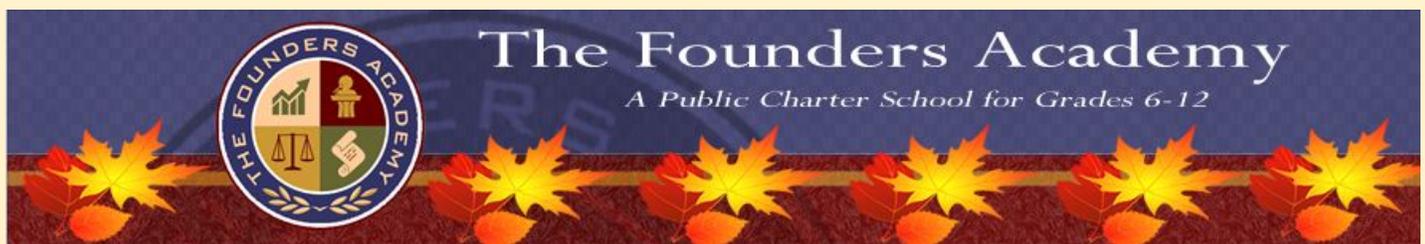
Thank you for supporting our veterans!

# Important Dates

School calendar online link: <http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/calendar>

November 6, 2015	First Quarter grades close.
November 6, 2015	Friday Morning Assembly: Keith Howard of the Liberty House
November 6, 2015	Movie Night: In the Upper Cafeteria at 3:45pm .
November 10, 2015	School photo retakes.
November 11, 2015	Veterans Day. No School.
November 13, 2015	First Quarter Report Cards emailed to students and primary parent/guardian.
November 13, 2015	Student-led assembly honoring Veterans at 8:00am.
November 16, 2016	Parent Teacher Conferences. No School.
November 16, 2015	Board of Trustees Meeting (School Board) at 4pm at Founders.
November 16, 2015	Admissions Information Night at 6pm at Founders for prospective students and parents.
November 18, 2015	Field Trip: Museum of Science in Boston.
November 21, 2015	Science and Inventors Club Fundraiser.
November 25-29, 2015	Thanksgiving Break. No School.
December 14, 2015	Chorus Concert at 7pm.
December 15, 2015	Band Concert at 7pm
<i>[December 16, 2015]</i>	<i>Snow date for concerts</i>
December 19 - January 3, 2016	Holiday Break. No School.
January 18, 2016	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. No School.
January 19 - January 22, 2016	Mid-Terms
January 22, 2016	Second Quarter grades close.
January 29, 2016	Second Quarter Report Cards emailed to students and primary parent/guardian.
February 20-28, 2016	Winter Break. No School.
March 25, 2016	Professional Development Day. No School.
March 28, 2016	Combined Concert at 7pm.
April 1, 2016	Third Quarter grades close.

April 8, 2016	Third Quarter Report Cards emailed to students and primary parent/guardian.
April 15, 2016	Friday Morning Assembly: Drama Production Play Preview
April 15, 2016	Drama Production. Time: TBA
April 16, 2016	Drama Production. Time: TBA
April 18, 2016	Gen. John Stark Day at Founders
April 22, 2016	Field Trip: Shakespeare Folio at the Currier Gallery of Art. More details to come.
April 23 - May 1, 2016	Spring Break. No School.
May 6 - 7, 2016	FUNDRAISER: Barnes and Noble Book Fair, 1741 S. Willow Street, Manchester, NH. Watch for the CODE.
May 9 - 10, 2016	Science and Inventors Fair.
May 13, 2016	Field Trip: 8th, 9th grades on a lake cruise.
May 16, 2016	Field Trip: 6th, 7th grades on Field and Forest Trip.
May 18 - 21, 2016	Trip to Washington DC for grades 7, 8, 9. For more details, contact Ms. Mote at <a href="mailto:k.mote@tfanh.org">k.mote@tfanh.org</a> .
May 27, 2016	Great East Music Festival Field Trip.
May 30, 2016	Memorial Day. No School
May 31 - June 3, 2016	Final Exams.
June 6, 2016	Field Trip: Walden Pond
June 6, 2016	Chorus Concert at 7pm.
June 7, 2016	Band Concert at 7pm.
June 10, 2016	Last Day of School.
June 10, 2016	Fourth Quarter grades close.
June 17, 2016	Fourth Quarter Report Cards emailed to student and primary parent/guardian.



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