HOMEWORK CLUB – Is voluntary, but parents can require their students to participate if they wish. The Homework Club will take attendance each day, and parents can check with Ms. Gonzalez at any point to see if their child was at homework club on a given day.

- Location: College and Career Center (adjacent to library)
- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:15pm – 4:00pm
- Thursday from 1:45pm – 4:00pm.

SOPHOMORE PARENTS - Ms. Anderson will be spending some time with your students in January exploring a new program available to them called YouScience which involves aptitude tests, career exploration, and relevant college search information. This program is designed to help students with self-discovery in career and college education paths. If you’d like more information about this program, visit: https://www.youscience.com/about/

A follow up to this activity is our Sophomore Academic Planning meeting with you and your child. An email has been sent to all Sophomore parents/guardians to schedule a meeting with you and your child to discuss their academic plans for the next two years at Bishop Diego. Wednesday, January 23rd and Thursday, January 24th has been set aside to meet in groups of 4-5 families after school in the library to go over college entrance requirements, graduation requirements, and your child’s academic path. Please make sure to check your email for details and available times for these important meetings.

AP EXAMS - The deadline to order AP Exams is February 1. Students taking an Advanced Placement exam should have already received confirmation from Ms. Gonzalez regarding test(s) we will be ordering for him/her. If your student is uncertain if we have the correct information on file, please contact Mrs. Carpenter or Ms. Gonzalez no later than February 1.
**PARENT VOLUNTEER NEEDED** - A parent chaperone is needed for the California State University, Channel Islands field trip planned for Wednesday, January 30 from 7:45am-2:00pm. If you are interested in serving as a chaperone, which would go toward parent service hours, please contact: rcarpenter@bishopdiego.org.

**FINANCIAL AID INFO FOR 7TH-11TH GRADE PARENTS** - On Thursday, March 14 at 6:30pm, Bishop again will host Trevor Mizrahi from Premier College Guidance. Trevor is a Financial Aid expert, who will focus on college options and planning ahead. The conversation will be relevant to any parent of 7th-12th graders. The meeting will take place in the College and Career Center.

Gearing up for this discussion on Financial Aid, here is another excerpt from *College Admission: Application to Acceptance, Step-by-Step*, written by Robin Mamlet and Christine Vandevelde.

The following is written to the student…


You’re buying a product that can cost anywhere from three- to seventy-five thousand dollars—a year. The price isn’t clearly disclosed at the beginning, and even to get some idea of what you’re going to pay, you have to fill out screens and screens of online data, in some cases not even knowing where to put the data…

1. **Not understanding the forms.** Depending on what schools you’re applying to, there are one or two forms to fill out. The basic FAFSA form ("Free Application for Federal Student Aid") asks you, and in most cases your parents, to provide relevant financial information, most of it from the 1040 (or 1040A) tax form.…

The CSS/Profile form is a much more complicated financial inventory, due in the first few months of your senior year (the exact date is set by each college), used by more than 600
colleges, typically the more selective private colleges. Here, depending on the college, you might be asked more probing questions about the value of your home, how close your parents are to retirement, how much they’ve contributed to their pension in the last year, whether they own a small business, whether they’re married or divorced, whether you have any money in a 529 college savings plan, and so on, and so on.

Keep in mind that if the school asks for the Profile form, they’ll also want the FAFSA form, so double the pleasure, double the fun.

There are big differences in ‘methodology’, that is, in how colleges calculate your financial aid award, especially among colleges that use the Profile form. For example, different schools calculate need according to different formulas; some colleges cap the equity in your parents’ house (if they have one) differently; some include different measures of gift, loan, and your work contribution in their awards; and some expect different contributions from your or your parents’ savings (if any). While the net price calculator can give you a ballpark figure about all of this, and while on the financial aid websites of some colleges some information about their methodology is provided, it’s a good idea to keep a very open mind about what the final figures will be for you—and how they might differ from college to college.

For a very useful, and detailed, explanation of the different financial aid methodologies (and what they might mean to you), have a look at https://www.forbes.com/sites/troyonink/2017/01/08/2017-guide-to-college-financial-aid-the-fafsa-and-css-profile/#496852b24cd4”

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