A Homecoming banner competition kicks off the 2011 Homecoming week. Student organizations will hang their handmade banners in the Coliseum to be voted on and be seen by everyone that attends the basketball game on Saturday.

Homecoming is a tradition at colleges and universities that is rich in tradition and school spirit. Winthrop’s theme this year is “Wobble the WU” (The Wobble is a very popular song and dance). Homecoming weeks always culminate with the men’s basketball game, which will be held Saturday, November 12 at 4 pm. Our Eagles will take on the Colonels of Eastern Kentucky University. Winthrop is coming off of a big win and hopes to make their record 2-0.

The week leading up to the game is filled with activities for faculty, staff, students and alumni. Students may attend Casino Night on Tuesday in the West Center, the talent show on Wednesday night in Tillman Auditorium, or the Lip Sync competition on Thursday. Dining Services will host an excellent Homecoming dinner in Thomson Café on Thursday, complete with games and prizes! Friday is jam packed with events, including the Annual Car Smash and Spirit Gear creation, Volleyball vs. Presbyterian, and the “always a blast” Homecoming party in the Richardson Ballroom. Students will mingle with faculty, staff and alumni while eating, listening to live music, and having their caricature drawn.

On game day Saturday, tailgating tents will be set up before the game. If you are an alumni or just want to come, bring some hot dogs, a jacket, and your chair! Lloyd Dobbler Effect will play live music at 2 pm.

Surviving Thanksgiving with your Student

When it comes to parenting college students, that first trip home can be an emotional one, particularly when expectations collide. You imagined hours of long, lovely talks with your college student, just the two of you. He imagined sleeping away the stress of midterms, hanging with his high school friends till 2 a.m. and oh yeah, there’s this giant sack of laundry…

Here are half a dozen tips to make that Thanksgiving break reunion a happy one.

1. Make travel arrangements well ahead of time. Book plane tickets early and encourage your child to line up his ride to the airport and allow plenty of time to get through security. If you’re planning to pick up your child on campus instead, allow a little extra time and patience. He may still be packing when you arrive. The sheer volume of luggage and dirty laundry may be startling. And there are so many goodbyes to be said before you can finally hit the road. Pack water and snacks for the road, but also throw in a blanket and pillow. Junior may end up sleeping the entire ride home.

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Grades You Can Be Thankful For: Use Thanksgiving Break to Discuss Academic Progress

Conversation Starters from Winthrop’s Academic Success Center (ASC)

With the semester over halfway complete and midterm grades posted on Wingspan, now is the perfect time for students to make like a chicken (or should we say turkey) and cross the road to the Academic Success Center. The Academic Success Center (ASC) offers a variety of resources for both groups and individuals, including web-based instruction and resources, action plan development, one-on-one consultation, academic skill development, and subject-specific tutoring. The ASC is located on the first floor of the newly remodeled Dinkins hall, freshly equipped with quiet study spaces and a computer lab dedicated for online testing. Although tutoring appointments can be made after hours, the ASC office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

With your child home for Thanksgiving Break, now is the perfect time to discuss his or her academic progress. Here are some questions to help get the conversation started:

- In what classes are you doing well? What classes are you enjoying the most?
- In what classes are you struggling? Why? Have you sought help?
- Have you checked for midterm grades on Wingspan? Are any posted?
- Are your grades where you want them to be? Are you on track to retaining your scholarship(s)?
- Do you have any work you should do/catch up on over break?
- When do your finals start? Do you feel prepared?

All of these questions serve as excellent ways to begin a conversation about your child’s individual standing. Remember, once your child returns from Thanksgiving, there is only one remaining week of class before finals begin. Help your child finish strong so they return home with high holiday spirits and a successful semester behind them.

College of Visual and Performing Arts

The College of Visual and Performing Arts is a great source of culture, dance, art, and music for all Winthrop students, including:

- More than 100 music performances annually, most of which are free of charge and open to the public
- Regularly produced theatre and dance performances featuring student work, main stage productions, and smaller studio and experimental performances
- Art galleries that regularly present professionally curated exhibitions, student-centered exhibitions, and educational programs that celebrate artistic achievement and creative excellence.

Our faculty is composed of working professional artists and scholars who share a passion for teaching and who strongly believe that the arts serve as an expression of our culture’s values and heritage. The College of Visual and Performing Arts’ long-standing tradition as a center for quality creative expression and Winthrop University’s commitment to arts education and outreach combine to create a rich artistic environment that inspires students to achieve their academic and artistic goals.

There are many upcoming events, including: the Winthrop Chamber Orchestra on November 10, the Senior Art Exhibition, the Fall One Act Play Festival next weekend, and the Symphonic Band on November 22.

To see all VPA events, check out: http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/WUcommon/pdf/calendars/CVPA-
Surviving Your Student Continued

2. Check in with your child before the holidays and find out what plans he may have already made. Let him know about any family commitments on the calendar but understand that he needs time to see his old friends too – they’ve been separated for months. And talk about any appointments he wants or needs to set up, including trips to the dentist, the eye doctor or hairdresser.

3. Expect major changes. Your child will have grown a great deal since he left you. It’s a good idea to check if your child has gone vegan before you carve the roasted turkey or bake his favorite cheesecake. Similarly, if junior has acquired a full sleeve tattoo or is suddenly sporting a fuchsia Mohawk, your holiday will be more peaceful if grandma gets a heads up beforehand. The same goes for you. If you’ve made any major changes to the house, his old room or your life, let him know before he arrives.

4. House rules and curfews? Your child has had complete freedom at college. He could go where he wanted, when he wanted, and no one waited up. Enforcing a curfew at home may not only be impossible, it also sends an unsettling message: that you have so little faith in his ability to take care of himself - even after he has proven himself capable for months without you - that you’re going to set his bedtime. It’s a message that not only makes for family strife, but fairly guarantees your child won’t be coming home too often after this. So think about your goal in suggesting a curfew at all. Are you worried about an exhausted teen driving in the middle of the night? Ask that the car be home by a specific time. Just want to know that he’s safe? Discuss what time he plans to be home and ask that he call or text you if there’s a change in plan.

5. Expect your child to do a lot of sleeping. He may be coming straight off midterms and an all-nighter or two. Between the intense studying, dorm social life and his own brain biology, his sleeping schedule will have changed dramatically. He’s not lazy when he sleeps till noon the first few days of break – he’s exhausted.

6. Your child probably brought all his laundry home – and he will love it if you offer to help, especially if he has run out of detergent! This is a good time to help him re-stock other essentials too, including deodorant, toiletries, vitamins and cleaning supplies. He may have scoffed at the very notion of Windex and Fantastik back in August. Now, a trip to Long’s with mom will sound fabulous.

One last note: While some teens can’t wait to get back to college after the short Thanksgiving break, others still haven’t quite acclimated to campus life. They may have battled homesickness or wept over faraway high school sweethearts. After four days nestled with family and old friends, eating their favorite foods and having someone else do their laundry, they may not want to go back to college. If they drop out now, the entire semester was a waste of time, tuition and credits. Offer love and reassurance, and emphasize how few weeks remain until winter break. Often, the time between Thanksgiving and winter break is a turning point in terms of settling in to the college routine.

http://youngadults.about.com/od/parentinggrownups/a/Thanksgiving.htm

Did you know Winthrop University Health Services offers call-ahead walk-in appointments for all your healthcare needs?

Just call 803-323-2206 and a Registered Nurse will return your call to find out what type of appointment you need and schedule an appointment for you.

If you need immunizations, a well exam, lab work, or a sick visit, just call and avoid the wait!

You and your student CAN enjoy spending time together over the holiday!

You and your student CAN enjoy spending time together over the holiday!
Homecoming 2011 T-Shirt Design Winner
Designed by: Tori McLean