

# MCNEAL SAMS COLLEGE CONSULTING

# NEWS AND NOTES

## NOVEMBER CHECKLIST



**CHECK YOUR PORTAL:** After you submit, almost all colleges will invite you to create an applicant portal. **DO IT!** This is where they will notify you of your application status, special opportunities, and more. You will see this checklist item often. It's **VERY** important.



**PREPARE:** Will you be interviewing for one or more of your schools? Take advantage of our resources to help you prepare. Reach out to your consultant for details.



**SEEK:** With the vast majority of your admission application work done, now is the time to seek scholarships. As a McNeal Sams client, you may take advantage of the Imagine Scholarships subscription search engine for free. Ask your consultant. And consult [this Tips sheet](#) for helpful hints on managing the search for scholarships.

## YOU SURVIVED NOVEMBER 1, WHAT'S NEXT?

The exact origins of the old English proverb, "Good things come to those who wait" is not known. Regardless, the saying is apt for this phase of the college choice process.

You've submitted early and rolling applications by now. Congratulations! This is a goal you have been working toward for quite some time, and you should take a moment to breathe and to develop some good patience. Schools who work on a rolling basis for admission will get back to relatively fast, usually within just a few weeks. (Caveat here: that is a few weeks from the time your application is complete. If you haven't been checking your portals, you won't know if your application is complete or not. Be sure to check your portals, regularly!) Schools who operate on a decision cycle, however, will take longer. Early Decision and Early Action applications most frequently release decisions between December 15 and early February. It's time to learn to be patient, and to move on to the next phase of your college choice journey.

Your December school break is about a month away. What should you be focused on now?

- Completing **ALL** remaining applications for admission. You should plan to have your applications completed **BEFORE** your December break. Writing a "why this school" essay after being deferred or rejected is just not a good idea!
- Seeking scholarships! This is a great time to spend time identifying appropriate scholarships for you to seek. McNeal Sams clients can take advantage of the Imagine Scholarships subscription search engine for free. Contact your consultant for information.
- Continuing your research. You will soon begin to receive admission decisions. At some point, you are going to have to make a final choice about where you will attend. Really get to know the schools on your list.



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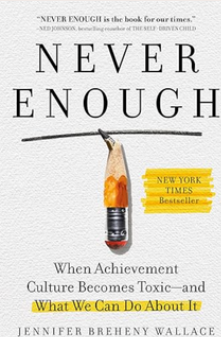
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## TALK AROUND TOWN

This month we discovered these useful resources:

**Article:** Page one of this newsletter talks about patience. We thought we would share an article discussing some scholarly work on the value of patience. "[Why Good Things Come to Those Who Wait](#)", by Dave Nussbaum. The article discusses research out of the University of Chicago's Booth School regarding the value of patience. While it specifically addresses economic benefits of patience, we thought it might be helpful as you wait for those admission decisions!

**Book:** It's all over the news and the New York Times Best Sellers list. *Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic - and What We Can Do About It*, by Jennifer Breheny Wallace



**Podcast:** Always timely and on point, we suggest considering Rick Clark's podcast, *College Admission Brief*. Rick is the Assistant Vice Provost & Exec. Dir. of Undergraduate Admission at Georgia Tech.

## FOCUS FEATURE: NEVER TOO LATE FOR A RESUME

Receiving a resume request is only a matter of WHEN, not IF. Even if your applications don't require one, you might need it for a scholarship application or interview, let alone for a summer job and to get involved in organizations at college.

If you have not already started a resume, you probably already developed much of its content in the Common App's "Activity" Section. But you'll need to elevate it. An effective resume does more than list your accomplishments or tell their chronology and time invested. It should tell a story about how and what skills you have developed. Start with a "master" version that includes everything you've done, organized in important categories. Keep that version continually updated, even if it gets very long. You can customize and shorten it for each specific opportunity, omitting the least relevant entries and spotlighting your most pertinent qualifications.

Whether you need help fine-tuning the formatting, condensing descriptions, tailoring to a specific opportunity, or just getting started, we can help you take it to the next level. Ask your consultant to assist you or to connect you with our resume specialist, Elizabeth Schnell.

## KINDNESS CORNER: The Highest Form of Intelligence - Kindness!

As we write this, we're just survived the big deadline - November 1. So that all of us can regain our collective sanity and civility, here are a few suggestions:

- Students, you are in this together. And yet you all have different goals, aspirations, and hopes for the future. What works for one person might not be right for another. Be supportive of your classmates' choices. Don't speculate; we're not in the admissions committee room, so we don't have the right to make predictions about upcoming decisions.
- Parents: Remember how nerve-racking it could be when your children were babies and you worried about them hitting all of the developmental milestones "on time"? College is such a major transition that it's tempting to indulge in news-gathering and comparison chats right now. Resist that temptation. Everyone ultimately gets to where they need to be.
- Feeling like you can't get a break from the noise? Need a listening ear? Call us, text us, email us. That's why we're here.
- Above all: remember that kindness is the highest form of intelligence. Right about now, we can all use it.