

Stoneking stays strong in the battle against cancer

JULIA VANWINKLE & GRACE WALL

Every day many of us take our health for granted; never realizing that in one moment that can all change. On Sept. 7, after suffering from headaches and consulting doctors, Jake Stoneking, freshman, was diagnosed with high-risk medulloblastoma, a brain tumor. In the hospital for 20 days before coming home, Stoneking has not been able to attend school so far this year because of surgeries and treatments.

"I couldn't believe or didn't want to believe what was happening," Brett Kruger, freshman and close friend, said. Both

he and Stoneking were overwhelmed with the diagnosis.

A website on Caring Bridge was set up for Stoneking and his mother, Wendy, makes frequent updates about his condition. Many people have written in the guest book with entries from family in other states, friends and teachers. People write words of hope and inspiration.

"You have no idea how much I miss your humor, laughter, kindness and love," Dillion Stoneking, said.

To leave messages to Stoneking in the guest book, or check up on how



Photo submitted by Wendy Stoneking
Jake Stoneking, freshman, rests in the hospital, with cousins Dillon and Ryan. Stoneking was diagnosed with a high-risk brain tumor and has been undergoing treatments and surgeries.

he is doing, go to the Caring Bridge web site at, www.caringbridge.org/visit/jacobstoneking.

"I think we've all been touched, and feel a real motivation to be with him each step of the way," Susan Kruger, a family friend, said.

To help Stoneking's family out with the process, Susan Kruger and Lorie Griffith, have organized a

fundraiser. While insurance pays the medical bills, it doesn't pay for his parents' time off work. Donations help cover these costs. To help, contact Kruger at susankruger@comcast.net.

"Now all I can do is stay strong, not just for me, but for Jake and his family," Brett Kruger, said. He has been visiting Jake in the hospital and helping his friend through the cancer.

The Krugers aren't the only ones helping out. Family friends Pam Johnson, Melissa Proff, Sarah Wright and Traci Varela have been cooking meals for the Stonekings.

Three days after the tumor was discovered, Stoneking had surgery

Class of 2010 College application myths debunked

Applying to college is a daunting task for any senior. Am I good enough for acceptance? How will I pay for it? What can I do to make my application stand out among the thousands of applicants? There are many myths surrounding the college application process, as well as loopholes and lesser-known facts that can help boost or break an application. Once you receive that coveted acceptance letter, a new task starts to suck countless hours from your life: figuring out how to pay for it. There are many options other than begging your parents to write a check, and hundreds and thousands of dollars lay at anyone's disposal if the right rocks are upturned.

Scholarships: local and national

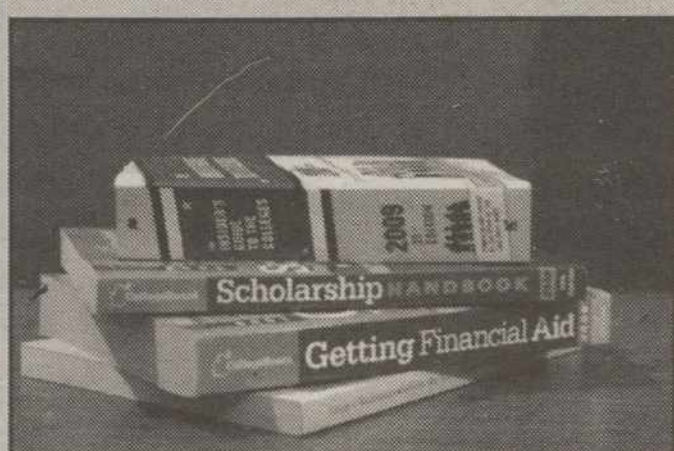
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- Employ Naviance, the WLHS scholarship search. While there is currently a limited selection of mostly gigantic scholarships which may not fit the average among us, in the spring, many scholarships designated for West Linn students will become available.

- There are thousands of scholarships for which students can apply. It's all about knowing which scholarships you are eligible for. Search Naviance websites of colleges you are interested in applying to. There are also web-sites specialized in sorting through scholarships like Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA), which will sort out scholarships into those that interest you and those that don't.

- "There are a ton of local scholarships available that aren't just for the 4.0 students. Many are available for students who participate in different activities, even students who are going to school to study certain fields," Jamie Welle, Guidance and College Center Secretary, said.

- It is important to be familiar with your choice school and know its specific deadlines. "All colleges are different," Welle said. Some colleges require the applications for their scholarships to be turned in around the same time as their early applications are due. Other colleges such as Oregon State University don't require their scholarship applications until early February.



Admissions tips and debunked myths

GALLEY LATHROP

- **BEWARE!** Many private colleges and some public refer to their early application process as "early decision." Here's why. By applying early to the school, you are signing a contract stating that if you are accepted to the school, you will go there. Just because a college utilizes early decision does not mean one should not apply there; just wait until after the early decision deadline has ended.

- Early application is rumored to be both a good and pointless decision. It is both. Applying early may mean you are accepted early, however, you can also be waitlisted. "This simply means that the college is unsure whether they want to accept you or not, and wants to review your application at a later date to make their final decision," Jamie Welle, Guidance and College Center Secretary, said. If you are waiting to apply in order to re-take SAT's or boost your GPA, it is often a good option because it will boost your application.

- The average application fee is \$50, but it can be as low as nothing or as high as \$75. That can add up quickly, especially for those who want a wide variety of options when deciding where to go. Most colleges are willing to waive application fees; simply search the website to find the link and fill out the application.

- The private school option turns off many because of its general high price. However, many don't realize that private schools have much more money (often from private donors, memorials and alumni) to give to students in financial aid.

"Now all I can do is stay strong, not just for me, but for Jake and his family."

—Brett Kruger, freshman

to remove it. Since then he has been receiving chemotherapy and radiation to treat the cancer, sometimes on the same day.

Right now Stoneking has blisters from the treatment and is eating six cans of formula a day through a tube. He has been losing weight, but it has steadied. Friends Mitchell Wible and Mitchell Blatt, freshmen, went trick-or-treating for Stoneking, because he couldn't.

"The power of your support is uplifting," Wendy Stoneking said.