

Tax Information for International Students

by Tammie Key International Student Advisor



General Information

International students are **required** by law to file a tax return with Department of Internal Revenue. If you or your dependents were in the United States last year, (year 2005) for any part of the year, you must file at least one form (**8843**) with the Internal Revenue Service. If you earned income through a campus job, (example: campus employment) you **must** file a tax return, (either **1040-NR EZ** or **1040-NR**). These forms are available at your local post office.

Tax forms must be filed no later than **April 15th**. It is not necessary to have a Social Security number / ID number

if you are only filing the 8843 and did not work / earn income.

Additional Information

When completing the IRS forms (8843, 1040-NR EZ, etc.), international students will need to refer closely to passport and visa information. Additionally, students who have worked in the U.S. will also need information included on any W-2 or 1042-S forms received from the students' employer. (If you worked, but did not receive a W-2 form, you need to contact your employer for further information.)

Final Note

Please remember that even though it is called a Federal Income Tax Return, not everyone who files a "return" is going to get a refund. Many of

you will find out that everything will balance out to "0", and some of you may find out that you owe more taxes to the Federal Government.



Regardless of whether or not you are going to get a refund, you are required by law to file a tax return if you were in the U.S. on an F-1, F-2, J-1, J-2, H-1B, TN visa in previous tax year. By having your checkbook with you when you complete your Federal Income Tax Return you will have a check available to either pay any taxes you do owe, or have information (such as your bank account number) in order for a refund to be electronically deposited into your account.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

International Affairs	1
Writing Contest Winners	1
Students Writing Corner	2
1976 NBA Finals - "The Greatest Basketball Game Ever Played"	3
Jokes and Poem of the Month	4
February Birthdays	4
January Activities Scrapbook	5
The History of Valentine's Day	6
Black History Month	6
Teachers' Tips of the Month	7

January 2006 Writing Contest Winners

Topic: What Changes Do You Expect to Occur in 2006?



1st place – Antonio Marcos da Silva (WR102)

Excerpt:

I hope to see peace, because we never change one's country or society by doing war. I hope everybody drops weapons to the ground, exchange them for white flowers, and give them to their brothers. I'd like everybody to look at people with love, and help poor people such as the tsunami victims. Now those countries need help especially because of the weather: It's wintertime and it's hard for the people to keep warm. Don't stay in your house just watching TV about the war or other things. Let's do something to help our brothers and the Red Cross.



Second Place - Euzimar Andrade (WR103)



Third Place - Kosuke Bando (WR103)

Honorable Mentions:

Mildred Hernandez (WR101), Marilene do Amaral (WR102), and Sang Yub Lee (WR102)

STUDENTS WRITING CORNER


Valentine's Day
 by Nadia


"February is the month of love", - my friend said. I agree with her but not with all of what she said. You can express your love not only in February, but also in other months. By the way, it is known that Valentine's Day is on February 14th. I confidently say that most of you have celebrated this holiday with your beloved people, especially your boyfriends or your girlfriends. I have the most unforgettablely impressive experience about Valentine's Day. I went to Vietnam with my colleague on February 14, 2005. I saw many couples celebrating Valentine's Day while I was walking along the street. Some of them rode bicycles or motorcycles while some of them were walking along the street. I hardly saw Vietnamese girls holding bunches of flowers like I have seen in Thailand. Most of them held only one rose and a balloon. They walked hand in hand with their boyfriends or grasped their boyfriends' waists while they were on bicycles or motorcycles. The thing that definitely impressed me was the atmosphere of how the Vietnamese celebrate Valentine's Day. It seemed to me that all couples were fondly falling in love. That was my wonderful working trip in Vietnam. After I was back in Bangkok, I have been dreaming about dating someone whom I love in Vietnam on Valentine's Day.

For this coming Valentine's Day, I have something about finding the best matches for you. So that you will know who is your best one. This dating lore is from Chinese astrology.

In Chinese astrology, each year is represented by one of twelve animals: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, or pig. It is believed that these animals influence the characteristics of people. Moreover, it is also recommended you find your ideal match for your everlasting love.

Rat: 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008
 Ox: 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009

Tiger: 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010
 Rabbit: 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011
 Dragon: 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012
 Snake: 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013
 Horse: 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014
 Goat: 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015
 Monkey: 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016
 Rooster: 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017
 Dog: 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018
 Pig: 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019

According to "The little big book for brides" the best matches are:

Rat & Monkey, Ox & Rooster, Tiger & Horse, Rabbit & Goat, Dragon & Rat, Snake & Rooster, Horse & Dog, Goat & Goat, Monkey & Dragon, Rooster & Dragon, Dog & Tiger, and Pig & Rabbit. Let's go and get your best match and get pleasure from everlasting love.

My Country, Ethiopia
 by Ermias


Ethiopia is found in the horn of Africa. Its capital city is Addis baba. There are about 73 million people in Ethiopia. We have different tribes. Each tribe has its own language; that means we have more than 84 different languages and 200 dialects. But the official language is Amharic. Most people speak this language. Our people are sociable and hospitable.

Ethiopia has got moderate climate. There is rain for about five months. Due to this, there are some big rivers that run throughout the year, like the Blue Nile, Awash, Baro, Tekeze, Omo and others. The topography of the land is plateau, and most parts of the country are fertile. Thus farmers cultivate various types of crops. Coffee was found for the first time in Ethiopia in the place called "Kaffa". Ethiopian people cultivate wheat, barley, beans, peas, sorghum, oil seeds, teff and other crops.

We have some unique wild animals like walya ibex, niyala, red fox, chellada baboon and other birds. Moreover, we have some historical places such as axum, gonder and lalibella churches.

Axum is deep with in a large area of

mountains. Axum is the site of Ethiopia's most ancient city. According to church legend it also houses the original Ark of the covenant located in the Ethiopia orthodox church. Axum is home to the world's tallest obelisks. The stolen obelisk and others are carved with a door and windows and is thought of like Stonehenge. Italy promised in writing in the 1947 peace treaty to return the obelisk to Axum. So the largest petition in Ethiopia's history which called for the return of the obelisk was signed in 1997. The first and second part of the 1700 year old Axum obelisk arrived in Ethiopia in 2005. Our food is very delicious and spicy. We have stable grain called teff (like pancake bread and thick stews). Stews is enlivened with the spicy mitin shiro, a flavorful combination of ground beans, spices and chilies. They are the most popular dishes and can be made from meat, vegetable, or beans. We also have cultural drinks called tella and a honey wine teje. This is all about my country in brief. I hope you will visit Ethiopia in the future.

My Valentine's Blurb
 by Debora Coivo


It was April 2000 when I was in London and I met this very charming man from OH. He said he would like to go to Brazil one day, we talked for few hours, and I gave him my e-mail address. When I was in Brazil he sent me some emails, sent me some gifts and called me quite a few times. After few months, he went to Brazil and spent a few weeks there. He went to my house and met my family. He ate feijoada, and barbecue, and we went downtown SP. We had a great time! In 2001 I moved to Boston and we kept in touch as good friends. Last August he called me and said that he liked me and would like to date me. Well, I am getting engaged in 2 weeks and getting married very soon. This is going to be my best Valentine's Day!



1976 NBA Finals - "The Greatest Basketball Game Ever Played"

by Brian Smith

(Part 3 of a series)

The Boston Celtics basketball team is the winningest franchise in the history of Boston sports. In the days when the Bruins, the Red Sox, and the Patriots were struggling just to maintain respectability, the Celtics were winning NBA championships. Between 1957 and 1969 the Celtics won eleven NBA titles. In all they've won 16, and each of them was special in its own way. But in the 1976 finals, the Celtics were involved in a game that most basketball aficionados consider "the greatest basketball game ever played." The Celtics' opponents that year were the Phoenix Suns and, at the time, nobody had very high expectations for a competitive match-up. Though the Suns had stars like Paul Westphal and Alvin Adams, they finished third in the Pacific Division, and with a paltry record of 42-40, barely made it to the playoffs. But in the Playoffs they beat Seattle in six games (out of seven) and the Golden State Warriors in seven. The Celtics on the other hand had a 54-28 regular-season record and handled Buffalo and Cleveland with relative ease on their way to the finals. They were loaded with talent that year: future Hall-of-Famers John Havlicek and Dave Cowens, all-stars Paul Silas and JoJo White, and a bench that was deep with well-disciplined substitutes.

In the first two games of the finals at the old Boston Garden, the Celtics, to nobody's surprise, won by scores of 98 to 87 and 105 to 90. Talk of a sweep was pervasive. But back in Phoenix for games three and four, the Suns, to everyone's surprise, beat the Celtics 105 to 98 and 109 to 107. They had momentum, but the Celtics were determined not to let the series slip away with a with a game-five loss in Boston. If they did, game six, the clincher for the Suns, would be played in Phoenix.

I'm sure that most of you who are reading this article never had the pleasure of attending a sporting event at the old Boston Garden (1928-1997), and that's too bad. I

say that because the Garden, in spite of its many flaws (no air conditioning, obstructed-view seating, decrepit rest-rooms), it was one of the most exciting places to be a spectator. The overhanging balconies and the proximity of the fans to the players made the atmosphere intimate. The deafening sound of 15,00 screaming fans electrified the place. It invigorated the home team and intimidated the visitors.

By the second quarter of game five, the Celtics had built up a seemingly insurmountable 22-point lead. But the Suns rallied, tied the game, and forced an overtime period. The Celtics took an early lead again, but again the Suns stormed back and tied the game with seconds on the clock on a spectacular fade-away shot by Garfield Heard forcing a second overtime.

Now, what I'm about to tell you all takes place a span of 10 seconds, so hold on to your hats. With 10 seconds remaining in the second overtime, JoJo White's basket puts the Celtics ahead by three points (109-106). Remember, this is 1976 and the three-point shot doesn't exist yet, so all the Celtics have to do is not foul a Suns player when he shoots. If the shot is good, Boston is still up by one and the game is theirs. Or is it? Phoenix's Dick Van Arsdale sinks an 18-foot jump shot and now all the Celtics have to do is hold on to the ball for a few more seconds. But Paul Westphal steals the inbound pass, flips it to teammate Curtis Perry who also hits 18-footer. Suddenly the Suns are ahead 110-109. Boston has one chance left. John Havlicek gets the inbound pass, makes a move between two defenders, leans in for an off-balance jump shot and banks it off the glass and through the hoop for what appears to be the game-winning shot. Thousands of fans come rushing onto the court in jubilation. But wait a minute. Referee Richard Powers correctly points out that there is one second remaining on the clock. After order is restored, they are ready to play out the final second. In a shrewd gambit, Phoenix

purposely calls a time-out. Since they have already used up their time-outs, they are penalized and the Celtics are awarded a free-throw. JoJo White sinks it and the Celtics are now up by two. But because of the technical foul, rather than getting the ball under their own net, the Suns now gain possession of the ball at mid-court, which was their intention. Celtic coach Tom Heinsohn tells his players that under no circumstances are they to foul the shooter and give them a chance to win the game on free-throws. No way can they score with one second remaining he says. The inbound pass goes to Heard near the top of the key. He is being cautiously covered by Celtic forward Don Nelson. Raspy-voiced broadcasting legend Johnny Most makes the call: "All right here it is, Perry's going to put it in play. It goes now to Heard... It's good!! And it goes into another overtime." The Boston fans are stunned. Moments earlier they were celebrating victory. Now they must endure a third period of overtime.

One of Boston's greatest assets, though, is its talented bench. Many of these players would be starters for most other teams, and down the stretch their skills are showcased. The Suns don't have the same luxury, and even though they put up a great fight till the very end, the Celtics prevail with a 128-126 triple-overtime victory.

The Celtics won game six a couple of days later to win the championship, but it's game five that everyone would remember and would always call "the greatest basketball game ever played."



Celtics Celtics Celtics Celtics Celtics



Jokes

by Nadia

From www.jokesgallery.com



Kuwait Wedding

A journalist had done a story on gender roles in Kuwait several years before the Gulf War, and she noted then that women customarily walked about 10 feet behind their husbands.

She returned to Kuwait recently and observed that the men now walked several yards behind their wives. She approached one of the women for an explanation.

"This is marvelous," said the journalist. "What enabled women here to achieve this reversal of roles?" Replied the Kuwaiti woman: "Landmines."



Dating A Dentist

A guy and a girl meet at a bar. They get along so well that they decide to go to the girl's place. A few drinks later, the guy takes off his shirt and then washes his hands. He then takes off his pants and washes his hands. The girl watches him and says, "You must be a dentist."

The guy, surprised, says "Yes ... how did you figure that out?"

The girl says, "Easy... you keep washing your hands." One thing led to another and they make love. After they were done, the girl says, "You must be a great dentist."

The guy, now with a boosted ego says, "Yes, I sure am a great dentist... How did you figure that out?" The girl says, "Easy... I didn't feel a thing!"

Marriage

A woman is in bed with her lover, who also happens to be her husband's best friend. They make love for hours, and afterwards, while they're just lying there, the phone rings. Since it's the woman's house, she picks up the receiver. Her lover looks over at her and listens, only hearing her side of the conversation. "Hello? Oh, hi. I'm so glad that you called. Really? That's wonderful. I am so happy for you. That sounds terrific. Great! Thanks. Okay. Bye, bye." She hangs up the phone and her lover asks, "Who was that?" "Oh" she replies, "That was my husband telling me all about the wonderful time he's having on his fishing trip with YOU!"

Love

Joy Croft

I love you,
Not only for what you are,
But for what I am
When I am with you.

I love you,
Not only for what
You have made of yourself
But for what
You are making of me.

I love you
For the part of me
That you bring out;
I love you
For putting your hand
Into my heaped-up heart
And passing over
All the foolish, weak things
That you can't help
Dimly seeing there,

Poem of the Month

And for drawing out
Into the light
All the beautiful belongings
That no one else had looked
Quite far enough to find.

I love you because you
Are helping me to make
Of the lumber of my life
Not a tavern
But a temple;
Out of the works
Of my every day
Not a reproach
But a song.

I love you
Because you have done
More than any creed
Could have done
To make me good,

And more than any fate
Could have done
To make me happy.
You have done it
Without a touch,
Without a word,
Without a sign.
You have done it
By being yourself
Perhaps that is what
Being a friend means,
After all.



February Birthdays

- 1 Hovsep Davtyan
- 2 Mika Suzuki
- 5 Sung Wook Hong
- 7 Evgeny Bochinin
- 10 Caroline Senkal
- 10 Yu-Chieh Kao
- 13 Ayauly Mukatovna
- 14 Togookhuu Chuluun
- 15 Arman Petrosyan
- 16 Chia Hung Hung
- 16 Helen Likhmanenko
- 16 Randy Joseph
- 17 Hae Won Han
- 17 Joelson Scussel
- 17 Lukasz Borucki
- 18 Akie Yoshikawa
- 18 Andriy Kekosh
- 20 Maria Cristina Polo Yepiz
- 25 Mitsuru Yoneyama
- 25 Dong Yul Yoo
- 27 Lyubomir Tsanev
- 28 Sonia Maria Paula

January Activities Scrapbook



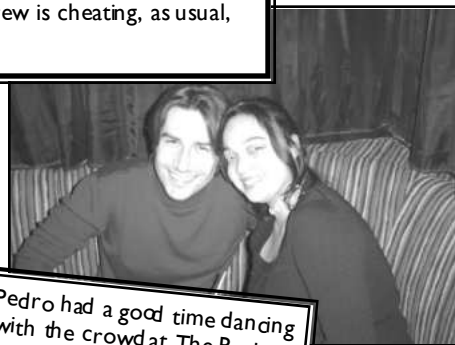
Dianne and Alexandra take a moment to pose for the camera during International Lunch. The food was plentiful, the portions generous, and the selection vast.



Another intense game of Uno breaks out during International Lunch. Andrew is cheating, as usual, yet still unable to win!



The party at The Rack was a huge success. Here, Sermin, Jungmin, Funda and Ethan get together to show their friendship.



Vanessa and Pedro had a good time dancing and mingling with the crowd at The Rack. How much were the tickets? FREE!!!!!!.



Mitsuru was one of the prize winners at International Lunch. He displays his championship pose here. He was just one of the many who took home a prize that day!



Luciana took many student to lunch at Fire and Ice in Harvard Square. Bushra, Phannee, Wallybia and Roberta were among the twenty or so who experienced one of Boston's most popular restaurants.



Raymond and Eugeny, two perennial ping pong combatants, show off their rewards for winning the ping pong tournament.



Fernanda and Anderson were also at The Rack enjoying a celebratory evening.

February is also a great time to have fun. Look at the Activities Calendar for more things to do. At Approach, students learn while enjoying



The History of Valentine's Day

Debbie Billmers

Be Mine. I'm Yours. Cutiepie. Love Me. Such expressions as these adorn the candy hearts we eat in February, the month of love – the month of Valentine's Day. Many Americans send Valentine's Day cards to those they love on February 14th, also known as St. Valentine's Day. They write poems and other sweet things, and they sign the cards, "From Your Valentine." But who was this saint? Nobody knows for certain the answer to this question, but the most likely story dates back to ancient Roman times.

The Roman Empire had been a very successful one, but towards the end of the third century, the Empire began to weaken. The emperor at the time, Claudius II, created a law that young men could not marry because they fought better if they had no families. Valentine was a Roman priest who believed this to be unjust, and he continued to marry young lovers in secret. Emperor Claudius eventually discovered what Valentine was doing and sentenced him to death. While Valentine was in prison waiting to be executed, he fell in love with the daughter of his jailor. Finally, just before he was to be killed, he wrote a farewell message to his lover, signed "From Your Valentine," the phrase we use today. After his death Valentine became a saint in the eyes of the church. This still fails to answer the question of why we celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th. Some say that St. Valentine was executed in February. The best answer is that the 14th is right in the middle of February, when the pagans in Rome used to hold a celebration every year. Eventually this celebration became Christian instead of pagan. During this celebration, men and women picked the name of a saint from a box and they would act like that saint for the year. The Pope chose Saint Valentine as the patron saint of this celebration.

In honor of Saint Valentine, men came to demonstrate their love for women during this time. They often gave these women hand-written notes, signed "From Your Valentine." This is how the tradition of sending Valentine's Day cards began! The very first true Valentine's Day card is believed to have been sent by Charles, the Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415, much as Valentine had been imprisoned before his own death.

Though no one is sure of the truth about Saint Valentine, it is clear that he lived, that he was a priest who helped lovers in need, and that he was a heroic, caring, romantic figure in Roman history who died for the greatest cause of all: love. When you write Valentine's Day cards to your family, friends, boyfriends, and girlfriends this month, think of Saint Valentine and all that he died for. Cherish those you love and who love you, and remember that sometimes sending the smallest note can mean the world to someone. Today Valentine's Day is a day of love, but also of friendship. It's a day to remind our family and friends that we do love them, because often, with our busy lives, we don't say it enough. Happy Valentine's Day!



Black History Month

by Ethan Sewall

As I was driving to work this morning, a lady on the radio said that we should all remember that February is Black History Month and honor the memories of the most influential figures in blues, jazz, rock 'n roll, hip-hop, reggae and world music. I thought to myself, *Wow, that really is an impressive list of musical genres*, and acknowledged that there was some good to having a Black History Month. I quickly reminded myself though, that there is more to it than just that. *Why indeed*, I thought, *is there a special month for black history?* After all, if there were a special month for white history, people would undoubtedly call it racist, and they would have a point. Yet somehow it is not considered racist to have a Black History Month. The answer to this question lies in a careful consideration of the term

"black" itself. The label is deeply entrenched in circumstances born of oppression, and therefore it cannot give us a true understanding of the world. We call some people "black" and some people "white," as if that really says something about who they are on the inside, but of course it doesn't. There is no such thing as a "black" person, or a "white" person. Look at a black leather jacket or a white coffee mug and ask yourself if you have ever seen anyone with that skin color. When presented with this contradiction, people often pooh-pooh it, dismissing it as a minor detail that doesn't really matter that much. But they are wrong. It is, in fact, the crux of the biscuit. The ultimate effect of this false naming is that it dichotomizes two kinds of people ("black" and "white") and leaves everyone else out. What is a Korean person, black or white? A Pakistani? An Arab? A Brazilian?

If one thinks of oneself as "white," then a "black" person is no longer just another person, but also one's exact opposite. Unfortunately, this sneakily divides a great mass of people who actually have many things very much in common, and especially one: poverty, from relative to absolute. This division is extremely convenient for rich people, the minority, who want to keep the status quo, which exalts them above poor people, the majority. So, when you see something about Black History Month this February, take an interest. Find out whom they are talking about, what those individuals have done. Increase your knowledge about and awareness of your neighbors. But remember one thing: our understanding must transcend the false naming of an ignorant, self-propagating system. If it does not, we are unwittingly perpetuating oppressive circumstances, however good our intentions may be.

Tips of the Month from Our Teachers

Reading Recommendation

by Alison MacAdams

A Natural History of Love

by Diane Ackerman



Ackerman is a poet and journalist who is fascinated with science. The result is insightful writing that explores various themes related to love. Ackerman looks at love and romance through the ages and the physical and psychological chain reactions that are triggered in the game of love. Her writing is entertaining, thoughtful, and intriguing. Perhaps you will walk away from this book having realized a thing or two about love and life!



Expression of the Month

by Debbie Billmers



“You’ll be in my heart.”

It’s the month of Valentine’s Day, and now is the time to remind people that you care about them. If you tell someone that he or she will be in your heart, it means that you will be thinking of them in the future and that they are very special to you. While our hearts are part of our body, we also associate our hearts with love. It doesn’t really make sense to tell someone that he or she is *inside* your heart, but this is a very common and very sweet expression that means that you care about someone very much and will remember them always.

Common Mistake

by Luciana Sarra



Believe it or not, some students sometimes forget to use a verb in their sentences...

Never forget to use a verb (or verbs) in your sentences – a sentence without a verb IS NOT a sentence! Remember the magic formula: SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT.

If you have any questions on this topic, look for a tutor in the study room and he or she will be glad to assist you.

Test Preparation Recommendations

by Peter Keshavan



Since the TOEFL changed its format last year, it has been difficult to get an appointment to take the exam. Test centers are usually completely booked for weeks or even months, and some students have had to travel far from Boston to take the test. So plan ahead. If you know that you are going to need the TOEFL, make your test appointment as soon as possible. Plan your preparation schedule around your appointment date. Speaking of dates, don’t forget the best way to improve your listening comprehension this month: Become romantically involved with a native speaker of English.

Movie Recommendation

by Brian Smith



28 Days (2000)

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Dominic West, Elizabeth Perkins

Gwen Cummings (Bullock) thinks that her excessive drinking is just part of the territory for being a party girl, but when her alcoholism has a dramatically negative impact on those around her, she must face her current problems as well as her disturbing past. A serious topic dealt with tactfully and with humor. By far the best performance of Bullock’s career.

Activity Tips

by Andrew Haynes



If you’re feeling uninspired, lazy, depressed, and altogether grumpy, here are some surefire things to do to get yourself back into life. Walk down Newbury Street. This is the best street for people watching; pick a café or a restaurant, order a diet soda, and just sit and watch the people and contemplate.

People-watching is free and you’d be surprised at how much you can learn by simply observing people as they go about their ordinary lives. Also, some of the best architecture in the city of Boston is located along this street, particularly in Copley Square. The Boston Public Library is located here and this building is a treasure; some of Boston’s most beautiful art is inside this building. And guess what? The Boston Public Library gives free tours of the building every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. This is a perfect way to start the day. Right next to Newbury Street is Marlborough, and this is a great avenue of amazing apartments. Look in the doorways and through the bay windows of some of these magnificent apartments and you’ll be amazed at the grandeur. If you ever suddenly get rich and want to live in Boston, then move to Marlborough Street. If you follow Newbury Street eventually you’ll come to the Boston Common and the Frog Pond. Now this activity only costs four dollars, eight if you have to rent skates. But even if you don’t want to skate, you can sit and watch the people skate. It’s hilarious. Many of them have no idea how to skate and they fall on their bums several times in attempting to learn. So, if you are feeling blue, have no money, and don’t know what to do, try Newbury and Marlborough Streets; you’ll find something that will brighten your day.

Special Offers for Approach Students



**WEDNESDAY'S
SPECIAL**

GET ANY FOOT-LONG SUB FOR ONLY

\$3.99

(617) 254-1999 We deliver!!!

162 Harvard Ave.
Allston, MA 02134

SUBWAY

**If you want to reach
our students
PLACE YOUR AD HERE**



196 Harvard Ave. #6
Allston, MA 02134

Phone: 617-787.5401
Fax: 617-787.4926
www.ConnectBoston.com