Happy Holidays! On Saturday, December 22, 2012 at 12am EDT (4am GMT), we will be upgrading our General Availability (formerly called "Operations") environment to Starfish® 3.0 and our Early Availability environment to a small update called Starfish® 3.1. Please expect up to three hours of downtime.

In our Early Availability environment: Starfish 3.1

- **Blackboard 10 Support**
  The Starfish Blackboard Building Block is now compatible with Blackboard 9.1 SP10 (aka Blackboard 10). Contact Starfish Support to obtain the new Building Block if you are planning on upgrading your Blackboard instances.

- **Early Alert Summary Report**
  Administrators can view a summary report of Flags and Kudos raised in the system. The report answers questions like, "How many were raised?" or "How many are still active and how many are still active?" This is an ideal report to provide to the academic administrators on campus.

- **Test Your Email Templates!**
  Have you asked us to create a new email template for your Starfish environment? We can now send you a test email, so you can see what emails using the template will look like. Let your account manager know who should receive the test email when you send us the template.

- **Waiting Room Kiosk: Bug Fixes and Enhancements**
  As the beta process for the waiting room progresses, we are addressing many of the bugs and enhancement requests reported by our beta partners.

**TIPS & TRICKS**

**How do I filter my students by cohort?**

The new course/organization enrollment search on the Students lists allows you to limit the students displayed in the Students lists to those enrolled in specific course. If you want to view all of your students in a particular cohort, this field will allow you to do it.

First, create organizations for various cohorts, such as athletics teams or TRiO students, and enroll students in the organizations for their cohorts.

You can now search for these cohorts by organization name or ID to filter the My Students or Tracking lists to students in those cohorts.
In our General Availability environment: Starfish 3.0

- **SpeedNotes**
  Our existing free-form text notes are useful to document the complex nature of what happened between a student and his/her advisor (or other staff member). **SpeedNotes** allow advisors to record the activities, discussion points and outcomes of their meetings quickly, and SpeedNotes make it easier for institutions to report and analyze the activities that occurred in meetings. Administrators can configure a set of activities to record and use them in a range of appointment types. When editing an Appointment/Meeting, advisors will see a new SpeedNotes mini-tab. The advisor simply checks off all of the activities that occurred during the meeting. These activities are then visible in the Student Folder and in reports along with the rest of the meeting details and notes.

- **No Show Messages**
  For any appointment type, administrators can enable emails to be automatically sent when a student misses an appointment. A No Show Message Template can be customized for your Starfish environment. To enable this feature and customize the message template, please contact your Starfish Account Manager.

- **Referral/To-Do Reminder Messages**
  Notifications can now be sent to students, advisors and anyone else when the due date of a Referral or To-Do has passed and that item has not be resolved. Custom message templates can be created for these reminder emails. To enable the feature and create custom message templates, please contact your Starfish Account Manager.

- **Advanced Search: Course Enrollments**
  Want to view all of your advisees enrolled in developmental or gateway classes? The Advanced Search on the Students lists now includes a course and organization search. Advisors can filter their list of students down to those students who are actively enrolled in a specific course or organization or any that match a specific pattern (e.g., MATH101).

- **Moodle 2.3 Support**
  The Starfish Moodle Adapter is now compatible with Moodle 2.3. Contact Starfish Support to receive the new adapter if you are planning on upgrading to Moodle 2.3.

- **Starfish Go Home**
  Do you spend most of your time in Starfish on a specific page (e.g., Zoom In, Appointments or Tracking)? You can now select the default Starfish page you wish to display when you login. Simply update your Institutional Profile to select your homepage.

- **Import Attendance Data**
  Are your instructors using a 3rd party system to record attendance (e.g., Clickers or your SIS)? Now your institution can use the Starfish SIS Adapter to import attendance data recorded in other systems. Contact Starfish Support to request the updated SIS documentation and adapter.

For detailed Starfish 3.0 and Starfish 3.1 Release Notes, visit the Release Notes area of the Starfish Online Support wiki. Also, don’t forget to check out our Starfish System Status Twitter page at http://twitter.com/starfishstatus for regular updates on system performance, stability and downtime.