



January/February 2009

From the principal:

Welcome Parents of the Class of 2013!

With the start of a new year, it is already time to start thinking ahead to next fall. For our veteran parents, this newsletter comes along with your sons or daughters' first semester grades. For our new parents, this is the first issue of the newsletter you will be receiving approximately every 4 1/2 weeks. I hope these provide you with some of the necessary information you need to keep up with what is going on at the high school. Welcome to Palatine!

Hopefully you have already had a chance to review first semester grades with your student. Take a moment to congratulate successful efforts and encourage hard-earned progress. If grades were not quite what your student had hoped for, encourage him or her to remember that the new semester is a time for a fresh start. Work on setting both long-term and short-term goals for second semester; make sure the goals are clear, reasonable and achievable.

Students will also soon be working with their counselors to select courses for next year. Be sure to talk with your student about future educational plans and possible career goals. Keep these plans and goals in mind as you review the course selection sheets and curriculum guide together. Palatine has over 200 courses in its curriculum; I encourage students to take advantage of the many elective classes PHS offers in addition to the required courses -- they are a great way to round out and enrich the educational experience. If you have any scheduling questions, please feel free to contact your child's counselor or teachers.

Gary Steiger
Principal



Juniors to Take State Test in April

Illinois High Schools are preparing to administer the Statewide Prairie State Achievement Examination (P.S.A.E.) that will be given to all juniors on April 22 and 23, 2009. Students are required by the State of Illinois to participate in the Illinois Alternative Assessment in order to be eligible to receive a high school diploma. The P.S.A.E. measures students' knowledge of reading, writing, mathematics, and science through a series of tests. The tests will include the American College Test (ACT), WorkKeys tests in reading and mathematics, and additional tests developed by the Illinois State Board of Education. The WorkKeys assessments will measure students' mathematics and reading skills when applied to workplace situations. Students will have the option of sending their ACT scores including the ACT Writing Test to colleges as part of the application process.

Further information regarding the P.S.A.E. will be mailed to each student's home in March. Additional information about these state mandated tests is available at the Illinois State Board of Education web site at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment>.

Take a Look at Our Foreign Exchange Program!

Palatine High School is pleased to announce the 16th exchange with Costa Rica this year. This year we are hosting seventeen students from Zarcero, Alajuela. The Costa Ricans will arrive in January 2009 and will be staying with us for two weeks. We are currently looking for families to host the Costa Rican students. If you are interested in sharing in this wonderful experience please contact Jonathan Kosovski at jkosovski@d211.org or (847)755-1730.

Guided Study Hall

At Palatine High School, we have high expectations for all our students to be successful in reaching their academic potential. For those who are struggling, we offer a variety of programs to help them succeed, including tutorial centers in the math, English, and science departments and the Accelerated Learning Center.

At the start of second semester we require sophomores and juniors who have failed one or more academic courses and who have an open period in their schedules to participate in the guided study hall program. We also encouraged those students with full schedules to participate in the program during the first half of their lunch hours. During the assigned guided study hall, teachers assist students by helping them manage their time and keep track of assignments; getting them the academic support they need to be successful in their classes; and require them to monitor their own academic progress. Additionally, teachers will assist students in developing reading and writing skills and computers will be available for students to use test preparation software to hone the skills they need to succeed on state tests.

Guidelines for Senior Final Examinations

District 211 allows seniors who meet appropriate criteria to apply for exemptions from second semester examinations.

To qualify, a senior student must have at least a "C" average in the class; have fewer than six absences from the class; have never been suspended or truant from the class, and not be incomplete on assignments required by the teacher. Seniors who qualify for exemption may elect to take final examinations to improve grades. Seniors wishing to take final examinations or those who do not qualify for exemption will take their examinations on June 3, 4, and 5, after graduation ceremonies scheduled for May 31, 2009.



If you require assistance while visiting our school, please contact the principal's office at (847) 755-1600.

dates to remember

- January 16** Teacher Institute - **No School**
- January 19** Martin Luther King Jr.
No School
- February 4-7** Musical - Seussical
Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.
- February 13** VIP Dinner Dance
- February 14** District 211 Honors Orchestra at
Schaumburg High School
7:30 p.m. - Auditorium
- February 3** **LATE START**
Morning Work Sessions
- February 20** **Early Dismissal**
State Girls' Gymnastics Meet
12:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
- February 21** State Girls' Gymnastics Meet
6:30 p.m.
- February 16** Presidents' Day – **No School**
- February 17** **LATE START**
- February 24** Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m. - Auditorium
- March 10** **LATE START**
- March 11** Band Concert
7:30 p.m. - Auditorium
- March 13** Choral Concert
7:30 p.m. - Auditorium

Leadership in Action

Building on the success of last year's event, Varsity Club and Leadership for Life students joined efforts on Tuesday, November 25th to deliver Pirate Pete's 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Feast. In addition to an excellent spaghetti dinner, community members were treated to live musical performances from students and staff as well as over 70 raffle prizes. District Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Robb was also in attendance delivering desserts to local families. Throughout the evening, students served over 800 members of the Palatine Community, 400 of these tickets were provided free to various organizations throughout Palatine that provide supportive services to those in need. Transportation was also made available through coordinated pick-up/drop-off times with Palatine Opportunity Center and Palatine Senior Center locations. The efforts of over 100 students help to bring this event together, creating leadership opportunities through community service and volunteerism. Students also learn the importance of citizenship, recognizing that their efforts have made a positive impact within the community they live. Faculty sponsors of the event are Heath McFaul, Luke Skony and Adrienne Stackwell.

Congratulations are in order:

- ❖ **Pirate Pride Winners (First Semester):** Omar Abarca-Coria, Michael Abram, Fernando Alcantara, Aracely Alvarez, Luis Arias, Yessenia Arias, Lizbeth Arreola, Abraham Ayala, Maria Baeza, Ana Bailon, Claire Baltz, Drew Barnes, Adriana Bartolo, Courtney Bauer, Melissa Baumann, Ruben Bautista, Dominique Bentley, Cody Bizeau, Magdalena Blancas, Luis Botello, Phillip Brand, Zachary Bridier, Maureen Brodeur, Prentiss Brooks, Maggie Bunce, Jake Campa, Michael Campbell, Anthony Campos, Dominic Cannon, Erin Carroll, Kevin Castrejon, Hayley Chartier, Jasmine Chew, Sebastian Cieckiewicz, Joshua Clark, Jonathan Clark, Ian Coakley, Brian Colby, Kevin Colish, Ryan Cortez, Sebastian Dabrowski, Bridget Damisch, Shannon Eliasek, Austin Ellis, Daniel Esquivel, Willie Filian, Benjamin Fleishchman, David Fleming, Alexis Foster, Jacquelynn Fosterud, Andres Garcia, Katelyn Garrett, Victor Geary, Kellie Gharib, Matthew Golash, Karla Gomez, Jonathan Gonzalez, Kelsey Griffin, Ana Grisham, Matthew Gustafson, Hannah Guth, Ryan Gutschick, Jessica Hauert, Ashley Haynes, Alejandro Hernandez, Michael Hernandez, Hilda Hernandez, Zurisadai Hernandez, Hilda Hernandez, Deborah Hernandez, Rolando Hernandez, Denis Hernandez, Nieve Heskin, Julie Hoadley, Allyson Hoary, Alex Holzinger, Brenda Huerta, Kelly Hussey, Jasmin Ibarra, David Irsay, Katherine Irving, Ronnie Jackson, Tyler Jones, Maria Juache, Kelly Kass, Elizabeth Kenkel, Ryan Kenter, Christopher Kenter, Abrar Khan, Sid Kincl, Keith Klemp, Alexandra Kulyk, Isabella Labbe, Bianca Linares, Bianca Linares, Amanda Lojko, Sonnya Lozano, Steven Lukas, Yessenia Malagon, Zaida Marin, Alla Matsiyevska, Rhiannon Matuszak, Michael McManus, Daniel Michie, Brittany Middleton, Aamir Mohammed, Spring Montgomery, Natalie Morgan, William Muscarello, Mayra Nieto, Sarah Nisivaco, Emily Nolan, Ellen Nordin, Rodolfo Ochoa, Rosario Pacheco, Salvador Palacios, Noemi Palmas, Michael Panas, Victoria Parra, Emily Pilguy, Kristen Plesniak, Jason Popp, Lydia Quinones, Rebecca Ramirez, Steve Repking, Enrique Rivas-Villalobos, Miguel Rivera, Jose Rivera, Andrew Robinson, Erica Rodriguez, Maricruz Rodriguez, Kyle Roll, Rendy Romaniz, Efren Rosales, Rebecca Ruegger, Caitlyn Sabie, Estefania Salguero, Eric Sanchez, Julia Savich, Kristin Schmidt, Dayna Schwartz, Jocelyn Segovia, Parth Shah, Sophia Silva, James Smearman, Michael Soderstrom, Kyle Spires, Ulyana Starchuk, Rivka Stelman, Kristen Strok, Francis Suh, Heather Suiter, Nicole Szufladowicz, Riley Taggart, Lisette Teran, Ninfa Torres, Enrique Trejo-Flores, Artur Tsurulnik, Katie Van Grondelle, Daniel Walker, Santana Wallace, Nicole Wells, Maggie Wheat, Adam Wisbrock, Wade York, Victoria Zimmerman, Stephen Zych.
- ❖ **"Do the Right Thing" Winners (August-December):** Dominique Bentley, Ashton Berry, Cody Bizeau, Chris Bradley-Simmons, Barrett Brown, Dulce Corona, Gary Crawford, Danielle Demarke, James Dizon, Anton Eugenis, Edwin Frobel, Jon Fusha, Katelyn Garrett, Ryan Gebis, Gabriel Hernandez, Julie Hoadley, Lauren LaCapra, Daniel Luna, Morgan Malinowski, Megan McNichols, Eric Mendoza, Noemi Palmas, Brittany Pellegrini, Leesa Powell, Michael Ramser, Samantha Ritchie, Enrique Rivas-Villalobos, Chandler Rosenthal, Jacob Shenkman, Kristian Stenerson, Joshua Soto, Anastasia Zachery.

VIP (Very Interested Parents) Booster Club

The Palatine High School Booster Club provides a tremendous amount of support to our students and staff throughout the year. The VIP's provide financial support as well as provide coat check at school events, sell concessions and spirit wear at various events including athletics and open house, sponsor the Spring Craft Fair, help plan and organize a wide variety of events to benefit our students, and sponsor a drug and alcohol free post prom event, as well as plan the annual VIP Dinner and Auction.

There is a reservation form included with this mailing for our dinner dance this year. Plan on joining us on Friday, February 13th for our 25th Annual Dinner and Auction. There will be door prizes, raffle prizes, a DJ, and both a live auction and silent auction. Profits from this event benefit all students at PHS. Last year we were able to award twelve \$1,000 scholarships to deserving seniors, as well as fund an After The Prom Event, Athletic Facility Improvement Fund, Royal Rally events, Trick or Treat with Pirate Pete, and over \$30,000 in other events/grants to the Palatine High School. Please help us do all of this by coming to the dance, donating an auction item, or just donating if you can to this worthwhile event.

The 16th Annual Spring Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, March 14th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's always a huge undertaking and the boosters are always looking for volunteers to help. It's a great way to meet new friends and get involved.

Check your mail for the Booster raffle tickets in February. This is the last fundraiser that the After-the-Prom committee will run this year. The Grand Prize will be \$2,000! Please support the boosters in their efforts to provide our children with a drug and alcohol free event.

For additional information, if you have any questions, or would like to help in any way, please call Kelley Garby at (847)705-9040 or Susan Stamatkin at (847)359-7941.

What's New in English

The English Department has 28 teachers dedicated to improve the reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking skills for students of all abilities by introducing them to a variety of texts including novels, short stories, plays, poems, and non-fiction that both challenge and engage them. Students participate in activities designed to deepen their understanding through attention to reading strategies, writing and discussion in order to gain new insights into the works and the topics they address.

This year, we have offered six American Studies sections (a team-taught approach to American history and American literature) and several co-taught sections of freshman and sophomore English classes taught by an English teacher and a Special Education teacher in order to best meet the needs of students. We have also introduced a team-taught reading and English class for our at-risk readers. Likewise, all teachers are emphasizing critical learning standards in both reading and writing — skills we believe will help our students to become more independent learners and thinkers.

In our effort to incorporate these reading and writing skills across the curriculum, seven of our certified reading teachers are serving as literacy coaches to help content area teachers develop materials and a common vocabulary to help students understand that skills they are taught in their English also apply in their other classes.

Our students continue to be successful in English-related activities outside the classrooms. Our students continue to earn awards at the various writing contests they enter, our speech team and newly formed debate team to place well in competition, and our students have taken top-honors at the monthly poetry slams held monthly. Likewise, 92 percent of our students who take the Advance Placement tests in English score well enough to earn college credit.

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS 2009 PALATINE HIGH SCHOOL

❖ *Out of 578 eligible students 106 students were named Illinois State Scholars this year. We are proud to announce this year's Palatine High School's Illinois State Scholars:*

Farah Ali, Britta Anderson, Eduardo Aquije, Matthew Baran, Matthew Bartolameolli, Courtney Bartz, Nicholas Bessinas, Adam Bethke, Joseph Bickner, Clarke Blackham, Eric Blyth, Samuel Carlson, Kathryn Charlier, Michelle Ching, Eric Colish, Nicholas Coteus, Erin Cox, Sebastian Dabrowski, Anna Demma, Connor Dillon, Elizabeth Duvall, Katherine Feekin, Eric Floberg, Alexander Foley, Alexis Foster, Grace Franz, Nicholas Froggatt, Stephanie Frost, Gregory Gabbard, Brendan Gerdes, Rebecca Goesling, Olivia Gregorio, Kevin Grewe, Jennifer Haare, Samantha Hall, Megan Hanson, Megan Harahan, Jessica Hauert, Tyler Hein, Daniel Huenecke, Kaitlin Johnson, Nathaniel Jones, Eric Joyner, Elizabeth Jump, Megan Kane, Katherine Kelly, Kylie Kosulic, Sarah Krantz, Daniel Krippinger, Daniel LaRocca, Todd Leitgeb, Daniel Levitus, Christopher Liquin, Matthew Majcan, Erin Mancini, Soon Mansur, Colleen Maund, Sean McCarthy, Sara-Clare McGeever, Gloria McIntosh, Meghan McNulty, Brienna Moertl, Allison Mohr, Colin Morlock, Michael Murphy, Haider Nasir, Annie Nordin, Vladislav Novikov, Anna Novikova, Courtney Nowlan, Justin Olson, Brian O'Shea, Neel Patel, Erik Peterson, Emilie Piasecki, Andrew Prombo, Alexis Rachwalski, Lauren Reynolds, Eric Rodriguez, Kathryn Ryba, Samantha Saltess, Dayna Schwartz, Kevin Setze, Krista Shutvet, James Silveira, Adam Smith, Lewis Smith, Alyssa Sohn, Emanouil Spassov, Jacob Starceвич, Rachel Stuck, Yousuf Syed, Steven Temple, Derek Thielsen, John Tomassone, Jenny Ugalde, Alejandra Urbina, Shruthi Venkatesh, Adam Wisbrock, Kathryn Wischhusen, Feiyu Xue, Anqi Yang, Robert Zagoudis, Erik Ziehm, Marcin Zuberek, Rachel Zwirkoski.

Scholarships Available

Did you know that the High School District 211 Foundation awarded over 35 scholarships last year, totaling over \$45,000? Check the website (or have your child check with his/her counselor) for a list of available scholarships.

The Foundation's website address is www.d211.org/foundation_home.shtml.

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Happy New Year!