

Cougar Campus News



Important Dates:

February 16	Presidents' Day – <i>No School</i>
February 23	Parent/Teacher Conferences – <i>½ Day of Attendance</i>
February 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences – <i>No School</i>
February 27	End of 4 th 6-Week Grading Period

From the Desk of Dan Goggins:

- ✚ “Our high schools were designed fifty years ago to meet the needs of another age. Until we design them to meet the needs of the 21st century, we will keep limiting, even ruining the lives of millions of Americans every year...” This is an excerpt from a speech Bill Gates gave in 2005 to the National Governors Association. Now, if you were waiting for me to rebut these statements in the remainder of my article, you can stop waiting because I am not going to since, to some degree, I agree with what he said. What he goes on to explain is what I would call the traditional high school, one that puts kids into different tracks and puts limits on some kids opportunities to have access to rigorous coursework and limits their ability to achieve a post high school education. Gates discusses the importance of some formal education beyond high school being necessary in order to increase opportunities for employment and earn a salary high enough to at least support a family. Without question, changing an American institution like high school is not something that happens overnight. However, I am proud to say that in the four years I have been in District 202 we have implemented numerous high school changes. Primarily those changes focus on providing more kids opportunities for rigorous coursework and putting more kids in a position to achieve an education beyond high school. Have we succeeded with every kid? No. Are the necessary changes all in place to ensure every kids success? No. Do we care about the success of every kid and are we willing to make more changes necessary for all kids to succeed? Yes, absolutely. We have to, for those kids in high school now and for the 5th grade student at Ridge Elementary School who sent me this. Cougars are “perfect walkers”, when walking, each back paw steps in the exact same spot where the front paw had been. He also wrote, I hope you found these facts interesting and I look forward to being a cougar in a few years because I hear that “it’s good to be a Cougar!” I couldn’t agree more.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

- ✚ Plainfield South High School is pleased to inform you that we will again be using the on-line program called PTC Wizard to schedule parent teacher conferences. Parent Teacher Conferences are Monday, February 23 and Tuesday, February 24, 2009. You will be able to access this system for 2 weeks prior to conferences starting Monday, February 9 and running through Sunday, February 22.

The PTC Wizard system allows you to schedule your own appointments with your child(ren)’s teachers. You can access the website by going to www.learningcommunity202.org/pshs/. Under Announcements, you will be able to register for the site (if not already done so during the fall ’08 conference), by entering your name, an email address, and a password. Once you enter your child’s name, you will be taken through a simple, step-by-step procedure, which allows you to choose from your child’s teachers’ available time slots. After you create a conference schedule for yourself, the details of your schedule will automatically be emailed to you. If you do not have access to the internet please contact the Main Office at 815.439.5555 after February 9.

We look forward to seeing you at the Parent Teacher Conferences scheduled for February 23 (12 Noon -4 PM and 5 PM-8 PM) and February 24 (4 PM – 7 PM). Your engagement in your students’ education is much appreciated.

Eagle Scout – Larry James Kleikamp:

- ✚ Plainfield South High School would like to congratulate student Larry James Kleikamp who was recently recognized for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 175 sponsored by the Moose Lodge #300. Larry completed a service project for the Moose Lodge. He coordinated the renovation of the front landscaping of the facility’s entrance. Larry designed, obtained donations for, recruited manpower for installation, coordinated work sessions to build a decorative retaining wall, and removed landscaping, replacing it with other more refined and easy care plants and shrubs. He did a wonderful job, worked very hard to complete the task, conducted himself professionally and showed a great deal of leadership. Congratulations to Larry James Kleikamp for his achievements and service.

He exemplifies why “it is good to be a cougar”.

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Foreign Language Department:

✚ Guten Appetit!

German 2 students will do a project about food and restaurants in Germany. They will create their own menus, write and perform skits using authentic props and costumes, and will bring in German food to share with the whole class. Several of the students are of German heritage and may bring in a dish that has been a tradition in their families. Thus, it will be a great opportunity to share traditions, enjoy homemade German food, and learn about the German culture as well.

Spring Musical:

✚ Preparations are under way for the 2009 PSHS Spring Musical, *The Music Man*. The cast, pit and crews have all been selected, and approximately 100 students are now designing, building, practicing, singing, and dancing their way to a top-notch production. Performances of this musical theater classic will be March 20-22, 2009. Tickets will go on sale in the PSHS main office February 17, 2009, and will be \$5 for students and \$7 for adults. *The Music Man* is a wholesome family-friendly show with some comedy and romance for everyone! Mark your calendars now, and don't miss out on this great production!

Music Department:

✚ Prom Fashion Show

PSHS Choirs will be sponsoring the first annual Plainfield South Prom Fashion Show on Saturday, February 7th. All the latest prom fashions for both guys and girls will be modeled by PSHS Cougars. Many different prom-related vendors will be represented, including shops for dresses, formalwear, jewelry, limousine rentals, and more! A raffle will be held for great prizes, including the grand prize, a \$300 gift certificate for a prom gown! You must be present to win, so don't miss out! Admission is \$5 for students and \$6 for adults. Tickets will go on sale in the PSHS main office beginning January 20th.

Math Department:

✚ CSI at PSHS

Algebra 2 Honors students in Nicholas Rayola's class did a forensics project that dealt with tracing blood droplets back to their origin (location in which they came from the body). The forensics project was a combination of math and science involving trigonometry. Phil Pakowski, forensics teacher, co-taught the class by introducing the project and how blood droplets form and Nick taught students how to find the location using trigonometry. After practicing together with the class, each student individually got a chance to check their work with (fake) blood splatters on the floor.

✚ MATH TEAM

The PSHS math team finished fourth overall in their conference at Southwest Prairie Conference (SPC) Math Contest on Wednesday, December 10, 2008. Team members placed as follows:

1. First Place:

Factoring: freshmen Robert Koulakes, Ana Barrios, Vincent Park, Todd McGuire

2. Second Place:

Calculator Competition: seniors Kyle Baczynski, Tyler Gedvilas and Maggie Maddox, junior Chris Albert and freshman Vincent Park

Exponents: juniors Brittany Powers, Brian Amelio, Yue Zhu, Kariana Weis

3. Third Place:

Linear Equations: freshmen Robert Koulakes, Todd McGuire, Barbara Barrios, Ana Barrios

System of Equations: juniors Jorge Barrios, Yue Zhu, Alex Fishbeck, Brittany Powers

Geometry of a Right Triangle: juniors Alex Fishbeck, Chris Albert, Maria Szocinska, Kariana Weis

Sequences and Series: seniors Dario Romero, Julia Briscoe, Bridgette McGuire and junior Yue Zhu

Junior/Senior 8 person team: juniors Yue Zhu, Alex Fishbeck, Maria Szocinska, Brian Amelio and seniors Patricia Saban, Dario Romero, Sarah Daoud and Robert Hatch

In addition, sophomore Jon Resler and juniors Alex Fishbeck, Yue Zhu and Robert Koulakes received perfect scores. Koulakes received two perfect scores in both Linear Equations and Polynomial Operations.

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✦ **The Power of Review**

Some Algebra 2 students worked in groups and were randomly assigned two topics that were covered throughout the semester. Their goal was to make PowerPoint slides reviewing the material. The slides were then compiled into one show and the class created a study guide for the semester.

✦ **Supersized**

Students in Geometry did a similarity project. Students worked in groups and were given a piece of a geometric design. Students then had to enlarge their piece. When the groups were finished they put their pieces together to see a complete design. Students were able to see how well they did when the puzzle pieces were put together. The discussion then resulted from the activity centered on the concepts of similarity and congruence.

✦ **Unwrapping a Curve**

Just before Winter Break, the Precalculus classes completed a project in which they "unwrapped" the graphs of trig functions. By measuring segments from the unit circle, the students were able to cut off various lengths of yarn that corresponded to the heights of the sine and cosine curves at different points along the x-axis. Staying with the holiday theme, many students chose to make their graphs with red and green yarn as they unwrapped their curves.

English Department:

✦ **ACT English Tips**

Read the entire sentence as well as the sentences that precede and follow the questionable sentence. To correct the error, you need further information to make a sound judgment. Plus, if you read as you go along, the general, whole passage questions will be immediately relevant.

When should I use a semi-colon? Use a semi-colon to act as a conjunction between two complete thoughts.

✦ **Literary Fever**

The literary magazine club is gearing up, collecting, and selecting pieces for the Blue and White Review. This is a first act of publishing for any new, young author, artist, and poet. Need more information? dhornik@learningcommunity202.org or abrown@learningcommunity202.org

✦ **Read a classic? Why?**

Classic Novels such as To Kill a Mockingbird, The Scarlet Letter, Of Mice and Men, Great Expectations, Wuthering Heights as well as many others provide:

1. Foundation for literary trends
2. Allusions (references)
3. Various interpretations of historical events
4. Commentary concerning social issues
5. Enjoyment
6. Preparation for modern literature

Career & Technical Education Department:

Do you have a student who has expressed an interest in teaching? Eastern Illinois University has scholarships available for incoming freshmen enrolled in CTE programs. These programs include Technology Education, Business Education, Family and Consumer Science, and others.

For more information, check out <http://www.eiu.edu/~tech/PScholarships.php>.

✦ **Business Education**

The Business Law students just completed their mock trial projects. Each student had the opportunity to serve as a lawyer, a witness, and a juror. The students did a fantastic job and took their roles very seriously. The legal teams were well prepared and presented their cases with a clear legal basis. The jurors did a great job of analyzing the facts presented to determine the winners of the various cases. The mock trials also gave the students a greater understanding and appreciation of the legal process.

Miss Steinke's Orientation to Business classes recently completed a virtual stock market competition utilizing an online resource. Students were each given \$10,000 to invest in at least five different companies. They also were required to research past and present stock prices to decide if they wanted to invest in a certain stock. The students quickly realized how volatile the stock market can be when they were required to track how much they gained or lost in their portfolios. The virtual stock market gave the students a great opportunity to see how the stock market works.

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✦ Family and Consumer Science

As the semester comes to an end, Miss Keller's Clothing, Textiles, & Fashion I class is finishing the major projects of the course. They have finished sewing their pajama pants and will spend the rest of the semester designing concepts and themes for their own clothing lines. Thus far this year students have learned about fashion history, designers, promotion, construction, and more. They are well prepared to move on to more advanced projects in Clothing, Textiles, & Fashion II.

✦ Technology Education

The Tech CAD classes are working on their final project, 3D in a 2D world. This project involves drawing an object in 2D with what is called tabs. The object is then cut out and assembled into a 3D model of a cube, cone, pyramid, or pentagon.

The 3D Solid modeling class is finalizing their K'nex projects. This project includes sketches of each part, a 3D drawing of each part and an assembly drawing of the specific item. The projects include Ferris Wheels, vehicles and some interesting designs.

The Technology Web site officially launched in December, check it out. <http://www.learningcommunity202.org/PSHS/depts/appliedarts/Hines/Hines.htm>

National Honor Society:

- ✦ The PSHS National Honor Society has been really active this year. Students have been earning hours in school volunteering for teachers, selling concessions, raising money for the class gift, participating in charity drives, caring for teachers' children during conferences and the like. In addition, community hours have been earned in a myriad of ways: helping at other district schools, volunteering for coaching and team events, religious events, charities and more. The students do all this and keep up with their coursework. We continue planning for a memorable class gift and to that end will be raising additional money by selling lollipops during the week of Jan 26th. Support our efforts by buying some!

Physical Education Department:

- ✦ The Physical Education Department would like to recognize these students for their hard work and having the best mile times recorded in Physical Education.
 - **Sophomore Boys:** Steven Cisneroz 5:53; Kevin Hardin 6:13; Alex Sibley 6:20; Marcus Smith 6:20; Spencer Harris 6:36; Francisco Martinez 6:48
 - **Sophomore Girls:** Megan Kubesh 6:55; Rebecca Holmes 7:11; Krista Poppe 7:33; Camille Alvarez 7:40; Aber Fragaso 7:47
 - **Junior & Senior Boys:** Jake Ferris 5:03; Chris Smith 5:28; Nick Maher 5:23; Billy Cranley 6:00; Marek Gacek 6.07
 - **Junior & Senior Girls:** Kaitlyn Kraz 7:15; Shelby Pruettt 7:18; Madi Haski 7:40; Lindsey Zagar 7:42; Shannon Becker 7:58

Word of the Day:

January 20, 2009 – April 21, 2009
PSHS Plan

WHY?

- There are 100 words that have been identified by ACT as the most frequently missed words on their test.

WHAT?

- PSHS will work COLLABORATIVELY to incorporate a Word of the Day in our classrooms.

HOW?

- The goal is to make this a **fun** 2-3 minute activity in EVERY classroom each day leading up to the ACT/PSAE test.
- An e-mail reminder will be sent to ALL staff daily. The e-mail will include:
 1. Word of the Day
 2. Definition
 3. A couple of ideas for how to use it
- The Word of the Day will be posted on the:
 1. Scrolling message board outside the Media Center
 2. The Marquis at the front of PSHS
 3. PSHS website

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Media Center:

- ✦ The Media Center is making available to students, a MOBILE FILMMAKING CHALLENGE hosted by KOCE, a Public Broadcasting Station in California, entitled "FILM ON THE FLY". On February 2nd, 2009 the contest will send out a text message challenge to anyone who signs up and ask them to create a mobile video of the topic. Participants will have up to twenty hours to make a mobile phone video and post it to YouTube. Since this is a global challenge, participants will be able to see mobile videos that are created from all over the country, and maybe even the world!

More information is available in the Media Center or at <http://www.koce.org/filmonthefly/fofFAQ.pdf>

Social Studies Department:

- ✦ The Social Studies department at PSHS feels that the first semester has been very successful. Our new Advanced Placement courses are up and running. We have just recently completed our biannual campaign project in the government classes. This semester's project was very exciting due to the ability to connect to the 2008 presidential election. With Final Exams around the corner, the department is reviewing with students to prepare them. As always, it's good to be a cougar!!

Cougar Boosters:

- ✦ The Cougar Boosters next event is our Bowling fundraiser. The Bowling Bash was great fun last year, so mark your calendar now for March 7th at Town & Country Lanes! Donations of gift items or gift certificates that could be used as prizes during the festivities are needed. Tickets will be sold at home basketball games and if you would like to make a donation or help in any way, please contact Chris Voda at 436-5736. Watch for more info on the website.

Students of the Month: *(November)*

- ✦ **English:** Kassandra Montoya; Sheldon Magee; Marie Hallberg; Cory Sladcik; **Career & Technical Education:** Jack Strand; Alex Dodson; Alex Fishbeck; Jared Rocchino; **World Language/Fine Arts:** Ariana Prado; Dan Palanyk; Brittany Turner; Matt Rosario; **Math:** Raymond Farias; Apryl Wright; Cynthia Varela; Jasmine Hobbs; **P.E./Health/Dr. Ed.:** Hannah Smith; Erin David; Ann Chezem; Lisa Sharp; ; **Science:** Kegan Weber; Gabbi Wenek; Jennifer Wantuchodicz; Ana Guzman; **Social Studies:** William Nixon; Emily Burt; Nathalie Herrera; Matt Mieszkowski; **Special Ed.(Nov. & Dec.):** Aaron Wilson; George Bowen; Gloria Giron

Students of the Month: *(December)*

- ✦ **English:** Tony Overhiser; Stephanie Ramirez; Kelsey Engle; Joel Cargerman; **Career & Technical Education:** Cory McCleave; Jonathan Piechur; Marcus Smith; Lauren Bonano; **World Language/Fine Arts:** Jeff Bond; Tania Bonner; Joanna Spyrka; Miranda King; **Math:** Ruby Deleon; Gage Dockstader; Charles Russell; Taylor Jones; **P.E./Health/Dr. Ed.:** Jerry Estes; Jackie Sweeney; Melanie Pfister; Ashley Przytula; **Science:** Paige Pellerin; Roxy Lumberas; Christine Mejei; Jessica Brown; **Social Studies:** Megan Maher; Macey Berta; Megan Orozco; Keleigh Distasio; **Special Ed.:** *(see November)*