

PLAINFIELD SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
COUGAR NEWSLETTER
Volume 2, Edition II
November, 2002

Important Dates:

- November 22-23 Fall Play
- November 27 Teacher Institute-No School
- November 28-29 No School
- December 20 Last day of attendance before winter break
- January 6 Classes resume
- January 20 No School

From the Desk of Tom Hensel:

Congratulations to all of our student athletes, coaches, and students actively involved in non-athletic extra-curricular activities, and sponsors for their efforts during our fall season. The experiences gained from participating, working with others, budgeting time, making decisions and belonging to something that involves extra time and energy are valuable and life long skills. Thank you to each of you. I hope your experiences were valuable and positive. Good luck to all those planning on being involved in a winter activity.

I wish for each of you a happy holiday season. I hope you are able to spend time with family and friends over Thanksgiving and during Winter Break. Please remember that a six-week grading period goes by quickly. The end of the 3rd six-week period will include the semester exams. These will be planned and explained to your students by their teachers.

Elementary School Market Days:

We invite our high school community to participate in our feeder elementary school Market Days. Crystal Lawns, Grand Prairie, Meadow View, Ridge, Riverview and Wesmere all have Market Day activities. You may pick up order forms at any campus to get on their mailing list or order on line at www.Marketday.com.

How to Read Progress Reports:

Unlike elementary and middle schools, the high school issues six-week progress reports and not quarterly report cards. Every 6 weeks (6,12,18) you will receive a progress report which indicates your student's progress/grade at that time. Progress reports are cumulative. The grade reflected in the 2nd six-week grading period (12 weeks) is your student's grade after 12 weeks of work. It is not averaged with the 1st six-week grade. The grade your student receives at the 3rd six-week period will be their cumulative grade for the period of time through 18 weeks of work. The 18-week grade will be averaged with the semester test grade to arrive at a semester grade. The semester grade is what appears on the official transcript and is used to determine the GPA and class rank.

PSHS School Report Card:

You can see the PSHS School Report Card at the District website (www.learningcommunity202.org) and at our website. If you would like a hard copy of the report card please phone 815/439-5555 or stop in our Main Office.

Retraction Letter:

We would like to issue an apology to the PSHS student whose car was shown on the front page of our latest South Side News school newspaper. It indicates on the caption that the accident was a result of careless teen driving. In this case, the accident was a result of a careless adult pulling out in front of the teen on a street off campus. Please know that we remain interested and involved in providing a safe campus for all of our staff and students on campus and in our building. This includes safe driving habits practiced by adults and students on and around our campus.

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German Club:

On Sunday, December 8th, the German Club will be taking its second annual trip to the German Christmas Market in Chicago. The students will get to visit an authentic German market and experience German food, drinks, music, gifts and more. The German Christmas Market invites vendors from Germany to share their wares with the citizens of the Chicago-land area. Thus, the students will have an opportunity to use their language skills to speak not only with the vendors, but also with the large number of Chicago residents of German heritage who visit this beautiful market every year.

Applied Arts:

At the recent fall conference of the Technology Education Association of Illinois and the International Technology Education Association, James B. Dye was awarded Illinois' most outstanding "Technology Education Teacher of the Year".

Mr. Dye is a state board member of the TEAI and serves as assistant editor/photo journalist for the state organization. He has been teaching for Plainfield School District #202 for the last seven years in the Industrial Technology area. In fact, Mr. Dye is the founder of the present technology labs at Plainfield South High School, where he was greatly responsible for the adoption of the PITSCO Pathways Technology program.

Student Services:

College Career Center:

The CCC (College Career Center) has just opened at Plainfield South. This is located in the Media Center and students are permitted access to the CCC during their Lunch Study Hall period. There is a teacher on duty periods 3, 4 and 5 to help them find information either on the Internet or with materials we receive directly from various colleges or universities.

Financial Aid Update:

There will be a representative from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission present at our College Night on February 4th. The ISAC representative will be presenting general information as it relates to college financial aid. There will also be a question/answer time and a variety of materials available.

With the opening of our College Career Center, please encourage your student to visit this located in the Media Center during their lunch study hall and begin to investigate scholarships in the **College Scholarship Box**. There are a variety of scholarships available and it is not too early to start the search for college monies.

2003-2004 Scheduling:

Students will receive information about scheduling during group guidance sessions that will take place on November 19th and 20th for freshmen, on December 4th for sophomores and on December 10th and 12th for juniors. Students will be instructed to go over the information with their parents. Students will discuss courses with their teachers and turn in their scheduling sheets on December 17th. During second semester, parents are welcome to make an appointment with a counselor to discuss scheduling and four year planning. Course selections can be changed up until the end of the school year.

New Web Site for Parents and Students:

Plainfield South High School subscribes to a web site that has career, college and financial aid information. Students and parents can access it from home or office. Please check it out at www.usa.cx.bridges.com. The user name is 0090634 and the password is *plain*. Another career web site for parents is www.careerparent.com. PSHS counselors have accessed these sites and find them full of useful information.

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ACT Preparation Classes:

This preparation course for high school students is designed to develop the basic skills needed to improve ACT scores. In addition to the verbal and mathematics preparation, the course emphasizes test-taking techniques. The student will be better prepared for the ACT test.

Plainfield South High School is offering ACT Preparation Classes for students preparing for the ACT in April. The class is offered for \$100 for all four sessions. Classes at Plainfield South High School will be held, if enrollment minimums are met, on the following dates:

Reading: March 10, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Math: March 12, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

English: March 17, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Science: March 19, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Sign up in Student Services.

Science Department:

In October, Patrick Scanlan and Bernadette Gruca-Peal from the Science Department attended a workshop in Downers Grove to gain more experience with the integration of technology into data collection. The workshop offered by Vernier focused on the use of TI 83-plus graphing calculators and various sensors to collect lab data. The data could then be analyzed using the calculators or downloaded into a computer file and integrated into lab reports. The workshop gave hands-on experience with labs that could be used to determine pH, solution concentration, and evaporative cooling. There was also an opportunity to view some of the new sensors, which are soon to be put on the market. The teachers cannot wait to begin using this technology to prepare our students for a future in a technologically advancing world.

Athletics:

Congratulations to Coach Kristen Fry and the Girls' Swim Team who won the Suburban Prairie Conference championship. Members of the team from Plainfield South include: C. Alarcron, E. Boyle, M. Brann, A. Emelio, R. Glaum, C. Haywood, L. Hillmer, K. Johnson, V. Koepke, K. Malloy, L. Petrusich, K. Prichard, D. Salinas and E. Wilson.

Congratulations to Coaches Albright, Danner, Simon and the Boys' Cross Country Team for advancing to the Wheaton North Sectionals. Pat Greene finished 14th overall and was the 6th individual to advance to the State Finals. Pat is the first individual from Plainfield South High School to advance to State Competition.

Spanish Club:

THE FIRST EVER LATINO DANCE AT PSHS! The Spanish Club will be hosting an upbeat and casual dance Saturday, January 25, 2003 for all high school students in the PSHS gymnasium. Students will be providing live entertainment and dance lessons. For only \$5.00 per ticket, students may come from 7:30-10:30 and dance to current Latino rock and dance music, participate in contests and enjoy some traditional refreshments. All proceeds go toward the Spanish Club for funding activities of the future.

Applied Arts:

The Illinois Business Education Association's 40th fall conference was held on November 7-8, 2002, in Springfield, Illinois. Over 400 business educators attended the two-day conference featuring hands-on computer sessions, tours, information sharing, exhibits, and workshops designed to provide updated knowledge and experience related to the future of business education. The theme of the conference was "Changing Times, Changing Lives".

Matthew Clark, Linda Constant, Lisa Hiestand and Brenda Wayne from Plainfield South High School were in attendance and participated.

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Special Education Department:

Mrs. Recidan and Mr. Long's Life Science class will soon have science pen pals with a first grade class from Wesmere Elementary School. The freshman science project will involve PSHS freshmen students establishing e-mail communications with their science pen pals and going to Wesmere to teach a lesson about germs. In the spring, the PSHS science students will invite their science pen pals to PSHS. It promises to be great learning fun!

A new component of the Vocational Education program at Plainfield South High School is our job-training site at Joliet Junior College. Our students participate in training programs in childcare, the campus bookstore, food preparation and maintenance. The students work at Joliet Junior College for three hours in the morning and return to Plainfield South High School campus in the afternoon.

Students of the SCORE Program have been working very hard at multiple in-school training jobs. They are almost finished with faculty business cards and will begin a Cougar Mug Project. Our students have participated in a variety of training sites that have included maintenance, office projects and student runners to assist the Attendance Office.

The Special Education Department would like to welcome Mr. Kevin Redding to our team. Mr. Redding will be teaching a Fundamental Matter and Energy Science class, assist with co-teaching in the General Education classes and teach Resource classes for the freshman and sophomore classes. Mr. Redding is a great addition to the staff at Plainfield South High School.

The Vocational Education Department would like to recognize the contributions of Bob Bearden and Son Printing Company located at 1108 N. Mill Street in Plainfield. Mr. Ron Bearden has professionally cut the business cards designed by the students of the in-school printing business. We really appreciate the support and help from this local business in the vocational training of special needs students. Thank you!

Bands:

On Thursday, October 9th, eight PSHS students traveled to Addison Trail High School to audition for the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) Honor Band Festival. The eight students were Sarah Balaja-flute, Rachel Hammon-clarinet, Kurt McDaniel and Grant Piechocinski-percussion, Caitlyn Smith-violin and French horn, Zach Starr, trombone, Jessica Stockwell-clarinet, and Eric Thorsen-bass clarinet. Four of the students were selected to participate in the IMEA festival on November 16th at West Aurora High School. Rachel Hammon was selected to play clarinet in the orchestra. Caitlyn Smith was selected to play both violin and French horn in the orchestra (she chose French horn). Jessica Stockwell was selected to play clarinet in the honor band and Eric Thorsen was selected to play bass clarinet in the honor band. Eric was awarded first chair in the district.

The PSHS band department presented its Fall Band Concert on Wednesday, October 23 in the high school auditorium. The concert featured both the Concert and Symphonic Bands. The bands played a variety of music from several different time periods and styles. The concert was accepted very well by the almost 200 people in the audience.

The Pride of Plainfield competitive marching band wrapped up a successful season on Saturday, November 9th at the Bands of America Regional Competition at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. This season the band placed third at the Downers Grove competition and first at the Lincoln Way competition. Also at Lincoln Way, drum majors Chezare Bingham and Amanda Speva were awarded Best Drum Majors of the Day.

The PSHS Music Department will present the 2nd Annual Collage Concert on December 11th and 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The concert will feature all of the large ensembles from both the band and choir departments as well as some small ensembles from each department.

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The PSHS band department is forming a jazz band for this school year. Auditions will be held in mid-November. The band will consist of saxophones, trumpets, trombones and a rhythm section made up of piano, bass, drums/percussion and guitar. The jazz band will perform at the same concerts as the concert and symphonic bands as well as traveling to competitions and festivals in the spring.

The PSHS pep band will be playing for twelve basketball games this season, six boys' games and six girls' games. All students enrolled in the band program will be assigned to attend six games. Mr. Jeff Kleinmeier will be assisting Mr. Cook with the responsibilities of directing the band. Details will be sent home with the students on Tuesday, November 12th.

Choral Department:

Things in the choir department have definitely been busy throughout the last few months. On October 8th, three students went to Addison Trail High School and auditioned for the IMEA District Choir. I am pleased to announce that Nicole Schneider and Kyle Severson were accepted into the choir. These students worked extremely hard and were dedicated to learning music outside of school. They rehearsed both before and after school and even on their own after that. These hard working students did a great job.

On October 23rd the Concert Choir had their very first performance of the year at the Carson Pirie Scott store in the Louis Joliet Mall. The students started off the store's fall sale with many different songs, which everyone at the store enjoyed. The students received many compliments from employees and customers.

Also, on November 5th, the choir had its first choral concert of the year, which went extremely well. All of the students sang quality music with a superior sound that the audience enjoyed thoroughly. A special thanks goes out to band members Sarah Balaja, Kurt McDaniel, and Caitlin Smith for providing instrumental accompaniment to both the Treble and Concert Choir. Thanks so much!

The Choir has also started its second fundraiser of the year. The Cheesecake fundraiser is underway and will end on November 18th, so make sure you order yours soon! Also be on the lookout for various performances of the Madrigal Singers. They will be performing throughout the area during November and December. The Madrigal Dinner will take place on December 14th and 15th at the PSHS cafeteria. Don't miss it!

We hope to see you all at the Collage Concert, which will take place on December 11th and 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the PSHS auditorium. Have a Happy Holiday Season!