

# Student Services Newsletter

Plainfield High School-Central Campus  
24120 Fort Beggs Drive Plainfield, IL 60544 (815) 436-3200

## IMPORTANT DATES!!

- *Consumer Education Proficiency Test*  
February 3<sup>rd</sup>
- *ASVAB Career Test*  
February 11<sup>th</sup>
- *President's Day No School*  
February 15<sup>th</sup>
- *End of 6 weeks*  
March 5<sup>th</sup>
- *Parent Seminar "30 Points of Parenting"*  
March 11<sup>th</sup>

## ACT Test Dates

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Check out  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)  
for more  
information.

## Post-Secondary Information

- ❖ *College Deadlines:* Seniors should watch their deadlines for applying to colleges. Most colleges have regular deadlines between January and February.
- ❖ *FAFSA:* Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to see if you are eligible to receive money for college. Apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon as you can! If you need help completing the form, Joliet Junior College is offering a workshop on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 P.M. Visit [www.jjc.edu](http://www.jjc.edu) for more info.
- ❖ *Joliet Junior College:* Seniors who are opting to attend Joliet Junior College in the fall should make sure they fill out the online application and take the Compass test, which will place the student in core classes. JJC also has a scholarship booklet available in mid-February. Check out more info at [www.jjc.edu](http://www.jjc.edu)
- ❖ *Scholarships:* Scholarship information is now available for all college-bound seniors. Seniors are encouraged to pick-up a Scholarship Newsletter in the College/Career Center or online to see all the scholarships available to them. If students are nominating themselves for a scholarship, they need to fill out an academic resume as well. The newsletter is updated every couple weeks with new scholarships.

## Academic Information

- *New Face in Student Services:* We are happy to announce that intern Lindy Darovic will be working in our office for the first 10 weeks of second semester. Lindy works as special education teacher's aide in the building. She is currently attending St. Xavier to earn her Master's degree in school counseling by May 2010.
- *2010-2011 Course Planning:* Freshmen, sophomore, and junior students have already met with their counselors to select classes for next year. Course verification sheets were mailed home with semester one grades. Any changes for next year need to be made by February 12<sup>th</sup>. School counselors will be meeting with all juniors individually in February. This junior interview will cover post-secondary plans, including college, careers, military, and the work force. In addition, counselors will review credits for graduation and classes for next year. Students will receive a checklist of topics covered as well as a packet to share with their parents.
- *Consumer Education Proficiency Test:* The Consumer Education Proficiency Test will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:45-4 PM. Students in grades 9-12 can take the free test. The purpose of the test is to help students understand concepts that affect fundamental decisions about their personal financial affairs, such as installment purchasing, budgeting, and comparison shopping. Consumer education is required for graduation. Successful performance on the test exempts students from this course requirement. Sign up in the College/Career Center. For more info, check out [www:isbe.net/assessment/icept.htm](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/icept.htm)

- **ASVAB Test:** The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup> during the school day. Even though the ASVAB is offered through the military, it is the most widely used multiple-aptitude test battery in the world. This free test assesses academic ability and predicts success in a wide variety of occupations! Additionally, the ASVAB is designed to help students learn more about themselves and the world of work; identify and explore potentially satisfying occupations; and develop an effective strategy to realize their goals. Students can sign up in the College/Career Center. For more info, go to [www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com)
  - **PSAE:** On April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, all junior students will take the state-mandated Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE). **Senior students who did not take the PSAE in 2009 MUST take the two days of testing to graduate.** Information regarding this has been sent out to parents. The PSAE measures the achievement of grade 11 students relative to the Illinois Learning Standards for reading, mathematics, science, and writing. Day 1 of the PSAE includes the ACT battery of four multiple-choice tests (English, mathematics, reading, and science) and a 30-minute constructed-response writing test with a single prompt question. Day 2 of the PSAE includes two Work Keys assessments (Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information) and an ISBE-developed science assessment. The PSAE is required for graduation and is an important test for students to do well on. The Learning Standards the students are measured on encompass the skills and knowledge all students will need for success after high school. In addition, PHS students' scores represent how well we do compared to other Illinois high schools. The PSAE is a core component in measuring adequate yearly progress for all public schools. Traditionally, students focus on day 1 of testing, since ACT is an important criterion for college admission. Many students then don't focus on the second day of testing, and consequently, PHS scores drop. To motivate students to succeed, seniors who met or exceeded on the PSAE were exempt from semester one final exams and earned free parking. Students who have not earned 12 credits by the beginning of junior year will not be taking the PSAE. They are still expected to attend these days, and will be working on test strategies to improve their upcoming scores. For more info, please visit [www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm)
- 

## **From the Social Workers**

- **Anger Management/Personal Power:** Social Workers Jeremy Bell and Nita Lueking are again offering students the opportunity to learn anger management skills through the voluntary "Personal Power" group, running second semester. The curriculum is based on "Transforming Anger to Personal Power" by Susan Gingras-Fitzell. For more information please contact a social worker in Student Services.
  - **Provider Fair 2010:** Plainfield School District 202, along Valley View 365U, will be having a Community Resource Fair. It will be at the Romeoville Recreation Center and admission is free. There will be over 120 agencies available to with services ranging from mental health to education to recreation. There are both private and governmental agencies many of which are at reduced cost based on the financial need of the individual/family.
- 

## **Bullying-Tips for Parents**

1. Encourage your child to report bullying incidents to you—validate the child's feelings.
2. Ask your child how he/she has tried to stop the bullying.
3. Coach your child in possible alternatives—avoidance is often the best strategy; look for ways to find new friends.
4. Treat the school as your ally—inform school personnel, establish a plan for possible retaliation and future incidents.
5. Encourage your child to seek help by reporting bullying incidents to someone he/she feels safe with at school.
6. Use school personnel/other parents as resources in finding positive ways to encourage respectful behaviors at school.
7. Do not ignore your child's report, advise your child to retaliate, or confront the child who bullies.

For more information, visit [http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref\\_What\\_Do\\_About/](http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_What_Do_About/)

## **Final Thought:**

"Leadership is based on inspiration, not domination; on cooperation, not intimidation." **William Arthur Wood**