



PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER, 2009

From the Principal, JAMES WORTH

Seasons Greetings,

I hope that everyone is enjoying a happy and healthy holiday season!

We have been quite busy during the past month and the pace will continue with NEASC committee reports, curricula revisions and student academic and extracurricular activities. On November 16th, seniors Alison Hammersly and David Smith received the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Student Award at the ceremony held at the Brooklyn Middle School. The awards are based on academic success, leadership and service to others. Congratulations Alison and David!

Social Studies teacher, Russ Hart, organized a visit and presentation to our students by Pearl Harbor survivor Wilbur (Tex) Dettmann on Friday December 4th. Mr. Dettmann served with the United States Navy during this time and spoke to our students about his experiences in the Navy and his service to our country. It was a tremendous opportunity for our students and staff to hear of first hand accounts of that unforgettable day and the history that followed. As well, freshman Noah Fields was invited by the William L. Mercier V.F. W. Post 5446 Ladies Auxiliary and Post Auxiliary to present his essay based on the theme "What significance does Pearl Harbor have today?" Noah's essay was selected from over ninety participants and he certainly did an outstanding job of making the historical connections to present day, and making a flawless presentation. Thanks to Mr. Mariano for attending, representing our Social Studies department and supporting Noah. I must say that it was a moving experience for me as well hearing the personal accounts from the survivors.

Congratulations to our Band and Chorus students on a GREAT performance on December 8th. The musical selections were outstanding and the talent displayed by our students was unbelievable! Additionally, the exchange of talent between PHS and Griswold High School chorale groups was an added bonus for students and audience members. PHS students reciprocated on December 17th, performing at the GHS show. I heard many positive comments from students, teachers and parents, so keep up the great work. Your efforts truly pay off. Thank you Mr. Stevenson and Ms. Ortiz.

As we look forward to the holiday break, we also must remember that very soon after we return, the second quarter will quickly draw to a close. Parents please check on the progress of your children and remind them to continue to keep up with class work, complete assignments and if necessary, stay after school for extra help, tutoring or to simply work on assignments. As the end of the second quarter approaches, so will final exams! Final exams are scheduled for January 22nd (Friday) and 25th (Monday) at the present time. On Tuesday, January 26th, PHS students will not attend school. This day will be used by teachers to prepare for their second semester classes. The student day will be made up on April 1st, which is presently scheduled as a teacher Professional Development day. High school students only will attend on April 1, 2010. Should the schedule change due to excessive snow days during the month of January notification will be provided.

In years past, the parents of Plainfield High School students maintained a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). I would like to reengage parents in this activity and I have scheduled an initial meeting to get the process started for 6 o'clock pm, Tuesday, January 19, 2010, in the faculty room next to the main office. All are invited to attend. The mission of the PTO and logistics will be discussed during this meeting.

Again, I would like to thank all parents and guardians for your continued support of the school and student activities. It is important for your children to see you take interest in their lives and their activities.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

James C. Worth

Principal



Dates to Remember

January 1 New Year's day

January 18 Martin Luther King Day

January 27 Prof. Day Early Dismissal

PHS Library

The library now has extended hours. For the month of January the library is open on every Wednesday from 2:00 until 3:15.

SCHOOL STORE

- New style shirts, shorts, hats and more
- Notebooks, pens, pencils, highlighters
- Cups, mugs, key chains, PHS ornaments
- Jump Drives, snuggies, PHS bags
- Panther decals, bumper stickers,

MS. BELOUS' CLASS

A year couldn't go by without the Holiday Open House Celebration in room 1118. The class gets together and makes goodies and includes a recipe book along with a gift. This year it was a magnetic snowman handmade by the students. Staff and students both enjoyed the treats and getting together.

PHS BOOSTER CLUB



PHS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

.Our monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the cafeteria at 7pm. We ask you to please consider in joining our efforts to enhance all of our PHS athletes. For additional information, please contact Athletic Booster Club President, Tee Sabourin at 564-4302.

YEARBOOK

Yearbooks will be sold January 11-15 for \$70 during all four lunches. Books can be bought online, at anytime, until January 29 at www.jostensyearbooks.com. A book can also be ordered in school with a deposit of at least \$10. No extras will be ordered, so a copy must be reserved in order to get a yearbook at the end of the year.

Rotary Student of the Month: October 2009

Sean Reece is a very active student both in and out of school. He is known for his appreciation for music, mostly as being the loud obnoxious drummer in the Plainfield High School marching, concert, and jazz bands. He is a one year choral student and is in the chamber choir which is an auditioned choral group. Sean is also active with the drama department and was in last years production of Grease and has a lead role in this years production of Footloose . Sean has many after school activities, he has volunteered his time for two years now working in the concession stand for the micro panthers. Sean is a professional DJ and also has a part time job at Cumberland Farms. In his spare time he likes to make and edit videos and music, hang out with friends and basically have as much fun as humanly possibly. Sean's dream is to start a band and become a professional drummer and tour the world. He would also like to open a restaurant which isn't as far-fetched as being a rock star.



Career Center

On Nov 25, PHS students helped out at the ECC Wellness Fair. 20 students participated in this educational opportunity for the kindergarten students, the program covered safety, health and wellness topics. 16 of these students shadowed a teacher and helped her students transition from activity to activity at the fair. 4 PHS students were presenters at the fair. These students covered this topic: How to Dress for the Season. This presentation taught the kindergarten students what type of clothing they should be wearing depending upon the time of year and weather. All 20 students did a remarkable job; many compliments were received from the staff at the Early Childhood Center. Another fair is scheduled for January 27, and PHS students have been invited to participate again.

On Dec 2, the Career Center sponsored a College and Career Fair. This is the first time a College Fair has been hosted at PHS. 23 colleges, universities, and technical schools along with 5 local businesses were represented. The fair was open to all PHS students; students were able to visit with the representatives and get information from the participating schools. Many students took advantage of this opportunity and participated in the fair. The Career Center is planning on another College Fair next fall. Hopefully, more schools will be able to send representatives.

The ASVAB Career Exploration Program test was administered on Dec 11. The interpretation day is Jan 7 at 9 a.m. in the auditorium for the 25 students that took the test.

ART DEPARTMENT

Professional Artist, Christine Wendel Farrugia will demonstrate her charcoal techniques to the Advanced Placement Studio Art students and highly, interested art students from other classes on Tuesday, December 22.



HISTORY CLASS

Mr. Hart welcomed back Pear Harbor survivor Wilbert "Tex" Dettmann to speak to his Modern U.S. History classes in the auditorium. The event was featured with a great write-up in the Norwich Bulletin.

Mr. Hart's classes will visit the Plainfield Senior Center on 12/18 to conduct interviews with seniors for their oral history project. The students will write reports and deliver visual presentation via Power Point or Moviemaker. Finished copies will be delivered to the seniors as a lasting tribute to enjoy with their families

World Language

World Language Department Trip

Interested students participated in a trip to Hartford on November 16th to the Theater of the Performing Arts. Students enjoyed a bilingual performance by "Inca Vibrations" in Spanish of Incan music using native instruments. A French cabaret quartet entitled "C'est Bon" performed a mixture of classic French songs. The audience was invited to take part in selected musical performances with both groups, such as playing the native Incan instruments and singing along to various French classics. A grand time was had by all!

Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know. Daniel J. Boorstin