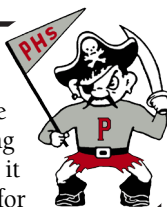




# 211 NEWSLETTER

May 2017

## From the principal:



By the time this newsletter reaches your home, we will be getting ready for AP testing, prom, finals, spring concerts, film festivals and fashion shows. And believe it or not graduation is just around the corner. Graduation for the Class of 2017 will be held on May 21st at 2:00 p.m. These year-end events celebrate the hard work, dedication, and achievements of the past four years. There will certainly be many enjoyable moments. We want the last month of school to be fun for our students, especially for seniors who are building final school memories for the years to come. However, along with the fun must come constant attention to hard work and good decision making. I would also like to offer a few simple reminders to our students to ensure that we can all look back on these events with fond memories.

Remember, it's all about decisions and the choices we make. You can and most of you do decide NOT to drink alcohol or to take illegal drugs. You can and most of you do decide NOT to get in the car with a drunk driver or to let your friend drive drunk. You can decide NOT to host a party where drugs and alcohol are served. You CAN and most of you do inform your parents who you are going to be with and where you are going. You CAN and most of you do live within the limits that your parents set and still have a great time. Now that these year-end activities like prom and graduation are upon us, take a minute to talk to your parents, have open and honest discussions about making good decisions. Remember that you CAN and DO make good choices 99% of the time; but a single bad decision could haunt you the rest of your lives. I encourage all of our Pirates to make positive choices that will help all of us to insure that we all have fun and safe memories this upcoming spring.

I wish all of our students the best of luck as finals approach. To our seniors, I know your senior activities and graduation will be as memorable for you as they always are for me. I am really looking forward to some of the end of year senior activities in addition to graduation like the picnic and brunch. I hope you take the time to enjoy your last few weeks here at Palatine, and remember you'll always be a Pirate. I wish all of our students and their families a happy and successful end to the school year.

Gary Steiger  
Principal

## Palatine's PROMISE

Palatine's **PROMISE** is a multi-faceted program that includes more than 200 students, two or more selected from every homeroom in our school. That diverse group, the Student Summit, works with the staff members who are members of the Palatine's **PROMISE** committee. Each Summit group meets with staff members to develop and coordinate the initiatives of the program. The initiatives include quarterly homeroom lessons, forums and all-school assemblies... all designed to help students learn and live the seven promises... **P**ride in myself, my school and my community, **R**espect for myself and other, **O**wnership of my actions, **M**otivation to Do The Right Thing, **I**ntegrity in my life, **S**uccess... my goal, and **E**xcellence... my aspirations.



What began as a reaction to a bullying survey that was administered to our students and staff has become a school-wide tier 1 social/emotional intervention that has the simple goal of improving the climate of our school. We celebrate our accomplishments, and invite you to visit the PHS website and look under the Palatine's **PROMISE** link. This website provides a clearer understanding of the accomplishments of this school-wide initiative. We are very proud of this website, and, in particular, the ability our students and staff now have to report any issues related to personal and school-wide safety.

Each quarter, a homeroom lesson is developed to promote a healthy school climate. This year, our topics included the following: Growth Mindset; P4 Palatine's PROMISE Positivity Project; Resiliency Forum; Healthy Relationships; All That We Share - Diversity. In addition to the homeroom lessons, we sponsored Lunchapalooza, a two-day cafeteria event designed to improve the climate in the cafeteria, a Health and Safety Fair, Artsapalooza and Danceapalooza. We also sponsored a fundraising drive for Blessings in a Backpack. In May, we will celebrate the accomplishments of Palatine's PROMISE with Bandapalooza, an event that will include several of our student bands. Rock on, PHS.

The strength of this program is due to the input of our student summit leaders. Some of them have taken on the leadership role of student ambassadors. These students meet before school on Wednesdays with the Palatine's **PROMISE** staff to assist in the planning of the quarterly lessons and all our other activities.

Today's teenagers are bombarded with negative messages that come from the media, their peers and the streets. By taking a few minutes each quarter to address issues that directly impact our school's climate, we can make a difference on how our students think and act with the positive messages of the Palatine's **PROMISE** program.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR LIBRARY MATERIALS

*End of year library due dates:*

**Seniors:** Wednesday, May 3 • **All other students:** Friday, May 12 • **All staff:** Friday, May 19

*End of the year library hours:*

**Last night for extended evening hours:** Monday, May 23 – 6:00 p.m.

## *dates to remember*

- May 5 Spring Improv Show, 7:00 p.m.
- May 6 Children's Play, 10:30 a.m.
- May 8 Night of Percussion Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- May 12 Spring Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- May 13 Prom, Belvidere Banquets, 6:00 p.m.
- May 15 Spring Sports Awards, 7:00 p.m.
- May 16 Spring Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- May 17 Academic Awards Night, 7:00 p.m.
- May 18 Senior Picnic, 12:00 p.m.  
Orchestra Chamber Recitals, 5:30 p.m.
- May 19 Graduation Rehearsal, 8:10 a.m.  
Early Dismissal, 12:35 p.m.
- May 20 Senior Breakfast, 10:00 a.m.
- May 21 Graduation, 2:00 p.m.
- May 24 - 26 Finals /  
Last day of school May 26
- May 29 Memorial Day
- May 31 Summer School begins



## *Commit to the Pirate*

Palatine High School implements and supports a behavioral system known as Commit to the PIRATE. This school-wide system teaches positive behaviors and reinforces and acknowledges students who demonstrate these behaviors. The behavior expectations of Integrity, Respect, and Achievement are taught to all students in the school through direct teaching from staff members. This teaching of expectations occurs in monthly homeroom activities. Students who display our expectations are acknowledged by staff members. In addition to staff verbally recognizing students, students can receive a red ticket. Students can use the red tickets to enter monthly and semester drawings to win various prizes throughout the year. Some of the prizes this year have been free tickets to Homecoming or \$25 gift cards to movie theater, iTunes, and Buffalo Wild Wings.

Since implementing the Commit to the PIRATE program seven years ago, PHS has seen a reduction in office discipline referrals and a decrease in truancies. While the Commit to the PIRATE team makes changes and updates each year, we are committed to continuing to use data to inform our decisions about what behaviors or expectations need to be taught as well as acknowledging students who display Integrity, Respect, and Achievement.



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

## ACADEMIC CORNER

### World Language

This school year the World Language Department at Palatine High School has begun new programs. Palatine High School is the only school in the district that is running the AP Spanish Literature and Culture course where students are immersed in enriched Spanish Literature and exposed to cultural topics at the collegiate level. World Language Day was a huge success with both student speakers and adults who were able to share their experiences about how their travels have opened their hearts and love for languages around the world.

We also have continued morning tutoring on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in room 289 from 7:45 to 8:10. On average we have about 5 students per day partake in strengthening their language abilities. We also celebrated many inductees to our World Language Honors Program given to students who have maintained a B+ average in all of their language classes and have shown commitment by enrolling in a 4th year. This was a great induction on March 17th. We feel that as a department we are very well connected, and as part of our unity, we offered upper level Spanish classes "Internado Shirts" to purchase for the second year while we viewed the video series "La Laguna Negra - Internado." If you come on Fridays, you'll see our students wear their Internado shirts proudly. Both Spanish 4 and AP teachers took students to Chicago's Art Institute and then culminated at a "tapas" Spanish restaurant in Chicago. The French also participated on a separate date and finished at a French Restaurant in Lake Zurich to bring real life experience and culture to their learning. Our German program has grown over the last few years offering all levels. We have incorporated guest speakers from the German American Chamber of Commerce and Regional Business Leaders. We have partnered with the Goethe Institute in Chicago on curriculum enhancement and level-appropriate proficiency testing that is universally recognized. German has incorporated field trips to the Institute and Christkindl Market as well. Our clubs all have regular meetings. Club members sell Brats-Thuringer Sausage during a few football games in October when we host German students, and our Foreign Exchange Club has taken service and volunteerism to another level by continuing to bag food items at Feed My Starving Children and raise money through various forms of fundraising. We are excited for the experience this spring as we continue to host French students as part of our annual exchanges and look forward to our summer trips to Germany, France and a Spanish Speaking country. This summer we will be going to Guatemala. Our department continues to see success in students because we are able to enrich them with engagement to the program to help them come out ahead.

### *The following students placed at the FCCLA State competition*

#### Gold Medal

**Bella Colucci - Preschool Lesson**

**Jennifer Kline - Personal Child Care Provider**

**Lauren Schiller - Preschool Lesson**

**Rachel Maniscalco and Skylar Russell - Children's Literature Presentation**

**Allison Walsh and Cloey Pakrovsky-Sernal - Children's Literature Presentation**

#### Silver Medal

**Karen Avila - Food Production - Relish Tray**

**Veronica Bermudez - Pastry Arts - Cookie**

**Rosy Castro - Pastry Arts - Cookie**

**Adriana Espinoza - Apparel Construction, Semi Formal/Formal**

**Maria Lara - Pastry Arts - Cookie**

**Daniela Nieto - Food Production - Relish Tray**

### *All-Academic Athletic Awards*

Congratulations to the 26 junior and senior athletes who received the IHSA Achievement Award at the Winter Sports Awards Night. These athletes maintained a minimum 3.5 GPA for the past 5 and 7 semesters, respectively. In addition, congratulations to the 25 senior athletes with a minimum 3.0 GPA who received the MSL All-Academic Senior Award.

*This Principal's Newsletter is computer-designed and photocopied at school on recycled paper for Palatine High School parents. Palatine High School, 1111 N. Rohlwing Road, Palatine, IL 60074-3797 (847) 755-1600*