



# 211 NEWSLETTER

January/February 2017

## From the principal:

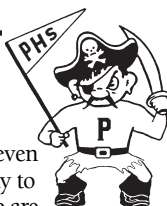
### Welcome to the class of 2021

First semester has been great, and I look forward to an even better second semester. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the parents and students of the class of 2021, who are receiving their first PHS newsletter with this mailing. With the New Year it is a time for fresh starts and new beginnings and we have several this year. Students came back to school this week to start a new semester with a new pool and a new media center. So far all have been a big hit.

Ending the semester before the holidays and starting up fresh in the new year gives our teachers and students a chance to get right to work without the normal two-week gap between vacation and finals which we hope will allow for additional learning opportunities for students. Hopefully you have already had a chance to talk to your son or daughter about their first semester grades. If your child did well, take a moment to offer congratulations, not just for doing well, but for the hard work, effort and determination that was required to perform well. It's not just about the destination, the path taken to reach that destination is equally or in some cases more important. If the grades were not quite what you both had hoped, offer encouragement and a reminder that second semester can be a time to make a fresh start. Work together to set short- and long-term goals that are clear, reasonable, and achievable. Determine what went right about first semester and what could have gone better. Set goals for success. Foster a growth mindset that accepts the challenge to continue to grow and continue to learn and knowing the success comes from trying.

Even though we are only halfway through the year, we have already begun preparing for the 2017-2018 school year. Our guidance counselors have already met with students to select next year's courses. Be sure to talk with your student about future educational plans and possible career goals and make sure they match the courses they have selected. Keep these plans and goals in mind as you review the course selection sheets that will be mailed home soon. Students have until the end of January to see their counselors to make adjustments to their course selections. Palatine has over 200 courses in its curriculum, I encourage students to take advantage of the many elective classes PHS offers in addition to the required courses -- they are a great way to round out and enrich the educational experience. The elective classes are a great way for students to take a class that might help them pick out that possible future career or just learn more about something that interests them. In addition, students have access to a wide range of Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses where they have the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school. Students who earn college credits in high school are much more likely to not only graduate from college, but also to graduate on time, so please encourage your son/daughter to challenge themselves by enrolling in either a Dual Credit or Advanced Placement course during the course of their high school career. Our Curriculum Guide is available on-line at [http://adc.d211.org/pdf/curriculum\\_guide.pdf](http://adc.d211.org/pdf/curriculum_guide.pdf), as well as a link to our career clusters site at [www.d211careercluster.org](http://www.d211careercluster.org). Students have until the end of January to make changes to their course selections if they choose to accept the challenge of taking an AP or Dual Credit course.

Sincerely,

  
Gary Steiger  
Principal

## Scholarships Available

There are many scholarships available specifically for seniors graduating from PHS in May 2017. There will be D211 Foundation scholarship applications available early second semester. Other scholarship applications, such as the PHS VIP scholarships, the D211 Teacher's Union Scholarships, Rotary, and other local scholarship opportunities are available on the PHS Student Services Website <http://sobrien77.wixsite.com/phsstudentservices>. A quick link for available scholarships can be accessed by clicking on the "Students" tab on the homepage, and then click on "Scholarships." All scholarships on this link are posted in order of deadline date. Most scholarship applications are to be submitted on-line, however, if a paper application is required, these will be available to print from the scholarship link. In some cases students will need to see Mrs. O'Brien in the White Team. Please check the "Scholarship" link often throughout the school year as new postings are always added. It is essential that students meet all scholarship application requirements, deadlines and follow all directions carefully. Keep in mind that scholarship applications may require recommendation letters and/or a transcript. Official transcript requests for scholarship applications are processed through the Registrar's Office. \*\*\*The majority of scholarships pertain to senior students only, but there are a few scholarships that underclassmen can apply for and it will be indicated when appropriate.

As a reminder, all seniors planning to attend a college/university are encouraged to complete the online FAFSA form which became available on October 1st of senior year. Please note that some trade/technical/cosmetology schools and programs encourage the completion of the FAFSA application as well. Financial Aid is a three-tiered system, and colleges/universities use the information from a family's FAFSA application to award campus-based aid as well as other forms of financial aid to students. The link to file your family's FAFSA report is <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. Comprehensive information pertaining to financial aid, ACT/SAT testing, scholarships, and such is also found within the Student Services website.

## Guidelines for Senior Final Examinations

Students who meet the following criteria may choose to exempt from their second semester final examinations. To be qualified for exemption, a student must:

- 1) be a senior
- 2) have at least a "C" average in the course
- 3) have five or fewer absences from the class
- 4) have never been truant from the class
- 5) have never been suspended from the class
- 6) not be incomplete on assignments required

Exempted seniors may choose to take the final examination by notifying their teacher at any time prior to the end of the semester. All final examinations will be given May 24, 25 and 26, 2017.

## Pirate Pete Trivia Night

to support the Ray Mills fund

will be held on Friday, April 7th in the cafeteria

Start time is 7:00 p.m. so be early!

Tables are \$50 apiece and teams can have a maximum of eight players.

Anyone is welcome:

teachers, students, spouses, parents, relatives, or community members.



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

# dates to remember

- Jan. 16** Martin Luther King Jr. (No School)  
**Jan. 24** Student Late Start  
**Feb. 7** Student Late Start  
**Feb. 17** Early Dismissal –  
 Girls' State Gymnastics Meet  
 (dismissal 12:35 p.m.)  
**Feb. 18** Girls' State Gymnastics Meet (2:00 p.m.)  
**Feb. 20** Presidents' Day (No School)

## Seal of Biliteracy

Township High School District 211 students have the opportunity to earn the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy by demonstrating high levels of proficiency in English and an additional language. Interested students should pick up an application in the Student Services Department to find out school-specific testing details. Applications are due February 24, 2017 to the Student Services Department. Illinois public universities will accept the State Seal of Biliteracy as equivalent to 2 years of foreign language coursework taken during high school if a student's high school transcript indicates that he or she received the State Seal of Biliteracy. Current languages available are Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish

Students interested in taking the APPPL or STAMP exam will take it the week of March 13 -17, 2017 during the first four periods of the day. The exam consists of four modules and lasts two – four hours. There is a \$20 fee associated with the administration of this exam. Payment and registration will need to be submitted by the end of the school day February 24, 2017. For more information on how to earn the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy please go to <https://adc.d211.org/illinois-state-seal-of-biliteracy/>

Please contact the Student Services Department at 847-755-X630 with questions.

## Pirate Pride Shout Out Pirate Pride Winners

### 1st Semester - 2016-2017 School Year

Samuel Adame, Abdullah Afridi, Connor Aikman, Joanna Alavez Monjaraz, Victor Albino, Teresa Aldana Tabares, Donald Angelaccio, Saul Arreola Martinez, Glenda Arreola Sanchez, Angel Ayala, Priyanshu Bahadur, Johan Ballasco, Gabriel Barontini, Javier Barrera, Linda Berber, Riley Brock, Ethan Brown, Jaira Bucsit, Jessa Bucsit, Abigail Busch, Jacquelyn Bustamante, Joana Cabezas, Kathryn Campion, Xiomara Carmona, Jesse Carson, Lesley Cisneros, Hunter Conner, Tamesha Conrad, William Cordts, Jorge Corona, Melvin Cruz, Oscar Cuevas, Brian Cygnar, Joshua Davis, Timothy Damisch, Amanda De Leo, Gesselle Delgado, Nikhil Devaguptapu, Jordy Diaz Rivas, Rhiann Dick, Christina DiGioia, David Dominguez, Ryan Donofrio Kacper Drwenski, Jonathan Dziadzka, John Elischer, Edai Esparza, Salvador Estrada, Tania Fernandez, Adan Flores, Anna Froehling, Hector Garcia, Karla Garcia, Maricarmen Garcia, Kimberly Garcia-Ramos, Jocelyn Gaytan, Samuel Greenspan, Malaysia Gresham, Joselin Guerrero, Gary Guzman, James Hawran, Jamie Henning, Joseph Henrikson, Diana Hernandez, Michael Hernandez, Joshua Hiller, Sallyn Joy Huaripata, Nimra Imran, Ashley Jackson, Gwenlyn Jones, Shoaib Khan, Kacper Klasa, Jennifer Kline, Phoebe Koruna, Andrius Kuprescenko, Andriy Kuznyak, Jakub Kyciak, James Latuszek, Valery Lopez, Vivian Lui, Konrad Malik, Fidan Malikova, Meredith Mallon, Amber Manley, George Marijan, Cesar Martinez, Itzel Martinez-Onofre, Jorge Martinez, Christopher McAlexander, Mia McCloud-Gee, Shannon McDonnell, Soila Mercado, Miguel Moran, Alexandra Mryczko-Lopez, Naara Murga Aguilar, Guilana Murrillo, Anne Marie Nalley, Hannah Newton, Brandon Nieves, Mikolaj Nowak, Art Oshinson, Marlina Osterhues, Nataly Panczyk, Krupa Patel, Ciarra Peters, Michael Petrenko, Steven Pikor, Simona Platukyte, Angel Prudente, Alexandra Ramirez, Brittany Ramirez, Sofia Ramirez, Dayan Ramos, Lakemi Reid, Dayana Reyes, Dia Rihani, Angel Rivera, David, Rodriguez, Bryan Rodriguez Cabanas, Elias Rojas, Eric Ropelowski, Karina Ruano, Keiri Sanchez, Lauren Schiller, Cameron Senescu, Maritza Serrato, Josalyn Service, John Streepy, Richard Suarez Armas, Emoni Sumpter, Esther Szabo, Teodora-Ioana Tudosescu, Martika Theis, Evelyn Torres, Michael Tracy, Trevor Van Wolvelaar, Abel Vargas, Brian Vidal, Jazmin Villalobos, Tyrese Walker, Elijah Wiebe, Elliot Willming, Kimron Windon, Jinchuan Wu, David Zahnle, Abigail Zuercher.

## Greetings from the Special Education Department:

The PHS Special Education Department consists of 8 different programs; Resource/Strategies, Support Center, Self-Contained, Educational Life Skills, General Studies, Life and Learning Strategies, PH and Adult Transition, each of which helps to support the unique learning, social-emotional and physical needs of over 300 students. Through a wide-range of curriculum as well as extra-curricular opportunities both in the mainstream and those provided through the department such as Art Club, Pep Squad and Special

Olympics, students work towards building academic, social and functional independence in order to reach post-secondary education/training, employment and independent living goals. Our students work to engage with their community and become contributing members of society by participating in events such as the Holiday Luncheon, which is put on by our students in the Educational Life Skills program and our students in the Self-Contained Program who recently had a field trip to Feed My Starving Children.

## Guided Study Hall and the Student Success Center

At Palatine High School, we have high expectations for all our students to succeed in reaching their academic potential. For those who are struggling, we offer a variety of programs to help them succeed. In the **Student Success Center**, math, English, and science teachers provide academic support to students every period of the day, as well as before and after school on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Students are encouraged to drop in for help with homework, test preparation, or for a little extra help with something they didn't completely "get" in class.

At PHS, students who failed an academic course in the previous quarter may be assigned to the **Guided Study Hall** program. Students have a Guided Study Hall during an open period in their schedule or the first half of their lunch hour. During the assigned Guided Study Hall, students have time to work on homework and study in an academically supportive environment. The Guided Study Hall teacher monitors the students' academic progress and has regular grade check-ins. Students in Guided Study Hall may also visit the math, English, and science tutors in the Student Success Center during their study hall time.

## What's up with the Boosters?

Happy New Year! Hope your holidays were blessed with family and friends. The beginning of a new year is traditionally the time for resolutions. Please consider getting connected with the PHS Pirate Booster Club. It's never too late. The new year brings exciting opportunities for the Pirate Boosters and the students of PHS. With your help we can further our mission of improving the high school experience for all PHS students. To learn more about the PHS Pirate Boosters and volunteer opportunities available please visit us at [www.phspiriteboosters.com](http://www.phspiriteboosters.com).

Please mark your calendars for the PHS Pirate Booster Dinner Auction to be held on March 3, 2017, at Cotillion Banquets in Palatine. Those who attended last year were treated to some great entertainment. This year's event promises to provide an evening of fun that you can share with friends. To learn more and register please visit [www.events.org/piratedinner](http://www.events.org/piratedinner).

As we begin the second half of the school year we reflect on the first half. Thank you to all PHS Pirate Booster members, faculty, administration and mostly the students of PHS for a fantastic first semester. We look forward to the second semester and making this a school year that creates great memories and opportunities for our students.

John Helminski  
President, Palatine High School Booster Club

This holiday season, PATH (Palatine Assisting Through Hope) and PFA (Palatine Faith in Action) generously donated gift bags for approximately 100 very deserving students at Palatine High School. These organizations made the holiday season much more joyous for many of our families. At Palatine, we have over 50% of our students on free and reduced lunch, which means many times families aren't able to contribute their own funds to purchasing gifts. This can be extremely difficult for our families, but with the help of PATH and PFA many children experienced the magic of the season. The support that PATH and PFA provide doesn't stop there, they continue to support our school and community in various ways throughout the year. We are forever grateful for all they've done to meet the needs of our community. We truly appreciate their unwavering and continued support. Our community continues to stay strong because of all they do.



## PALATINE HIGH SCHOOL ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS 2016-2017

Arcangel, Ma Patricia	Cushing, Erin	Helminski, Ashley	Lucania, Joseph	Pinargote, Daniel	Stankiewicz, Izabela
Balderas, Emilio	Diana, Amanda	Hernandez, Jaclyn	Lui, Vivian	Poklop, Spencer	Steinebrey, Emily
Beckley, Naomi	Domanus, Clarissa	Hickey, Timothy	Marinov, Radin	Prochownik,	Steinman, Brandon
Bhanot, Suraj	Dominguez, Abril	Huston, Adam	Marvin, Michele	Michelle	Strauss, Kaitlyn
Bharucha, Janvie	Donahue, Grant	Ilkka, William	McLennan, Jodie	Raby, Megan	Streepy, John
Brock, Isabella	Dowd, Ryan	Jakubowski, Adrianna	Michelsen, Gunhild	Rajpurkar, Dilan	Tallikar, Aishwarya
Brown, Ethan	Elischer, John	Jefferson, Kathryn	Midya, Pradyot	Raymond, Carrie	Tapia, Dylan
Buchanan, Jack	Falato, Francesca	Johnson, Tyler	Ncube, Imani	Rodell, Hope	Teehan, Matthew
Buchman, Jessica	Garner, Ryan	Kane, Kendall	Paquette, Janine	Rosenburg, Daniel	Theis, Martika
Buffo, Kenneth	Gates, Claire	Knopp, Jami	Patel, Advait	Seidl, Molly	Traynor, Jamie
Busch, Aidan	Gonwa, Sarah	Kontney, Benjamin	Patel, Meera	Shah, Anand	Vrtjak, Nina
Canfield, Brandon	Gordon, Samuel	Kontney, Curtis	Patel, Mira	Silver, Keaton	Weltzien, Matthew
Cardenas, Brandon	Grochowski, Jack	Kumar, Meghna	Patel, Ronak	Sobkowiak, Jennifer	Williams, Emily
Cooper, Matthew	Gul, Jessica	Leveck, Susan	Patkunas, Neah	Soukup, Carolyn	Williams, Michaela
Coyne, Sierra	Hallier, Trevor	Lopez, David	Paul, Emily	Spitzer, Saara	Zhao, Joseph

This Principal's Newsletter is computer-designed and photocopied at school on recycled paper for Palatine High School parents.  
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