

# Parent Newsletter



**October 2009**

**Visit us on the  
web:  
[http://  
psdweb.parklandsd.  
org/phsweb/](http://psdweb.parklandsd.org/phsweb/)**

## What's Inside:

**Reviewing the  
Issue of Class  
Rank**

**Driver's Ed  
Update**

**New Scholarship  
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Post Prom Update**

**Homecoming  
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**Testing Calendar**

**And much more!**

**Parkland High School and the Parent Forum Invite You  
to attend the**

## **PARKLAND PARENT FALL WORKSHOP**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2009 7:00 PM to 8:35 PM**

### **Parent Forum Mission Statement**

Our mission is *"to facilitate open communication between school and home in a collaborative effort to enhance the high school experience of all students."*

The Fall Parent Workshop is designed so parents can attend at least two of the four sessions provided. Session #1 will run from 7:00 pm through 7:45 pm. Session #2 will run from 7:50 pm through 8:35 pm. The following four presentations will be available during both Session #1 and Session #2 for parents to choose from:

### **Preparing for the College Process—Ninth and Tenth Grade Parent Session**

A Timeline for Freshmen and Sophomores

Presented by: Mr. Eric Roberts in Room C210

### **The College Admission Process—Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Parent Session**

A Timeline for Juniors and Seniors

Presented by: Mrs. Kim Pilgert in Room C220

### **Drugs and Alcohol in Schools—All Grade Level Parent Session**

Presented by: Mrs. Connie Harakal in the Library Clsm

### **College and the Financial Aid Process—All Grade Level Parent Session**

Representatives from College Aid Professionals will discuss topics such as: How the financial aid system is designed for any income level; How to file financial aid forms as single, separated, divorced, married, and remarried parents; Components of financial aid – scholarships, grants, loans, and work study; Shortcuts through financial aid paperwork; and How each family can calculate their own Estimated Family Contribution.

Presented by: College Aid Professionals in Room C200

# From the Principal's Desk

## Semifinalists in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Competition

Congratulations to the following Parkland High School students selected as semifinalists in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program: Benjamin Fisher, Varun Gupta, Jia-Cheng Li, Ryan McCarty and Tyler Seip. This is an extraordinary honor, and it speaks highly of the academic aptitude and achievement of these students. These scholastically talented seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards, worth \$36 million, that will be offered next spring.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), a not-for-profit organization that was established in 1955 and operates without government assistance, conducts this competition. The privately financed National Merit Scholarship competition is open to all U.S. high school students who meet program participation requirements published by the NMSC ([www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org)). Winners of scholarships are chosen on the basis of their abilities, skills, and accomplishments – without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

High achievement is usually the result of many positive factors – initiative, ability, parental influence, and school environment. I firmly believe that the guidance and encouragement of parents is vitally important in promoting academic achievements. My congratulations are extended to the parents of our semifinalists as well.

Sincerely,

Howard S. Lessel  
Principal

## STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM NEWS

One of the ongoing roles of the Student Support Team is to inform parents of the current trends facing adolescents today. All parents need to be aware that a serious drug and alcohol problem exists among teenagers across the country. Part of awareness and a major deterrent to experimentation is to talk to your kids about drugs. But even with parental involvement, no guarantees exist.

While there are no symptoms that are absolutely reliable, the following are some signs to look for:

- Chronic eye redness, sore throat or dry cough
- Chronic lying, especially about whereabouts
- Wholesale changes in friends
- Stealing
- Deteriorating relationships with family members
- Wild mood swings, hostility, or abusive behavior
- Chronic fatigue, withdrawal, carelessness about personal grooming
- Major changes in eating or sleeping patterns
- Loss of interest in favorite activities, hobbies, sports
- School problems-slipping grades, absenteeism

***Support groups are offered throughout the school year to all students @ PHS. They address a variety of drug and alcohol and mental health issues.***

***For Example:***

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Drug and Alcohol Education      | Sexual Identity         |
| Recovery from Substance Abuse   | Decision Making         |
| Unhealthy/Healthy Relationships | Eating Disorders        |
| Self-Esteem                     | Cutting/Self-Mutilation |
| Loss                            | Anger Management        |
| Depression                      | Decision Making         |

Most of the warning signs are gradual which is why parental awareness is so important. Many of these warning signs could be indicating other problems as well, so it is important to check them out and rule out drug and alcohol involvement. Through a grant received, we have available to parents, drug screen kits for sale. The test done in the privacy of your home can detect opiates/morphine, cocaine, amphetamine, methamphetamine, barbiturates, oxycodone/oxycotin, marijuana and benzodiazepine and then you as a family can decide on the next best step. The cost of the kit is \$14.00, found in stores for much more. If you are interested in purchasing a kit, please contact Connie Harakal at the HS at 610-351-5600.

For further information about our Student Support Team or to make a referral or to get involved with a support group, call 610-351-5600 Ext. 72108 or email: [harakalc@parklandsd.org](mailto:harakalc@parklandsd.org) .



## ***PHS Upcoming Events***

### **October Activities**

|        |          |   |
|--------|----------|---|
| Thurs. | 10/1     | Junior PSAT Registration (Guidance)<br>11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Hearing Screening Test (Auditorium)<br>Class Ring Orders during all Lunches (Cafeteria)<br>Market Day Pickup 3- 4:30 pm (Cafeteria) |
| Fri.   | 10/2     | Class Ring Orders during all Lunches (Cafeteria)  |
| Mon.   | 10/5     | Sophomore PSAT Registration (Guidance)  |
| Tues.  | 10/6     | Sophomore PSAT Registration (Guidance)  |
| Wed.   | 10/7     | Sophomore PSAT Registration (Guidance)<br>German Honor Society Induction 7 pm (C200)  |
| Thurs. | 10/8     | Interim Progress Reports Sent Home  |
| Mon.   | 10/12    | Schools Closed Professional Flex Day  |
| Tues.  | 10/13    | Post Prom Committee Meeting 7 pm (Library)<br>Dance Team Booster Meeting 7 pm (E102)  |
| Wed.   | 10/14    | Garter Bowl 6 pm (Football Stadium)   |
| Thurs. | 10/15    | Garter Bowl: <b>Raindate</b>  |
| Fri.   | 10/16    | Homecoming Float Building (Bus Garages)<br>Homecoming Football Parade & Game 7 pm (Football Stadium)  |
| Sat.   | 10/17    | PSAT Exam<br>Homecoming Dance 7:30-10:30 pm (Cafeteria)   |
| Mon.   | 10/19    | District Chorus Auditions 4:00 pm (A & B-Wings)   |
| Wed.   | 10/21    | Parent Forum Fall Workshop 7 pm   |
| Fri.   | 10/23    | Early Dismissal 12:45 pm  |
| Mon.   | 10/26-30 | 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade PSSA Retests   |
| Thurs. | 10/29    | Market Day Pickup 3- 4:30 pm (Cafeteria)  |
| Fri.   | 10/30    | Senior Night Football Game (Football Stadium)   |
| Sat.   | 10/31    | Happy Halloween!  |

### CLASS OF 2012 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER

**The Class of 2012 is selling the all-new 2010 Entertainment Book for the price of twenty dollars now through October 5, 2009. All proceeds benefit the Class of 2012. If interested in purchasing a book, please contact Mrs. Andrea Greth at [gretha@parklandsd.org](mailto:gretha@parklandsd.org). Sophomores may elect to sell two books in lieu of paying their twenty dollar class dues. Sophomores who sell five books get one free.**

### **Parent Reminder Regarding Cell Phones at School**

This is a brief reminder to parents regarding our cell phone policy at PHS. During school hours, students may be in possession of cell phones but their cell phone must remain out of sight and be turned off. Therefore, students may not use their cell phones to receive or deliver text messages, make phone calls, check the time, play games, access the internet, or take pictures during school hours. Parents, please do not text/call your child during the school day. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the main office of the school in the event of an emergency.

# DRIVER EDUCATION NEWS

Parkland High School provides a Behind-the-Wheel course as a component of Driver Education. This program allows the beginning driver the opportunity to apply, practice, and be evaluated on the various skills needed for driving. It also prepares the students to become competent, skillful, and responsible young drivers with the right attitude for safe driving. Instructions for signing up for Behind-the-Wheel driving lessons are listed below. All sign up clipboards are located in the Guidance office Area. Complete details on the procedure are located on the PHS web site at <http://psdweb.parklandsd.org/phsde>.

- **After school driving sign-up sheets** covering a 2-week period are available at any one time.  
Students may sign-up for NO MORE than three days per week. Each day, one new blank sheet is put out as that day's sheet is removed 2) Students sign only themselves up for driving lessons. Students needing to cancel once they signed up should cross their name out on the list and contact the Driver Education Office by phone at 610-351-5900, ext. # 74410 or by email at [bortzb@parklandsd.org](mailto:bortzb@parklandsd.org)
- **During school driving** sign-ups are also located in the guidance office area. Sheets covering one week are available on the appropriate clipboard. Dates, cycle days and class periods are listed for the week. Students may sign up for TWO periods per week but not on a day the student is scheduled for after school driving.
- **Saturday and Holiday driving sign-up sheets** are set-up as a resource list. Please print neatly as we will use that information to contact you and set up an appointment as driving slots become available. Presently, we are backlogged in scheduling Saturday lessons. Please be patient as we will get to you as quickly as possible.

Students and parents with any questions may contact the Driver Education Office at 610-351-5900, ext. # 74410 or by email at [bortzb@parklandsd.org](mailto:bortzb@parklandsd.org) and leave appropriate contact information.

## ATHLETIC NEWS

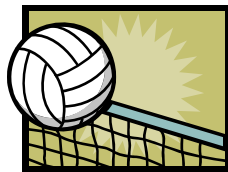
Fall athletics are in full swing at Parkland. In the first several weeks of the season, the golf team won the Lehigh Valley Interscholastic Conference league tournament held at the Allentown Municipal Golf Course.

Our football team won a tough opening night game against Philadelphia Public League champ, George Washington High School, at their home field.

Field Hockey got off to a great start knocking off perennial Reading area power, Wilson West Lawn High School. Boy's soccer came out of the gates strong with a 5 - 0 start.

Girls volleyball is fielding an extremely young squad and improving with each week of experience.

The cross country team looks forward to another successful season, relying on the largest number of



### FALL SPORTS



runners to ever participate in the Parkland program.

Girls tennis is having another great year starting off with 5 consecutive wins.

Throughout all the athletic activities, our cheerleaders show their support and rally the fans around our teams.

Upcoming athletic events of interest include **the Anthony Severo 5K Run on September 27<sup>th</sup>**, and **Football Shirt Off Their Back Night on October 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Detailed information on all of these events will be posted on the daily school announcements and on the Parkland School District website at [www.parklandsd.org](http://www.parklandsd.org).

### REMINDERS:

- Access [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net) for all the latest updates on sport schedules .
- Physicals for winter sports will be offered at no charge on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at Parkland High School. Students not able to attend on that day may pick up physical forms in the Athletic Office and get a physical at their doctor or another high school site. All students wishing to participate must submit a completed physical form to the Athletic Office prior to the start of winter sports-on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

# COUNSELING CORNER

## NCAA NEWS: ATTENTION SENIOR ATHLETES

This summer the NCAA Eligibility Center unveiled a new registration website for college-bound student-athletes planning to enroll in college fall 2010 and later. The new Web address is [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org).

Student-athletes that have registered prior to the launch of the new Web site will be required to log into their current account ([www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)). The student will be asked to verify his or her email address and select a new password. The information that the student has previously submitted will carry over to the new account. However, the student will need to answer additional questions to bring his or her account current. Once the student has completed the update of his or her account, all information will be accessed and maintained at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). The student will no longer need to go to the old website. Instructions for college bound student athletes who have already registered thru the NCAA Clearinghouse are available in the Counseling Office.

## NEW TRANSCRIPT RELEASE FORM:

All seniors recently received in the mail an unofficial copy of their transcript and the revised transcript release form. Students now have several choices to make as to whether SAT scores are to remain on the transcript and if class rank is to be released. **One note, all transcripts sent to Penn State must include class rank, this information will be disclosed via the web counselor system, no option exists for this particular school.**

## PSAT INFORMATION:

**On Saturday, October 17 the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be administered at Parkland High School from 8:00 AM to approximately 11:30 AM.**

PSAT registration for juniors will take place on September 29, 30 and October 1 in the morning prior to homeroom in the Rotunda area in front of the Counseling Office. Sophomores can register on October 5, 6 and 7. The registration fee is \$20.00, only cash will be accepted, no checks please. Late registrations will be charged \$22 beginning October 8. Please remember this is the only date the PSAT/NMSQT can be administered at Parkland High School this school year.

All juniors planning to take the SAT I: Reasoning Test later this year should register for the PSAT/NMSQT since it will provide an excellent review of the writing, reading and mathematical reasoning skills needed for later testing. The PSAT/ NMSQT score is not posted on the high school transcript and therefore, is an excellent opportunity to practice for future SAT Reasoning and SAT Subject tests. As a junior, students taking the PSAT may also qualify for National Merit Scholarships.

Sophomores are also encouraged to take the PSAT as an opportunity to practice critical reading, writing and math problem solving skills. However, sophomores are not eligible for any merit scholarships until the junior year. Please contact your child's guidance counselor if you have any questions regarding testing offered by the College Board. Additional information regarding the PSAT can be found at the College Board website @ [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

## October Testing Calendar

**September 29, 30 and October 1, 2009**

PSAT registration dates for juniors

**October 5, 6 and 7, 2009**

PSAT registration dates for sophomores

**October 1, 2009**

Regular registration deadline for the November 7<sup>th</sup> SAT (Parkland High School is a test center for the November SAT).

**October 2, 2009** - Late registration deadline for the October 24 ACT administration.

**October 10, 2009** – SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Test administration (Parkland High School is **not** a test center for this date).

**October 15, 2009**- Late registration deadline for the November 1 administration of the SAT Reasoning and SAT Subject Tests.

**October 17, 2009** – PSAT/NMSQT administration at Parkland High School.

**October 24, 2009** – ACT Administration (Parkland High School is not a test center).

**October 30, 2009** – Regular registration deadline for the December 5<sup>th</sup> SAT (Parkland High School is not a test center for the December SAT).

## College/Military Visits in October

|                  |                                      |                  |                                      |                  |                                  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 <sup>ND</sup>  | SKIDMORE COLLEGE @ 11:45             |                  | ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY @ 1:30      |                  | WIDENER UNIVERSITY @ 10:15       |
| 5 <sup>TH</sup>  | KINGS COLLEGE @ 8:00                 | 14 <sup>TH</sup> | VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC @ 7:45          | 21 <sup>ST</sup> | ALBRIGHT COLLEGE @ 10:15         |
|                  | CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY @ 11:05          |                  | FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE @ 8:40   | 22 <sup>ND</sup> | BENTLEY UNIVERSITY @ 7:50        |
|                  | ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE @ 12:40        |                  | MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY @ 9:30           |                  | COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS @ 8:40 |
| 6 <sup>TH</sup>  | UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME @ 8:00      |                  | UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH @ 10:15     | 23 <sup>RD</sup> | LAFAYETTE COLLEGE @ 8:30         |
|                  | BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY @ 10:20        |                  | JOHNSON COLLEGE @ 11:00              |                  | BENNINGTON COLLEGE @ 10:00       |
| 7 <sup>TH</sup>  | WASH. UNIVERSITY IN ST LOUIS @ 12:40 |                  | UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN @ 11:50      | 26 <sup>TH</sup> | ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY @ 10:15      |
| 8 <sup>TH</sup>  | VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY @ 11:50         |                  | COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY @ 1:30   |                  | UNIV OF PGH AT JOHNSTOWN @ 11:50 |
|                  | HAMILTON COLLEGE @ 1:30              |                  | UNIV OF PITTSBURGH (BRADFORD) @ 2:15 |                  | RIDER UNIVERSITY @ 1:30          |
| 13 <sup>TH</sup> | MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY @ 8:00           | 15 <sup>TH</sup> | GETTYSBURG COLLEGE @ 8:40            | 27 <sup>TH</sup> | TEMPLE UNIVERSITY @ 9:25         |
|                  | ST FRANCIS UNIVERSITY @ 8:40         |                  | EMMANUEL COLLEGE @ 9:30              |                  | INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PA @ 10:15 |
|                  | MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY @ 9:26       | 16 <sup>TH</sup> | PRINCETON UNIVERSITY @ 7:50          |                  | MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY @ 1:30   |
|                  | BRYANT UNIVERSITY @ 10:15            |                  | BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY @ 2:15           | 28 <sup>TH</sup> | ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (CT) @ 7:50  |
|                  | RUTGERS UNIVERSITY @ 10:15           | 19 <sup>TH</sup> | UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER @ 7:50       |                  | UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON @ 10:15   |
|                  | DICKINSON COLLEGE @ 11:00            |                  | UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA @ 8:40    | 29 <sup>TH</sup> | MUHLENBERG COLLEGE @ 10:15       |
|                  | SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY @ 11:50     |                  | EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY @ 10:15  |                  | LYCOMING COLLEGE @ 11:00         |
|                  | WILSON COLLEGE @ 12:45               |                  | SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY @ 11:00      | 30 <sup>TH</sup> | MESSIAH COLLEGE @ 8:40           |
|                  | IUP CULINARY ARTS @ 1:00             | 20 <sup>TH</sup> | CLARKSON UNIVERSITY @ 7:50           |                  |                                  |

# HOMECOMING 2009

## *Come Home to a Good Book!*

### **PHS Homecoming Events: Sponsored by Student Council**

Parkland's 2009 Homecoming events run from Tuesday, October 13th through Saturday, October 17th. We encourage students, parents, staff, and the community to join in the traditions that will be celebrated throughout the week!

**Spirit Week:** Students and staff are encouraged to show their school spirit. Watch announcements for details.

**15th Annual Garter Bowl 2009** will take place at OMS Stadium on Wednesday evening, October 14th. In addition to a huge school spirit event, Garter Bowl is a girls powder puff flag football event where the freshmen girls play the junior girls, the sophomores face the seniors, and then the winners of the 2 previous games face off in a championship game at 8pm. Each year PHS Student Council selects a charity to receive all of the proceeds from the event. This year's event will support **Cops n' Kids**. Please mark this date on your calendar and join us. It is a great evening for all ages! Gates open at 5:30 pm, cost is \$5.00, and game times are as follows:

**6:00pm: Freshmen vs. Juniors**

**7:00pm: Sophomores vs. Seniors**

**8:00pm: Championship Game**

**Rain date: Thursday Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>**



**Homecoming Game/Parade:** Friday evening, October 16th, the Parkland Trojans will take on the Central Catholic Vikings for their annual homecoming football game! The special homecoming half-time show includes a parade of student-made floats and the homecoming court. The judging of the floats will take place in the parking lot adjacent to the upper bus garages behind the stadium at 5:30 pm. The floats will remain available for viewing throughout the 1st quarter of the game.



**Homecoming Dance:** The homecoming dance is for current Parkland students and will be held on Saturday 10/17 from 7:30-10:30 pm. The homecoming King and Queen are announced at this annual dance. The homecoming dance is semi-formal. Appropriate dress and student ID are required. The cost is \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door. Tickets will be sold 10/13-10/16 during all lunches.

**Barnes & Noble Book Fair:** Held October 17 and 18, this event is being sponsored by the PHS Library.

Any homecoming questions should be addressed to teacher and Student Council advisor, Michelle Gannon at [gannonm@parklandsd.org](mailto:gannonm@parklandsd.org).

## Post Prom Party Committee News

**Please mark your calendars-Our “KICK OFF” meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2009 in the PHS LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM at 7 PM.** We need many new parents to get involved so this tradition can continue (especially parents of underclassman)! Come and see what a great event this is.

Questions?

Lisa Zinkler 610-398-9194 [Buncogal1@aol.com](mailto:Buncogal1@aol.com)

Judy Knouse 610-398-1574 [NouseHouse@aol.com](mailto:NouseHouse@aol.com)



### **Get to know Market Day**

To provide funds for the annual PHS Post-Prom party, the Post-Prom Committee brings a monthly Market Day sale to the high school. Market Day, the original fundraising food co-op, has been in operation since 1975 and includes thousands of schools across the country.

Each month, as a participating **Market Day** school, restaurant-quality food products, from the same vendors that supply many upscale restaurants, are available for purchase. Market Day products are competitively priced and the profits earned from your purchases all go to support the Post-Prom party, a safe, fun place for our celebrating seniors to go after the Prom.

In addition to the regular monthly sale, Market Day offers special fundraising opportunities, such as their popular pie sale, that allow other student groups to sell Market Day products and earn funds that help support clubs and student trips. If your group is interested in learning more about Market Day fundraisers, contact chairpersons Deb Martin or Denise Jones for more information. You can reach Deb at 610-395-8130 or [Deb\\_Martin@verizon.net](mailto:Deb_Martin@verizon.net).

You can find out more about Market Day and even place your order online at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com). Register your e-mail address to receive reminders to order and special offers for online customers.

Our Market Day account # is **18718**.



## **OCTOBER SCHOLARSHIPS**

### SunTrust Scholarship

High School Seniors can win a \$1000 scholarship for their first year expenses at a college or university. One winner will be chosen every two weeks from October 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 through May 14, 2010. Enter online at [oftocollege.info](http://oftocollege.info) beginning September 14, 2009.

### Dr. Seuss's , “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!” College Scholarship

Applicants must be high school seniors graduating in the year 2010. One \$5000 Scholarship will be awarded based on the submission of a 500 word essay. Scholarship award will be made by Random House, Inc. directly to the student's choice of post secondary institution. Visit [www.ohtheplaces.org](http://www.ohtheplaces.org) to download an application. Application deadline is February 15, 2010.

### Burger King Scholars Program

Burger King Scholars Awards are \$1000 each and are awarded to high school seniors who meet the following criteria:  
1) Maintain a cumulative GAP of a 2.5 2) Work part-time for a minimum of 10 hours per week or 40 weeks per year 3) Be actively involved in community service activities 4) Demonstrate financial need 5) Plan to enroll in an accredited two/four year college, university, or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2010. Applications are available online at [www.haveyourwayfoundation.org](http://www.haveyourwayfoundation.org) . Application deadline is February 1, 2010.

# PHS LIBRARY LINES



## October is National Teen Read Month

The library celebrates **Teen Read Week** October 18<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> this year. The theme is "Read Beyond Reality @ your library". Teen Read Week was started by the Young Adult Library Services Association in 1998 to promote reading among teens.

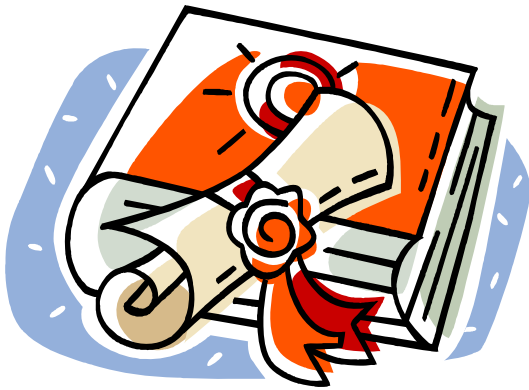
We encourage participation to remind teens not to give up on reading. Reading is free (using the high school library), fun, and can be done anywhere at any time. Check out the selection of out of this world books at the Parkland High School Library Research Center.

Don't forget about our Databases! These are great for research, and can be accessed from home. Stop by the library for an updated password sheet.

Library Website: <http://psdweb.parklandsd.org/phslibrary/>

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Library Hours:</b> | 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m. (Mon.-Thurs.) |
|                       | 7 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. (Fri.)       |
|                       | 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (Sat.)          |

## Yearbook Announcements



### SENIOR PICTURES

Seniors who have not scheduled yearbook photo appointments should contact Digital Photographic Imaging, Frank Mitman, our official yearbook photographer, at 610-433-2110. Please remember that senior yearbook photos are free with no obligation for purchase. Seniors who do not wish to have formal portraits done can have their yearbook pictures taken free of charge at PHS on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information, visit the high school's website at <http://psdweb.parklandsd.org/phsweb/>

### BABY PICTURES

The yearbook staff is accepting baby pictures of seniors to appear at no cost in the yearbook. Please label the back of the photo with the student's full name. Submit photos to Mrs. Solderitch in D131. The deadline is October 16, 2009.

### YEARBOOK ORDERS

The staff is also taking yearbook orders. The price is \$90 through January 15, 2010. After that date, the price will increase to \$95. Orders can be taken to Mrs. Solderitch in D131 or mailed to her at the high school, 2700 N. Cedar Crest Boulevard, Allentown, PA 18104.

### SENIOR ADS

Parents of seniors will have the opportunity to congratulate their children in senior ads in the 2010 Par Key. Pricing and details are available on the high school website. The deadline for Ads is December 4, 2009.



# Visual & Performing Arts Update

October brings a month filled with preparation and performance. The A-wing students are busy auditioning, rehearsing, creating and performing. All this, and the school year is only a few weeks old.

## Fall Play



Casting is complete and the cast and crew are hard at work preparing for this fall's presentation of "Inherit the Wind." This courtroom drama will take place November 13 and 14 at 7:30 PM. The show is appropriate for everyone aged 13 and over.

To order tickets go to [www.parklandsd.org/arts](http://www.parklandsd.org/arts) and click on the show icon. While you are there, take the time to order your seats for the other two main stage shows, "The Adventures of Flat Stanley" in January, and "Aida," the spring musical to be performed in April.

## PAC

The Parkland Performing Arts Club (PAC) has a busy month as well. Their first general meeting will be held September 29<sup>th</sup> after school, just a few days after the activities fair. Already planned for October are a movie night on Oct 2 at 7:00 PM and the year's first black box night on Oct 9 at 7:00 PM. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, PAC will be holding a 7:00 AM breakfast meeting. Then, they will be hard at work preparing their "James and the Giant Peach" float for Homecoming.

## Chorale's "Night at the Opera"

The Parkland Chorale will present "A Night at the Opera" on Wednesday, October 7th at 7:30 PM. The evening will be filled with opera choruses, arias and small ensembles performing works by Verdi, Purcell, Mozart, Donizetti, Weill, Offenbach, Menotti, and Gilbert & Sullivan. The concert will be held in the high school auditorium. Admission is free!

## Strolling Strings

Serenata Strolling Strings will kick off their 14th season on October 10th when they will perform at the PHS Bus Driver's Banquet. They also have performances scheduled for the Emmaus HS 44th reunion at the Brookside Country Club slated for this month.

## Dance Team News

The PHS Dance Team will be holding auditions for guys interested in dancing at halftime during the first annual Cheerleaders vs. Dance Team basketball game to be held in mid-November! Be on the lookout for audition and practice information soon.

## Auditions

Upcoming Auditions for "Books Alive" will occur on Oct 6 and 7 at 3:15 PM in the Black Box. "The Adventures of Flat Stanley" and "AIDA" auditions will be held in mid-November. Watch the announcements for information.

## Gallery

The October display at the Trojan Art Gallery will feature the paintings of Eileen Denitz .

## Health Room Updates

Now that the school year is in full swing, the Health Room would like to remind you of some important information.

The Flu Season occurs from October through April. To help stay healthy and decrease the spread of illness in the school, including the seasonal and H1N1 flu, we are encouraging all families to adhere to the following guidelines for sending your child to school.

Please keep your child home from school if he/she is experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- **Fever of 100 degrees or more**
- **Vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Severe head cold**
- **Persistent cough**
- **Severe sore throat**



Parkland is following the guidelines from the CDC regarding the return to school following illness. Students should not return to school until they are **fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications**. Please contact the Health Room if your child is diagnosed with the flu.

All Eleventh grade students, as mandated by the State, need to have a physical examination. This is best done by your family physician, but may be done by the School Physician if you choose. A sport physical for a PIAA High School sport, completed in the eleventh grade year, may be used to complete this requirement.

Completed forms are to be returned to the Health Room only.

As always, if you have any questions for the Health Room, do not hesitate to call.

## Reviewing the Issue of Class Rank

To best represent the academic endeavors of our students in their post graduation years, a committee comprised of Parkland administrators, counselors, teachers, parents and students reviewed studies from schools similar to Parkland regarding the class rank system and its impact in meeting students' needs in their post high school considerations. Regarding class rank and weighted grades, our core committee also reviewed the admission considerations of colleges/universities. As part of this undertaking, the committee agreed to gather and collect information to make an informed recommendation and that we would not make recommendations unless they served Parkland students well.

Throughout our committee work, it became increasingly clear that:

- 1- There is no right or best system.
- 2- Class ranking systems are in decline; what was once a common practice is now instituted by less than 50% of high schools with more schools eliminating their ranking practice each year. Of the twenty-six like high schools responding to our survey, only eight continue to rank students.
- 3- Colleges utilize many factors in determining a student's request for admissions. However, the most common components of their process include test scores (SAT/ACT), grade point average and participation in the most rigorous curriculum offered.

We then reflected on our existing system as compared to the current practices used by colleges/universities and other similar school districts, as well as how we could best serve all of our students. The result of this undertaking revealed to us that we could offer a system that better serves all students in PSD.

We all share in a similar desire to have our students strive to reach their greatest potential, both inside and outside of their classrooms. **Since increasingly more schools are opting not to report class rank in the student transcript, the Parkland Board of School Directors at the July 2009 public meeting voted to eliminate the public reporting of class rank starting with the Class of 2013, and provide students in the classes of 2010, 2011, and 2012 the option of reporting class rank or not reporting class rank on their student transcripts.** Subsequently, beginning with the Class of 2013, there will be no recognition of a valedictorian and salutatorian. Instead, the Parkland School District will recognize the top 2-3% of the students in the graduating class at commencement. This is being done in an effort to recognize more of our top students.

The purpose of the changes adopted by the Parkland Board of School Directors is designed to help all students in the Parkland School District. In an academically high achieving district like Parkland, class rank can and has hindered the admissions process for some of our students. The option to report or not to report class rank will be decided by each student in the 2010, 2011, and 2012 graduating classes. When rank is not sent to colleges, it requires college and universities to study the individual student transcript and high school profile, and we are confident universities will see the strength of our students' academic and extra/co-curricular efforts.

Another change approved by the Board of Directors affecting the Class of 2013 is the development of a three-tiered quality point system for student grading (see attached). Currently, students earn the same quality points for a final grade regardless of the percentage earned as a final grade. This varies based on the rigor of the academic course level taken.

Example:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Student 1 | Honors Earth Science final average 90% earns 5 quality points.          |
| Student 2 | Honors Earth Science final average 97% earns the same 5 quality points. |
| Student 3 | Earth Science CP/GHP final average 90% earns 4 quality points.          |
| Student 4 | Earth Science CP/GHP final average is 97% and earns 4 quality points.   |

The three tiered quality point grading scale will take into account the rigor of the academic class as well as the student for his/her effort with the course taken. Example, using some students noted above:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Student 1 | Honors Earth Science final average 97% earns 4.5 QP  |
| Student 2 | Honors Earth Science final average 90% earns 4.17 QP |
| Student 3 | Earth Science CP/GHP final average 97% earns 4.0 QP  |
| Student 4 | Earth Science CP/GHP final average 90% earns 3.67 QP |

## Reviewing the Issue of Class Rank (continued)

The new three tiered system awards students for taking the most challenging courses and also rewards students for their effort within the rigorous courses they have taken. The new transcript for the class of 2013 identifies the academic rigor of the classes, the activities and community service of each child. This information, when measured against a child's GPA, becomes the criteria that colleges use for admittance to their schools.

The purpose of the changes adopted by the Parkland Board of School Directors is designed to help all students in the Parkland School District. The new 2013 system will require college and universities to study the individual student transcript and high school profile and we are confident universities will see the strength of our students' academic and extra/co-curricular efforts.

### THREE-TIERED QUALITY POINT SYSTEM

| GRADE | NUMERIC RANGE | STANDARD GRADE POINTS | HONORS GRADE POINTS | AP GRADE POINTS |
|-------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| A+    | 97-100        | 4.00                  | 4.50                | 5.00            |
| A     | 93-96         | 4.00                  | 4.50                | 5.00            |
| A-    | 90-92         | 3.67                  | 4.17                | 4.67            |
| B+    | 87-89         | 3.33                  | 3.83                | 4.33            |
| B     | 83-86         | 3.00                  | 3.50                | 4.00            |
| B-    | 80-82         | 2.67                  | 3.17                | 3.67            |
| C+    | 77-79         | 2.33                  | 2.83                | 3.33            |
| C     | 73-76         | 2.00                  | 2.50                | 3.00            |
| C-    | 70-72         | 1.67                  | 2.17                | 2.67            |
| D     | 60-69         | 1.00                  | 1.00                | 1.00            |
| F     | 0-59          | 0.00                  | 0.00                | 0.00            |

The rationale for the weighting of grades in AP courses slightly more heavily than that of Honors courses is as follows: For a course to be labeled AP, it must receive approval via an outside audit conducted by the Educational Policy Improvement Center through The College Board. Each teacher of an AP course must submit a syllabus that meets all the defined criteria. This process is intended to validate that an AP course meets the expectations of a college level course. This external review warrants a heavier weight than courses that do not have a similar evaluation.

The AP and Honors courses reflect the level of rigor based on the weighted grading scale. For all other courses, the level of academic rigor will be reflected in the course descriptions provided in the course registration booklets produced on an annual basis.

# 2009-2010 PARKLAND HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

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### Student Last Name

RON to Z  
FF to KR  
A to FE  
KS to ROM

### Grades

9, 10, 11, 12  
9, 10, 11, 12  
9, 10, 11, 12  
9, 10, 11, 12

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