

Kingsman Notes

The Penn High School Newsletter



A Community of Caring Learners

November 2004

Dear Parents and Students,

When Dr. Markavitch and Dr. Seger called me on behalf of the Board of School Trustees this past summer and asked if I would be interested in returning to the school corporation after a short retirement to serve as interim principal at Penn High School, I hesitated little before answering yes. After 31 years in the corporation, I had retired in June of 2004. I enjoyed my job with the corporation but wanted some family time and time to take a professional breather. While I enjoyed the year, returning to Penn as the interim principal was a prospect too exciting to pass up. Having both taught at Penn and serving one year as interim principal in 1992-93, I was well aware of the challenges of the role. I took over on October 11 and have been on the run since. It is exciting!

Jerry Solenne was an excellent principal and following in his footsteps is not an easy task. Fortunately, I enjoy the support of three fine administrators in Mr. Risner, Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Hope. Their willingness to help me through the transition has made life much easier for me. Thanks to them, our team of Deans, our Athletic Department, our outstanding Faculty and Staff, the transition has been smooth. I must also acknowledge and thank our student body for making this a great place to come to work each day.

Over the past several years, Penn has made strides toward becoming one of the top high schools in the nation. The focus on academic achievement and accountability has never been greater. I will work with my fellow administrators, division leaders and teachers to continue the push for excellence for all students. The goals are lofty and worthwhile.

I look forward to meeting as many students and parents as I can this year. In this role, I am able to spend a great deal of time in classrooms observing teachers and working with them to improve opportunities for our kids. I assure you that Penn High School will maintain high standards for teaching and learning this year.

Sincerely,

David R. Tydgate, Ed. D.
Interim Principal

“Sugarplums and Symphony Pops” Concert

On Sunday, December 5 at 3:00 pm the Penn Symphonic Choir will perform with the South Bend Symphony and Symphonic Choir. The “Sugarplums and Symphony Pops” Concert at the Morris Civic Center in South Bend will feature the Robert Shaw/Bennett “The Many Moods of Christmas,” Suite No. 1 and the “Hallelujah Chorus” from *Messiah* as well as familiar seasonal songs.

Penn High School Orchestra

The Penn Orchestra program will present the annual Autumn Concert on November 23, 2004 at 7:30 pm. The concert promises to have a few interesting twists, with a loose theme of “Music in Motion.”

Tickets will be on sale beginning November 18th and will also be available at the door. Come hear a variety of groups from Intermediate, Concert, and Advanced through Symphonic Orchestra. As always, we will treat you to a holiday season warm-up with the Leroy Anderson Classic, “Sleigh Ride”.

Guidance Corner

9th Grade

Last month, freshmen attended a program called Making High School Count during a class assembly. This program emphasized the importance of good effort and the effects of good grades early on in high school. The speaker discussed the importance of getting involved and pulled volunteer students out of the audience to “help” with the presentation. The students were able to participate and follow along in a workbook that was given to them by the presenter. During homeroom, freshmen have also been talking about different Learning Styles. They have been working on Study Skills and Time Management as well. Make sure you ask your students what they have learned about themselves. Freshman Mentors have gone into homerooms and have been doing interactive activities related to transitioning to high school. Upcoming topics are School Spirit, Conflict Resolution, Healthy Relationships, and what to expect at the Snowball Dance. Early this month, freshmen will be doing a goal setting activity related to their grades.

10th Grade

The sophomores have been receiving an overview of the services, materials, and information available in the College/Career Resource Room, which is located in the Guidance Department. Students have also been introduced to the Discover Computer Program, a career exploration assessment tool during this time. Additionally, they will be participating in a paper/pencil career inventory activity to assist in identifying their career interests. In October, sophomores attended a class assembly featuring the Yellow Ribbon Campaign. The Yellow Ribbon Campaign is a suicide prevention program that encourages teens to talk to adults and teaches them about the signs of depression and suicide. Later in November, Madison Center will be offering a free screening to all sophomore students to identify those students who may be at risk for mental illness and/or suicide. The “TeenScreen” will help identify students who are not already receiving help and not known by school counselors to have problems. *A form is enclosed for you to sign and return if you do not want your child to participate in this free mental health evaluation.* On November 1st, the program “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens” based on Dr. Stephen Covey’s book will be held. Issues such as success factors, positive attitudes, and good personal habits will be addressed.

11th Grade

We had a great turnout at College/Career Information Night with over 150 students and parents in attendance! Mark your calendars for Financial Aid night January 5th and Navigating the College Search Night, a PTO sponsored event, on March 16th. In homerooms, during the month of October, juniors were given information on the colleges and careers that they deemed most popular by the surveys they filled out in the beginning of the school year. This month, they will be coming into the resource room by homerooms and given seated tours of all the resources that are available to them. They have also been working on their “goal sheets” and comparing their progress report grades to their “goal” grades. As you may or may not know, the format of the SAT is changing beginning in March 2005. Starting with the March 12th SAT, there will be an essay component and other parts of the test will be different – this is referred to as the NEW SAT. We are

National French Week

Preparations are underway for National French Week, November 5-11. The American Association of Teachers of French sponsors this event. The purpose of this weeklong celebration is to highlight the many contributions of the French-speaking world to such areas as literature, art, music, civilization, science, fashion and cuisine. Over 200 million people in 43 countries speak French. French students will be making posters, preparing food to share and organizing presentations. The week promises to be "tres amusant!"

Penn High School Robotics

The 2004-2005 Penn High School Robotics Team is composed of twenty-two senior students, a small group of underclassmen, volunteer mentors, and dedicated sponsors, all of who come together to design and construct a competitive robot for entry in the FIRST Robotics competition. We are currently in our eighth year of this competition, which was started in 1989 by Dean Kamen. FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering. FIRST inspires in young people, their schools and communities an appreciation of science and technology, and how mastering these can enrich the lives of all.

Currently we are seeking the support of the community. This year we will be running a fundraiser to raffle a 61" High Definition Plasma Screen Television, among other runner-up prizes, for 5.00 a ticket, which will be available through Paypal at <http://www.pennrobotics.org>. Additionally, we will be selling mint boxes containing 25 mints for 50 cents a box. Donations of materials, money, or mentoring for our team would be greatly appreciated.

Engineers, programmers, or anyone with spare time would be helpful to assist the team in the manufacturing labs or business communications. Currently we have a small team of skilled volunteers helping our team. With more volunteers we would be capable of accomplishing much more this year. Anyone who would be willing to participate in our team this year, whether it be in manufacturing, writing letters, organizing fundraisers, or simply doing mundane tasks would be of great assistance.

Our team is founded on ambition and dedication of our students and mentors, but would accomplish nothing without the support of our donors from our community. Due to our immense workload this year, any assistance from the community would help us greatly. If you have any interest in supporting us please contact Mr. Jim Langfeldt at jlangfeldt@phm.k12.in.us or at (574) 254-2881. Thank you for your support of the Penn High School Robotics Team. Please visit <http://www.pennrobotics.org> for more information.

Snippets of Information

School Fees: Included with your student's report card is an **updated fee statement** that includes all schedule changes and payments made since August. All school fees are **due in full by February 1, 2005**.

The **deadline for National Honor Society** information packets from students wishing to join NHS in the spring is **March 10th, 2005**.

Join the **Penn Ski Club**—Swiss Valley Ski Area, Jones, Michigan, approximately 45 minutes from PHS. January and February on Tuesdays (7 seven times).

The cost:

- \$112 club package without rental includes 7 lifts & 3 lessons;
- \$133 club package with rental includes 7 lifts, 7 rentals, & 3 lessons;
- \$23 if you already have season pass & includes 3 lessons;
- \$280 regular season pass (you must supply a picture);
- \$3 to ride the bus each week.

Payment is due by December 1st in the bookstore. Sign-up sheets are available also in the bookstore. If you have any questions, call Mr. Robertson at 254-2880.

Penn High School Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time
November 8	School Board Meeting	ESC	7:00 pm
November 10	PTO Meeting	PHS Conference Room A	12:30 pm
November 11	"Father of the Bride" Fall Play	CPA	7:00 pm
November 12	Football Regional	TBA	TBA
November 13	Saturday School	LG1b	8:00-11:30 am
November 13	"Father of the Bride" Fall Play	CPA	7:00 pm
November 16	PBA Day	PHS	10:55 start for students
November 17	BBB LaPorte	PHS	6:00 pm
November 17	MB Variety Show	CPA	7:30 pm
November 18	MB Variety Show	CPA	7:30 pm
November 19	Football Semi-State	TBA	TBA
November 20	Saturday School	LG1b	8:00-11:30 am
November 20	GBB Andean	Andean	5:30 pm
November 22	School Board Meeting	Elsie Rogers	7:00 pm
November 23	GBB Marian	PHS	6:00 pm
November 23	Orchestra Concert	CPA	7:00 pm
November 24 & 25	Thanksgiving Recess	PHS	All Day
November 25	GBB Northridge	Northridge	6:15 pm
November 26	Saturday School	LG1b	8:00-11:30 am
November 26	Football State Finals	Indianapolis	TBA
November 30	GBB Northwood	Northwood	6:00 pm
December 3	BBB Jimtown	PHS	6:15 pm
December 4	SAT Testing	PHS	8:00 am
December 4	Saturday School	LG1b	8:00-11:30 pm
December 4	GBB Goshen	PHS	6:00 pm
December 4	BBB Goshen	PHS	7:30 pm
December 9	Holiday Melodies Choir Concert	CPA	7:30 pm
December 10	Holiday Melodies Choir Concert	CPA	7:30 pm
December 10	GBB Clay	Clay	6:00 pm
December 11	Saturday School	LG1b	8:00-11:30 am
December 11	GBB Martinsville	Martinsville	12:00 pm
December 11	BBB Warsaw	Warsaw	6:15 pm
December 12	Holiday Melodies Choir Concert	CPA	3:00 pm
December 13	School Board Meeting	ESC	7:00 pm
December 14	GBB Washington	PHS	6:00 pm
December 17	BBB Marian	Marian	6:15 pm
December 17	GBB Midwest Classic	East Chicago	TBA
December 18	Saturday School	LG1b	8:00-11:30 am
December 18	BBB North Central	North Central	6:15 pm
December 19-January 2	Winter Recess	PHS	All Day
December 27-December 30	BBB NIC tournament	Riley	TBA
December 28-January 2	Penn Kingsman Marching Band	Fiesta Bowl	All Day
January 5, 2005	Financial Aid Night	LG1a & b	6:00-9:00 pm
January 6	GBB Riley	PHS	6:30 pm
January 8	Saturday School	LG1b	8:00-11:30 am
January 8	GBB Kokomo	Kokomo	12:00 pm
January 8	BBB Elkhart Memorial	Elkhart Memorial	6:15 pm
January 10	School Board Meeting	ESC	7:00 pm
January 11	GBB Mishawaka	Mishawaka	6:00 pm
January 12	PTO Meeting	PHS Conference Room A	12:30 pm
January 12	BBB Niles	PHS	6:15 pm
January 13	GBB Elkhart Memorial	PHS	6:00 pm
January 14	BBB Clay	PHS	6:15 pm
January 15	Saturday School	PHS	8:00-11:30 am



Penn High School Guidance

Steve Hope, Assistant Principal 574-258-9545 e-mail: shope@phm.k12.in.us

October 1, 2004

Dear Parent,

A new program, developed by Columbia University, called TeenScreen is being offered at Penn High School to tenth grade students. The program screens students for potential emotional health concerns.

TeenScreen uses a self-administered, computer interview to screen participating students. All information will be kept confidential, will not be shared with your child's teachers, and will not be entered on his/ her permanent record.

Students will be able to participate in TeenScreen starting in November during homeroom/resource period. Participation in the program is strictly voluntary. As always, if there are any concerns about your child you will be contacted by a project staff member.

If you DO NOT want your child to participate in TeenScreen, please complete the form below and return it to the Penn High School Guidance Office by November 8, 2004.

Thank You,

Steven Hope,
Assistant Principal

Vickie Marshall,
Guidance Counselor

Marni Cronk,
Guidance Counselor

_____ I DO NOT want my child to participate in the health evaluation

Parent Name (Print) _____

Student Name (Print) _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____



Penn High School Guidance

Steve Hope, Assistant Principal 574-258-9545 e-mail: shope@phm.k12.in.us

October 1, 2004

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We at PHM are very fortunate to have a fine counseling staff in our secondary schools. In addition, in our community, we have a wide range of counseling providers. A local resource list is available in every school office. The Penn Harris Madison School Corporation and Madison Center continue a partnership to bring various mental health services into our secondary school buildings. Services include general support groups. Focus topics might be:

- Divorce
 - Self-Esteem
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Grief/Loss
 - Socialization
 - Gender Issues
 - Stress Management
 - Other services include:
 - Individual Therapy
 - Family Therapy
 - Group Therapy
 - Special Education Classroom Interventions
 - Case Management Service
- Certified and or licensed professionals will provide these services.

Any ongoing long-term individual treatment services will require parental consent. Some general services may be offered to all students without notification. Madison Center staff working in buildings may be called upon for crisis intervention. For example an "on the spot" assessment may be made to diffuse anger or to do a conflict resolution or there may be an immediate need for grief management in the case of a student or parent death.

Any service for which payment is required will be offered only with parental consent. A parent always has a right to decline these services from Madison Center. Before a fee based service is offered a Madison Center employee will contact you.

A family can call Madison Center directly at 574-234-0061 or your child's school to inquire about other mental health services available.

If you do not want your student to receive or participate in any Madison Center service free or fee based, please sign below and return this form to your student's school.

Student Name

Date

Parent Signature

Sincerely
Nancy Nimtz, Assistant Superintendent