

Happy Holidays from the Activities Office,

I cannot believe it is almost time for Holiday break already! With that the winter sports season is upon us and in full swing. I look forward to a fun and competitive season and hope you can join me at one of the many contests we will be hosting. There are some great things planned for this winter sports season to incorporate more community. Some of my favorite nights will be a dodge ball tournament for students after the girls' game on December 6th to encourage better Friday night choices as well as an AP recognition night on Friday, December 13th when the boys take on Case. However, the most exciting will be our Winter Fest week starting February 10th. Winter Fest will include daily festivities coordinated by Park's Student Government, the "Go Red" game on February 14th to raise money for the American Heart Association and then being capped off by Winter Formal on February 15th. The theme for Winter Formal this year is Candy Land.

As a reminder for our Dance Policy at Park High School, students wanting to go to Winter Formal must meet the following requirements. Students cannot have any truancies or any kind of suspension four weeks leading up to the week of the dance. All fines and fees must be paid in the student's sub school and ALL guest forms must be submitted 1 week before the dance. No guest forms will be accepted for any reason the week of the dance.

Park has been able to celebrate accomplishments from many of our amazing students. Senior Samantha Lemke and Junior Carley Thomas kept the diving tradition alive for Park High School as both qualified for the WIAA state diving tournament. Samantha just missed making the finals by tenths of a point and Carley placed 7th! Good job girls! Beyond the athletic arena Park had some academic accomplishments. Senior Garrett Sexton was named outstanding delegate at MOAS and our academic decathlon team qualified for regionals by defeating 71 other competitors!

Snow Day Notifications

In the event of inclement weather, here's how you can learn about school closures or modifications to the school day (e.g. delayed start, early release, etc.):

- **RUSD Website:** Visit the RUSD website at www.racine.k12.wi.us. Emergency notifications will be posted on the home page.
- **Emergency Emails:** Sign up to receive emergency emails from the District. Sign up on the District website at www.racine.k12.wi.us.
- **Local Media:** Emergency school closings, delays and early releases will also be communicated to local media including:
 - o The Journal Times (www.journaltimes.com)
 - o TMJ4 (Channel 4)
 - o Fox 6 (Channel 6)
 - o WISN 12 (Channel 12)
 - o CBS 58 (Channel 58)
 - o WRJN (1400 AM)
 - o WGTD (91.1 FM)

December will be very busy at Park. On December 4th and 5th we will be on an assembly schedule, as we will be taking the ACT Plan & Explore tests. During the test seniors will be meeting in the Park Theatre for presentations by the counselors. On Friday, December 20th Park will be having a Gatsby themed Holiday Dance: The Great 2013! Admission will be only \$10 but all students must have a current Park ID for entrance. The dance will be held in the "Pit" and last from 7-9.

The Park fine arts department will be plenty busy as well. The fall play will be performed December 5th, 6th and 7th from 7-9 in the John Burns Theatre. The spring musical will be Oklahoma and auditions are set for December 16th – 18th in the John Burns Theatre. No prior experience necessary.

A new initiative I have started out of the Activities Office is the A.C.E. award. The A.C.E. award will be given out each month to students (recommended by staff) who portray great Attitude, Character and Enthusiasm within the classroom. A big congratulations to the October A.C.E. award winners: Rachel Petersen, Victoria Kizweic, Emma Widmar, Ismael Sifuentes, Jeconiah Hoffman, Roselena Huizar, Joe Pavlovich, Alex Schoettle, Daniel Nelsen, Ramiro Munoz, Karly Fitchett, Jake Towers, Yelena Dueñas and Treyanah Deluca

Hope your family and friends the best,

Bill O'Malley
Activities Director



The Panther Press

December 2013



From the Principal's Desk:

This message comes to you wishing you and your family holiday greetings. Holiday Recess begins Monday, December 23, 2013, and goes through Friday, January 3, 2014. Students return to school on Monday, January 6, 2014. When students return from the holiday break we will begin the process of scheduling students for classes for the 2014-15 school year. It is vitally important that you communicate with your child, his/her teachers, and counselors as we navigate through this very important process. Also, when students return from the holiday break there are only three weeks left in the second quarter/first semester. Final exams are scheduled for January 22-24, 2014. Students come to school for only part of each of those three days. A final exam schedule will be communicated to you in the next parent newsletter and will also be posted on our website. Please work with your child and strongly encourage him/her to remain focused on what they need to do with school when it comes to grades, behavior, and attendance.

As part of our focus on preparing students to be career and college ready, 9th graders will complete the Explore Assessment, and 10th Graders will complete the Plan Assessment, during homeroom the week of December 2nd-6th. The Explore and Plan Assessments are the preliminary components of the ACT Assessment suite. This program is designed to help students identify areas of strength, areas in need of improvement, and vocational interests and aptitudes. This is another facet of Park High School's commitment to post-secondary preparation.

In January, we start the process for getting our seniors ready for graduation. This year's ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, June 8th, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. in the Park Fieldhouse. Jostens has already been in contact with your child regarding graduation announcements and cap and gown information. Hopefully your child shared that information with you.

Since the diploma your child receives at graduation is a permanent, lasting memory of the time spent here at Park, it is important that we have the correct spelling of your child's name. Please work with your child's sub-school on the verification of how you want your child's name spelled on the diploma, including consideration given to the use of a middle name. Verifying this now will be a big help to us and help eliminate misspellings as we prepare their diplomas for graduation.

In order to insure that we are getting proper verification for your child to check out, he/she needs to have Pink Emergency Cards on file. If students don't have these cards on file then the only way that they will be able to check out is if the parent or guardian comes in and completes two Pink Emergency Cards.

Students should not bring or use electronic devices at school. If a student brings these items to school and they get lost or stolen, we will not investigate because they are not supposed to have them at school to begin with. Furthermore, if students utilize these devices in inappropriate manners, they may be subject to building and district disciplinary intervention. We ask for your help in these areas, as these have been issues at Park.

Parents, please continue to reinforce the importance of students being on time to school in the morning, as well as, to each class throughout the day. We know that when a student is consistently on-time, their academic

December Upcoming Events:

- 12/2 Winter hot dog night 5:30-7:30 Park Cafeteria
- 12/5-7 Fall Play 7-9 John Burns Theatre
- 12/10 Orchestra Concert 7-9 John Burns Theatre
- 12/12 Park Band Concert 7-9 John Burns Theatre
- 12/17 Park Choir Concert 7-9 John Burns Theatre
- 12/16-18 Musical Auditions 3-6 John Burns Theatre
- 12/20 The Great 2013 Holiday Dance 7-9 Pit

success in school increases. Furthermore, this is not only a positive school behavior, it is a skill that students will need as an adult as well.

We need your help when it comes to dropping off and picking up your child before and after school. Please do not drop off and/or pick-up your child in our East and West Staff Parking Lots. This has become a dangerous situation with cars coming in and out of these lots. Please either drop or pick-up your child in front of school on 12th Street or on Valley Drive. Also, remember that the school does not open until 7:00 a.m. so do not drop your child off too early. As a reminder, please check for various parking restrictions around Park High School when dropping off and picking up students. You may risk municipal tickets if you are dropping off or parking in a no parking zone, a designated school bus pick-up area, or other restricted parking areas.

We are continuing to look forward to a great year of learning and growing at Park High School. We have many clubs, sports, and activities taking place. Please encourage your child to take advantage of these many opportunities to become involved and carry on the rich tradition here at Park.

We strongly encourage you to get involved at school as well. Please consider joining Park's PTSA. These meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Become involved, become informed!

I look forward to continue working with staff, students, and parents throughout the year. If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact us. We are working hard at making Park High School "the best high school in the State of Wisconsin. Truly a program for the gifted and talented."

Sincerely,

Dennis Christensen
Directing Principal

PBIS NEWS

Be Here, Be Respectful
Be Safe, Be Successful

Paw”N” Shop

The Paw”N” Shop opened October 1st, and is located in the cafeteria. This school year, the Paw”N” Shop will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday throughout the year. Students may ‘cash in’ their blue Panther Paws for items in the store; orange Panther Paws (from last year) can still be used in raffles!

PBIS Website

The Park PBIS website can be found at: <http://goo.gl/i8LVs> (capitalization DOES matter when you type in the URL)! The website includes a variety of parent resources to reinforce our behavior lessons each Tuesday

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Counselor Connection

December 2013

Course Scheduling for the 2014-2015 School Year

Student should start thinking about what classes to take for next year. We will start working on the scheduling process in January. Student should review graduation requirements and talk their Parents, counselors, teacher and friends to start getting ideas about what classes they should take for next year.

If students need to make change on their 2nd semester classes. They should make an appointment with their counselor now so the changes can be made for the start of second semester.

Finish applying to colleges soon!

Students can apply to University of Wisconsin schools online at www.apply.wisconsin.edu

Different colleges have different deadlines in the application process. A goal might be to have most of your applications completed no later than before the holiday break.

Paying for College?

Washington Park’s College Financial Aid night is January 14, 2014 at 6 p.m. in the John Burn’s Theater.

Contact your Park High School Counselor!

Your Park High School Counselors are here to serve you and find ways to help your son or daughter become more successful and Park High School and beyond. Many of your questions can be answered at the Park High School Website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/rusd.org/park-counseling-site/>

ACT Test Dates

December 14, 2013
February 8, 2014

Registration Deadlines

November 8, 2013
January 10, 2014

in homeroom; there is also a spot to contact our team with questions or concerns. Check it out!

Please look for more information from the PBIS team throughout the school year. In the meantime, additional information can be found on the Park PBIS website at: <http://goo.gl/i8LVs>, or contact our team at: park.pbis@rusd.org.

SAT Test Dates

December 7, 2013

January 25, 2014 Testing at Park

See your counselor for more test dates or information on how to register for the ACT or SAT test.

You can also go on line at www.actstudent.org to register for ACT testing.

You can go online at www.Collegeboard.org to register for SAT testing.

Students that receive free or reduced lunch can see their counselor for an ACT or SAT fee waiver to take the ACT or SAT test for free.

Keep in mind college/university admission requirements are likely more rigorous than high school graduation requirements. For example, Colleges typically require an extra year of math, Algebra II and one more year of science than required for your high school diploma. Some colleges require 2 years of a single World Language. Students should also strive to achieve a competitive ACT or SAT test scores.

See your Counselor for more details.

Bottom line: Students should take challenging courses that will prepare them for the rigors of 2 and 4 year colleges.

LINK

Information from the Library Media Technology Center

Every time you go online you leave footprints. These digital footprints are permanent and can have life-long consequences. Common Sense Media offers free information for parents and teachers to help students understand the impact of digital media and how to navigate safely online. www.common Sense Media.org

FAMILY TIP SHEET

HIGH SCHOOL

Common Sense on Privacy and Digital Footprints

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What’s the Issue?

Our teens live in a culture of sharing that has forever changed the concept of privacy. In a world where everyone is connected and anything created online can be copied, pasted, and sent to thousands of people in a heartbeat, privacy starts to mean something different than simply guarding personal or private information. Each time your teen fills out a profile without privacy controls, comments on something, posts a video, or sends a picture of themselves to friends, they potentially broadcast themselves to the world.

Why Does It Matter?

Digital life is both public and permanent. Everything our teens do online creates digital footprints that migrate and persist. Something that happens on the spur of the moment – a funny picture, an angry post – can resurface years later. And if teens aren’t careful, their reputations can be harmed. Your teen may think he or she just sent something to a friend, but that friend can send it to a friend’s friend, who can send it to their friends’ friends, and so on. That’s how secrets become headlines, and how false information spreads fast and furiously. The stakes only increase when we remember that all of this takes place in front of a huge, invisible audience. Teens’ deepest secrets can be shared with thousands of people they’ve never even met.

What Families Can Do

Do you really want everyone to know that about you?

Think about what parents of your friends might think of you if they saw that.

How do you think that person would feel if he/she later saw it someday?

common sense says

Help teens think long term. Explain to teens that everything leaves a digital footprint with information that can be searched and passed along to thousands of people. Others can pass on that information too, so if they don’t want to see something tomorrow, they’d better not post it today.

Teach teens to keep personal information private. Help teens define which information is important for them to keep private when they’re online. To start, we recommend that teens not share their addresses, phone numbers, or birth dates.

Make sure your teens use privacy settings on their social network pages. Encourage teens to think carefully about the nature of their relationships (close friends, family, acquaintances, strangers) and adjust their privacy settings accordingly.

Remind teens to protect their friends’ privacy. Passing along a rumor or identifying someone in a picture (called “tagging”) affects other people’s privacy. If your teen is uncomfortable being tagged in friends’ photos, they can ask to have the photos or the tags removed. But beyond that, there’s not too much they can do. So teach your teen that it’s better to check with friends first before posting something about them.

Remind teens that the Golden Rule applies online. While teens don’t always have control over what other people post of them, they can be proactive and help guide which snapshots of their lives are taken in the first place. What goes around comes around. If teens spread a rumor or talk badly about a teacher, they can’t assume that what they post will stay private. Whatever negative things they say can and probably will come back to haunt them, in more ways than they can imagine.