



THE WILDCAT

A Tradition of Excellence

Plano Senior High School
2008-09 School Year Newsletter
October 2008 Issue

From the Principal Dr. Doyle Dean

Communication between parents and the school is a key factor in the success of our students. For several years we have depended on phone calls, letters, e-mail, three week progress reports and six week report cards to accomplish this link. We now have a new tool available to us.

You may now go on line to access information about attendance, grades, class assignments, curriculum, calendars and more. From the PISD web site (www.pisd.edu), select click on the link "Parent Portal" (directly underneath "myPISD.net" on the left side of the screen). Follow the instruction to logon to MyPISD.net. If you would like assistance or have questions using this service, please send an e-mail with your request to parentviewer@pisd.edu or contact the District Help Desk (469-752-8707). Please include your child's name, student identification number and campus.

This system will certainly give you greater access to information than you have had in the past; but remember that nothing can ever replace direct communication between your home and school.

NEWSPAPER - WILDCAT TALES:

Would you like your own copy of the school newspaper delivered to your home? If so send \$25 to Wildcat Tales, Plano Senior High, 2200 Independence Pkwy, Plano, TX 75075 for a full school year subscription. Your check needs to be made out to PSHS. Please include your driver's license number, student's name and ID number on your check. Students may obtain a newspaper for free on campus. If you would like to advertise in the Wildcat Tales e-mail our student business manager: studenplanopub@pisd.edu. You may also contact Terry Quinn at Terry.Quinn@pisd.edu or 469-752-9336.

Homecoming Mums:

The Planoette Bootbackers will be selling Homecoming Mums & Garters Wednesday, Oct 8th - Thursday, Oct 30th in the PSHS Cafeteria during all lunch periods. Check out the "Mum Design Shop" at www.planoettes.org with links to photos of our select choices for ribbons and trinkets.

Basic Mums \$60.00
Basic Garters \$40.00

Do-It-Yourself "MUM KITS" also available. During lunch sales weeks, we will display choices and provide order forms; help to complete download forms; and help YOU create the PERFECT mum or garter. We have the BEST selections and the best prices in Plano! Please support your very own PLANOETTES!!!

10th Annual Homecoming Parade:

"Building On Tradition" - Wednesday, November 5th, 6:30 p.m. Wildcat Cluster schools, clubs, organizations as well as community groups are participating and we're looking forward to a great crowd of spectators! Groups throughout the community are invited to attend or participate- Boy/Girl Scouts, club/athletic teams, dance clubs, church groups, and Wildcat Cluster school groups. (Parade registration form included with this newsletter and also posted on the Wildcat website - <http://k-12.pisd.edu/Schools/PSHS/default.html>) The parade route will start on Roundrock (by Davis Elementary School); proceed south on West Side Drive and end in the Wildcat Gym for the homecoming game pep rally. All Wildcat fans are welcome!

Homecoming Game:

Friday, November 7th; pre-game at 7:00 p.m.; game at 7:30 p.m. Don't miss the excitement as the Plano Wildcats take on the Rangers of Jesuit High School at John Clark Stadium!

Homecoming Dance:

The homecoming dance, "Heart of the Sea", will be held in the PSHS cafeteria on Nov. 8, from 8 PM to midnight. Tickets will be on sale Nov. 3-8 at lunch in the cafeteria. Ticket prices are \$18 per ticket before the dance; \$25 per ticket at the door. Dress for the dance is semi-formal.

CAT CALENDAR

October

21 Choir Concert
23-31 Red Ribbon Week

November

2 Daylight Savings Ends, fall back 1 hour
5 Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally
6 End of the Second 6 Weeks
7 Homecoming
8 Homecoming Dance, Café 8-12 Midnight
23 Orchestra Cluster Concert
25 Swing Dance, Cafe
26 - 28 Thanksgiving Holiday

December

19 End of the First Semester
12, 13 Madrigal Dinner, Cafe
22 First day of Winter Break

January

6 Students return to school
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Student Teacher Holiday

February

2-6 National Counseling Week
12 End of the 4th Six weeks
16 No School

PARKING:

Student parking permits are being sold in the Delta sub school now for \$75.00. Daily passes are also sold for \$2.00 a day. Please remember that all numbered parking spaces are reserved for Wildcat Staff and visitor parking spaces are for visitors ONLY. Towing (at the owner's expense) will be enforced when unauthorized vehicles are parked in numbered, visitor spaces, fire lane or handicapped parking. Towing is also enforced if a student does not have 08-09 visible parking hang tag. Questions may directed to Delta Sub School (469-752-9407).

Registrar News:

The Registrar is available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the school year. The fee to mail an official transcript to a college or scholarship center is \$2.00; the fee for an unofficial (personal) transcript is \$1.00. The Registrar sends official transcripts directly to colleges; they are not given to parents or students. The turn-around time is 24 hours unless the transcript is to be held for a counselor recommendation. Students currently enrolled must complete transcript request forms in person in the Registrar's Office, and must bring pre-addressed envelopes to be used when mailing to colleges; - NO postage, NO return address - we will stamp with the PSHS return address.

The Registrar provides mailings in the following formats: 1) regular mail; 2) Express (post office overnight) for \$17.00; and 3) Federal Express (overnight and Saturdays) with costs beginning at \$22.00. Reminder: After students turn 18 years of age or are enrolled in post-secondary school, the students' signatures are required to release records of any kind.

Please be mindful of your deadlines as we move further into the school year and be sure to give your counselor advance notice when records are needed. Any transcripts that need to be postmarked January 1 - 6 MUST be requested prior to December 15.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

Football Ticket Sales: General admission student (\$4.00) and adult (\$5.00) tickets are sold before each week's game in the Student Activity Office, Tuesday afternoon through 10 a.m. Friday morning.

Reserved seats are sold at the Athletic Department at Clark Stadium (469) 752-1082. All general admission tickets for home games are \$7.00 at the gate.

Golf Booster Club Tournament: This year's Booster Club golf tournament is scheduled for Sunday, November 9th, 12:30 p.m. at Twin Creeks Golf Course (shotgun start). Additional information is posted on the Plano Senior High School website. You may also contact Phillip Cluff (972-795-0607 or phillipcluff@yahoo.com).

Choir Fall Concert: The Wildcat Choral Department presents Hearts, Hands and Voices October 21st at 7:30 p.m.

Music Corporation Fall Show: Jazz Without Elephants – November 6th, 7:30 p.m.

Testing Calendar:

(Counseling Office 469-752-9315)

TAKS: Retest required for any senior new to a Texas school, transferring from a private school, or who failed any portion of the TAKS test last year.

October

- 21 TAKS Retest – English/Language Arts
- 22 TAKS Retest – Mathematics
- 23 TAKS Retest – Science
- 24 TAKS Retest – Social Studies
- 25 ACT test for those who registered by 9/22/08

November

- 1 SAT test for those who registered by 9/26/08
- 5 Deadline to register for 12/6/08 SAT
- 6 Deadline to register for 12/13/08 ACT

December

- 6 SAT for those who registered by 11/5/08
- 13 ACT for those who registered by 11/6/08
- 18 PSAT Score Distribution and Score Interpretation Presentation 6:30-8:30

Seniors – Check the college websites for application, housing, and scholarship deadlines.

Seniors who need a counselor recommendation for their college application are required to complete a blue packet. These are available in the PSHS Counseling Center.

WILDCAT LIBRARY:

Mon: 7:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Tues -Thurs: 7:30 AM - 7:30 PM

Fri: 7:30 AM - 4:20 PM

Sun: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

The route to success begins at PSHS Library. Students may enter our online Information Highway using these on ramps:

Mypisd.net <http://pshs.mypisd.net/myclasses>: Choose PSHS Library Student Page & Click Here under Information Highway

Library online <http://k-12.pisd.edu/library.html>: Choose PSHS

Plano Schools online at <http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/pshs>; Choose Library.

Parents who use the parent viewer in Mypisd.net at home, may also access the Plano ISD Library Resources explanation page. This features descriptions of the various subscription databases available and groups them according to subject areas. For example Gale's Student Resource Center Gold general database has reading-ability-tagged content from 550 reference volumes, and full-text articles from 1000 magazines and newspapers. Multimedia in Student Resource Center Gold includes podcasts, video and audio clips, flags, maps, and photographs.

YEARBOOK - 2009 PLANONIAN:

Time is running out to order the 2009 Planonian yearbook at the low price of \$80, which includes the student's name engraved on the cover. You may order your yearbook on line with a credit card at www.jostensyearbooks.com. "Senior Ad" spots are still available! Honor your special senior with a heartfelt memory by purchasing space in the 2009 Planonian Yearbook. Prices start as low as \$50; space is available on a first come first serve basis. Questions? E-mail Terry Quinn at Terry.Quinn@pisd.edu or call 469-752-9336.

PROCEDURES FOR LEAVING CAMPUS DURING CLASS TIME - IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

Students may not leave school during class time without written parental permission. When a student must leave for an appointment, he must sign out through the sub-school in the café and produce a parent note requesting he be permitted to leave; the secretary will issue a "Permit to Leave Campus" at that time (official pass to leave campus). Students must keep the permit with them until they exit the campus. Upon return to PSHS, students are required to sign in through the subschool office, and they have up to three days to submit another note explaining the reason for the absence. (Verification of absence from a doctor, dentist or the court is acceptable; otherwise a note from the parent is required.) If school is dismissed before the end of the student's school day, the student is not required to sign back in but a note or verification of the appointment is still required.

If an appointment is made the same day as the appointment is scheduled, please call the student's sub-school as far in advance of the appointment as possible. We will need to locate your student so he can sign out before leaving campus. Parents who do not call ahead may experience a long wait while we notify the student.

***The only exception to these rules is if the student leaves at lunch and already has permission to leave campus at lunch. However, a note is ALWAYS upon return.

The PSHS Parent Teacher Student Association:

Membership:

We have had a wonderful start!! Our fall membership drive has brought in 1603 members. Included in membership are 231 dads, 452 students, 122 teachers and 3 community members. Memberships are \$20 for the first family member and \$5 for each additional member including students. Students who join PTSA their Junior and Senior year are eligible for \$500 scholarship from the Senior high PTSA, as a senior. Membership in PTSA includes a student directory (1 per family), Parent Education Programs and support of student and staff events on campus. A membership form can be accessed from the PSHS PTSA website and payment may be made at any PTSA meeting or in the Fish Bowl. Please become one of the voices that advocate for our children.

After Prom:

Plano After Prom is a drug and alcohol free event for the PSHS Seniors and their guests that directly follows the senior Prom and is coordinated by the PTSA. PSHS PTSA funds help to sponsor this event and depend on donations from individuals and corporations for prizes and scholarships. A big thank you to all of you who have already contributed through the membership envelopes. We are currently accepting monetary, scholarship and prize donations for the event. Over 750 students attended the event and over \$25,000 was given away to PSHS Seniors in scholarships and prizes. If you are interested in helping with planning, publicity, donations and solicitations, decorations, refreshments or volunteering at the event please contact Diana Hapes through our pshs_ptsa@yahoo.com address. We are also looking for parents who work for companies that might offer matching grants for the funds we raise for Plano after Prom. Please let us know if your company offers this program and we will be happy to send you more information.

Important PTA Websites:

National PTA: www.pta.org
Texas PTA: www.txpta.org
Area 15 PTA: www.area15.txpta.net
Council of PTAs: www.planopta.org
PSHS PTSA: <http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/PSHS/PTSA/>
PSHS PTSA email address:
pshs_ptsa@yahoo.com

Council Delegate/Legislative Notes for Newsletter:

PLANO PTA ADVOCACY PROJECT – 4X4:
In response to a 2006 bill requiring all high school students have 4 years of math credit and 4 years of science credit in order to graduate, Plano Council of PTAs has formed an advocacy group. Please refer to the Plano PTA website at www.planopta.org for info regarding this bill.

UNIFORM GPA CALCULATION - The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is seeking public input related to proposed Uniform GPA Calculation rules. Deadline for input is October 22, 2008. Please refer to www.pisd.edu to read about the proposal.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Who Represents Me?
www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us

For Progress of TX PTA's Legislation:
www.capitol.state.tx.us

Texas PTA activities:
www.txpta.org

Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711.

Reflections: A National PTA Arts program that offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. The students are recognized at the Local (PSHS), Council, State and National levels. Plano Senior has had students advance to the State and National level over the last few years. Students who enter a project for at least 2 years will be eligible to apply for a Reflections scholarship in their senior year. This year's theme is "WOW". Students are encouraged to create and submit works in any or all 6 categories: Visual Arts, Literature, Photography, Music, Film/Video, Dance Choreography. Students can enter as many times as they want and in as many categories as they want- there is no limit. Entries may be created in the classroom or at home but must be their original piece of work. Official entry forms and complete set of rules are available on-line at the PSHS website <http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/pshs/ptsa> and also at www.txpta.org/reflections2008.html The PSHS Reflections deadline for entries is Friday October 24th. Entries should be dropped off in the Reflections box in the Fish Bowl. If you have any questions please contact Rashmi Sethi at pshs_ptsa@yahoo.com

PTSA Services:

Your PTSA will present a spring semester opportunity to practice for the PSAT, PRA, SAT and SAT tests. The Princeton Review will provide and conduct these practice tests on Saturday, February 14, 2009. A Strategy Session will be held for participants on the following Thursday, February 19, 2009. Check the PSHS PTSA website for the registration form after January 1st.

The PTSA is selling At-Home Copies of English Reading books in the PSHS library at the checkout desk. The PTSA accepts cash or checks made payable to: PSHS PTSA. The price list is available in the library or on the PTSA website.

How do we raise the money we need to offer such great opportunities for parents and students? Besides donations and membership, PSHS PTSA sells spiritwear including car decals, pens, notepads, temporary paw tattoos and Wildcat Hoodies. Contact pshs_ptsa@yahoo.com for details on these items or visit the PTSA website.

The PTSA is also pleased to promote partnerships with three local grocery chains. Your PTSA and the school benefit financially from shopping at these stores. Please be sure to pick up the appropriate cards or make the necessary changes to have your funds come to PSHS.

Tom Thumb's Good Neighbor Program: Link your Reward Card to Plano Senior High School PTSA by visiting www.tomthumb.com, click on Community Service, fill out the change school form and bring to Tom Thumb on your next visit. Account number: 11581

Kroger Share Card: It's as simple as scanning a bar code one time to have a percentage of your total purchase donated to PSHS PTSA. Find the bar code on the PTSA website under grocery partnership.

Central Market Shopper: Central Market is committed to assisting the Plano Independent School District. Every time you present a PSHS Central Market Card at checkout 5% of your total purchase is donated to PSHS. Cards are available in the front office or through the PTSA at pshs_ptsa@yahoo.com.

