

# Panther News

February/March 2010

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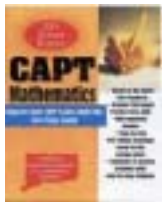
## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you are all keeping warm these days! There are number of important events taking place at the high school in the upcoming months. For sophomores and retesting juniors, the **Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)** will be implemented

**March 1-5.**

Details of the schedule for all students will be provided on our website and through future communication. Students are assessed in the following areas:



- Math
- Interdisciplinary Writing
- Editing
- Reading for Information
- Response to Literature
- Science

These assessments are valuable by providing us with information about our curriculum and instructional practices across the disciplines. We learn not only about how our students are performing as individuals but also the school-wide performance patterns and trends that exist across student groups over multiple years (e.g., longitudinal data). This information continues to contribute to school-wide improvements at Pomperaug High School.

If you have any questions about CAPT, you can call our office at 203-262-3200.

## PHS Schedule

Many of you have inquired about the school's Scheduling Committee and their development of a potential new schedule for the 2010-2011 year. While this has been worked on thoughtfully for more than a year, we are working on the final aspects of our feasibility study before a final presentation is made to



students and parents via meetings and written communication.

While a lot of misinformation leaked out, unfortunately, I am confident that the final product will include some of the positive schedule components we currently have, will not be overwhelming for students with respect to instructional minutes, but will be flexible so that future possibilities exist within the schedule (extended time for identified courses, flexible blocks for co-taught classes, etc.).

With that in mind, we would like to view a new schedule as more of a "schedule philosophy" rather than another set schedule that we are stuck with for years to come.

**The committee's goals included the following:**

- Increased overall instructional time with students
- Shortened lunch
- Revision of the advisory program
- Time for teacher collaboration
- Alignment with Powerschool capabilities

We are looking toward a two-year phase in model, which means that we will be implementing some aspects of this new flexible model over the next two years, leaving time to continue to improve upon it. For example, the revision of an advisory/interest period for students should be meaningful for students, and this could take some time to develop successfully.

**Please be patient as we put the final touches on our flexible schedule model.** I do want to thank the student groups who have been meeting with me and our scheduling committee along the way, as well as parents who shared their own thinking through e-mails and PTO meetings. In addition, many of the changes we have made from our original models are because we listened to the multitude of student and staff voices through our survey. Our intention was to ask for feedback and consider that feedback in order to put us on a path that would promise flexibility and increased instructional opportunities. We believe we have accomplished that...and more!

## AMERICAN IDOL

A congratulations to our own **Katie Stevens**, senior at Pomperaug High School for her debut on **American Idol**. As everyone is well aware, Katie has made it through to Hollywood, and we will all be anxious to see where this incredible journey takes her. On behalf of the students and staff at PHS, we would like to wish Katie good luck!



*Lorrie Rodrigue*  
Principal

## COUNSELING OFFICE UPDATES

*Ellen Spark, Director*

College applications are being processed at a rapid rate in the Counseling Office, with approximately 1400 already mailed. Many early acceptances have been received – Congratulations to those seniors! After the April notification dates, most of the seniors will be aware of their acceptances and then they must make the difficult decision of choosing where to continue their education. At this time, any senior who is still unsure as to his/her plans should see their counselor. It is not too late to make plans for life after PHS.

**Local Scholarship application packets will be distributed in Senior English classes on February 23, 2010.**

Last year the Region 15 communities awarded over \$180,000 in scholarships to the Class of 2008. The completed applications will be due in the Counseling office on **March 19, 2010** at 2:30. Parents are reminded that Local Scholarship organizations will be using the federal Student Aid Report (SAR) for scholarship eligibility therefore you should file for financial aid as soon as possible.

Seniors and juniors who are taking AP courses will be receiving information regarding the AP exams in their classes following mid-terms. AP Exams are given in early May; however, registration will be due by the end of March in order to meet AP deadlines. Please



call Ellen Spark in the Counseling Office (203-262-3238) with any questions about this process.

Juniors should also be watching for SAT I & II and ACT test dates and their respective registration deadlines. This information is at the end of the newsletter, on the College Board web site, the ACT website, and also on the Region 15 calendar.

During the first week of February, the counselors will begin the process of helping their students choose courses for the 2010-2011 school year. Freshmen and sophomores will be meeting in small groups and juniors will be meeting individually with their counselor. As parents, it is important to encourage your son/daughter to plan for a full academic program and in particular juniors should be planning their senior year choices around their post-secondary plans. Remember, colleges do not look favorably on an applicant whose senior year shows any sign of "letting down". **The course registration form will be hand carried home by your son/daughter for your review and signature.** Please take some time to look over your son/daughter courses requests and don't hesitate to call the counselor if you have any questions. Students must remember that they will need 23 credits to graduate from Pomperaug High School, and therefore must plan accordingly. This will necessitate taking a minimum of 6 credits for each of their first 3 years, leaving senior year to fill in those courses that will support their post-graduation plans. This will be discussed with them at length during the registration process, but it is important for parents to be aware and review their course selections for 2010 - 2011 school year. In addition to course registration, sophomores will be meeting during the second semester with their Counselor to continue the career exploration process.

It is a time of change and decision for all students. If there are any concerns or questions being raised at home regarding any of the upcoming involvements, please do not hesitate to call the Counseling Office (203-262-3238).

## OVERDUE MATERIALS

Parents should be aware that Pomperaug High School systematically collects overdue materials. This process, explained below, is used to insure maximum use of books and other materials bought by the Region. It also insures that there is not a rush to collect materials at the end of each school year.

**Be aware of our Overdue Material Collection Procedure.** We collect for all overdue materials at the end of each marking period. This should eliminate the crunch that everyone, especially **Seniors**, experiences at the end of the school year.

This procedure allows the student to contact his/her teacher at the end of each marking period in order to resolve any discrepancies before they become an issue. **Handling these obligations immediately will make the year end process run more smoothly.**

As always, **Seniors who owe text or other materials (sports uniforms, lab equipment, sheet music, etc.) at the end of the year will not receive their cap and gown, tickets or be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony until the items are returned or paid for.** In addition, **seniors will be denied the privileges listed below until all overdue obligations have been resolved.**

- Parking
- Dances
- Yearbook picnic
- Senior trip

We will also continue to withhold report cards each marking period until these obligations are met.

Since we are now trying to resolve overdue text and other materials on an ongoing, marking period basis, there should be minimal effect on graduation and the year-end programs.

We encourage all parents to work with their sons/daughters to make this collection procedure successful.

Note: All students paying for missing texts or materials should do so in the Media Center with Mrs. Cinquegrana.

We would like to clear all students from this list prior to the end of the school year. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Cinquegrana at 203-262-3225.

## MOBIL GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Each month a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond award will be given to a Pomperaug High School Student from a list of nominated individuals, sponsored by the People's Choice Mobil station in cooperation with the Pomperaug High School PTO.

These nominations may come from other students, teachers, parents, administrators or staff and are based on but not limited to the following general qualifications:

1. Appropriate Demeanor
2. A Kindly Act
3. Something Above and Beyond the Norm
4. Good Community Activism
5. A Generous Act
6. Exceptional or Special Volunteering Practices
7. A Display of Strong Character Traits
8. Thoughtfulness
9. Displays Good Work Ethics and any other display of good citizenship.

Nomination forms may be picked up and dropped off at the People's Choice Mobil

Station or left in the PHS/PTO box in the main office at the school. This award will be announced monthly, approximately around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## CALIFORNIA, HERE WE COME!



Keep your eyes and ears open, for this spring, Pomperaug Theatre Company will be taking you on a time and place travel journey to old time Hollywood. The spring production of Moss Hart's and George S. Kaufman's first collaboration, *Once In A Lifetime*, a hilarious romp through the early days of talking pictures, will tickle your satirical funny bone from beginning to end.

The play starts in the winter of 1928, when the big news is the whopping success of Al Jolson in *The Jazz Singer*, the first talking picture. An out-of-work vaudeville trio — sarcastic May Daniels (Nina Paganaucci), fast-talking Jerry Hyland (Michael Calandro), and their slightly dopey, but loveable partner George Lewis (Tristan Mayes) — decide to make their fortune in Hollywood. The only problem is they don't know what they're going to do there. That's all right: No one in Hollywood knows anything either. They pretend to be a team of vocal coaches, and, with the help of gossip columnist, Helen Hobart (Sarah McVerry), they find themselves working for Herman Glogauer (Jay Purwin), the scatter-brained producer behind Glogauer Pictures. Meanwhile, Glogauer's receptionist, Miss Leighton (Lindsay Tuttle), is dealing with an angry writer, Lawrence Vail (Adam Heavens), whom she thinks is a drunken maniac. Mistakenly thinking that dimwitted George is a visionary genius, Glogauer makes him head of production, but George produces the worst picture ever made, starring his equally dopey sweetheart, Susan Walker (Katie Stevens). Yet, somehow, this comic satire has a classic Hollywood-style happy ending.

Casting has been completed, and the thespians will be hitting the ground running with the first rehearsal as soon as mid-terms are over. Performance dates for this classic comedy are May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup> 2010. Stay tuned for more details, and do check out our website: [www.pomperaug.com/organizations/theatre](http://www.pomperaug.com/organizations/theatre).

## SAVE THE DATE!

April 6, 2010 has been set for Pomperaug High School's First Annual College Fair.

Over 175 colleges and universities have been invited to attend this event. Students and parents will have a chance to speak to college representatives in the gymnasium from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Please mark your calendar now!

## FCCLA NEWS

by Mrs. Garafola



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America introduced a new product to their Hungry Panther Café called CinnaPizza. Students have been gobbling up the hearty snack with cups of steaming Hot Cocoa. FCCLA is hosting the Snowflake Ball on Friday, February 26 in the Cafeteria to raise money for The Children's Miracle Network benefiting CT children's hospitals.

## CULINARY ARTS NEWS

by Mrs. Garafola

The Culinary Arts I students finished last semester by preparing a luncheon for their lab class from salad to Entrée to dessert. Hopefully, their families will reap the benefit of their expanded culinary skills.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE CORNER

by Dr. Yolande Bosman

**Bienvenue - Welcome** to our Foreign Language Teacher Assistant

Pomperaug High is one of three schools in the State of Connecticut that has benefited from an international exchange intern program normally reserved for universities. This year we have the good fortune to host **Nadege Pouedras** from Nantes, France. Nadege completed her baccalaureate exam, specializing in literature and foreign languages. She opted to study Italian and English. After the *lycee*, she studied international tourism and languages for two years, with the intent of working as a travel agent. Her aspiration is to be gainfully employed with Air France as a flight attendant. The intern assistant program serves to support language study by providing individual and small group opportunities to students for a mere stipend of \$200.00 per month. These enrichment programs would not be possible without the gracious hospitality and housing provided by the DeBrizzi, Agosti, and Hahn Families.

Off to the sound of the wilds!! As a cultural offshoot, the French department is sponsored a trip to the Bushnell on January 28th to see the treasured tale of "THE LION KING". Since there are many French speaking African nations, it is yet another opportunity to create links in education.

Students will be offered the opportunity to participate in national competitive exams, both in French and Spanish during the next few months, sponsored by the Alliance Francaise, American Association of teachers of French and the American Association of Spanish Teachers.

Making interdisciplinary connections between departments is critical to providing depth of learning. In May students in French

and Art will be traveling to an exhibition in New York to view the artifacts of King Tut. Napoleon's expedition in 1799 unearthed the exotic culture and treasures of the Egyptian culture to Europe. Students will be doing their own archeological hunt!!

## NOTES FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Susan Cristadoro, RN

Kathleen Fitzpatrick, RN

### Illness and/or Injury During School

Students who are ill or injured during the school day should report to the nurse's office. We are seeing an increase in the number of students using cell phones to contact parents when they do not feel well and want to go home. Parents are then contacting our office expecting us to locate their child in the building and provide an excuse for them to leave. This is very time consuming and often difficult, especially if the student has a free block or is in the cafeteria. If your child contacts you and asks to go home, please instruct him/her to report to the nurse's office. We will be happy to evaluate him/her and contact you to immediately. We cannot excuse and release any student through our office, until the student has been seen by one of the nurse's.

### Freshmen Screenings

Freshmen vision and scoliosis screenings will be performed on students enrolled in health classes second semester. The referrals for students with identified problems will be mailed out. If you receive a referral, please have your physician complete it and send it back to the PHS nurse.

### Sports Physicals for Winter/Spring Sports

Any student who plans to try out for or participate in an interscholastic sport must meet the following criteria **prior** to participating in any school sponsored clinic, try-out, or practice:

1. The results of a current physical (not more than one calendar year old), that indicates a student may participate in physical education/sports activities, must be submitted to, or on file with the school nurse. (Please note - medical clearance to participate in sports must be the original copy of the school sports physical form).
2. This physical is good for one calendar year from the date of the examination. When the physical is more than one year old, the student will no longer be eligible to continue participation, until the results of a new physical are submitted to the nurse.

**Due to the number of students involved in sports, these physicals must be submitted to the school nurse at least 2 school days**

**before participation to guarantee that your son/daughter will be cleared by the time try-outs, clinics, or practices are scheduled to begin.**

### Medication in school and on field trips

All medications that are taken in school require an order from your physician and written parent permission. Only when your physician has indicated in writing that a student may self administer a specific medication, will the student be allowed to carry that medication. This rule applies to all medications including over the counter meds such as Advil, Aleve, Midol, cough or cold medications as well as prescription medications such as asthma inhalers, antibiotics, etc. Please remember that students may never self administer controlled substances such as Codeine, Ritalin, Concerta, Adderall, Dexedrine, Metadate CD, etc. These must be brought to the school by a parent/guardian and administered by the school nurse.

If a student requires medication on a field trip, **it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the school nurse at least 1 week prior to each field trip, that his/her child will be taking meds on the trip.** A physician's order must be on file in the nurse's office. Even if you have previously provided the school with a physician's order indicating that the student may self administer, the nurse must be contacted so she can send a copy of the order to the staff chaperone.

### Attention Parents of Sophomore Students!

All sophomore (and repeating freshmen) students must have the results of a complete physical (performed on or after 7/1/09), on file in the nurse's office by February 15, 2010. These must be on the blue Health Assessment Record form that was sent home last spring. **All \* boxes on the form must be completed by your physician (including vision and hearing screening).** If you need a form or have any questions about these physicals, please call the nurse's office.

### Elevator Keys

There has been a change in procedure for borrowing and returning elevator keys. Any student, who has a documented medical problem which necessitates the use of the elevator, should report to the nurse's office to sign out an elevator key. There will be no deposit required at that time. The student will be expected to return the key to the nurse's office when their medical issue has resolved. Students who lose or do not return their key will not receive their report card and/or if they are a senior, will not be issued their cap and gown until a key replacement fee of \$20 per key has been paid. Students who currently have elevator keys and who have already paid a deposit will have their deposit refunded when the key is returned.

# GradNite 2010



*Senior Parents...we really need you to dig in!*

Print the *GradNite Volunteer Form* from our website to help on a committee or to work at GradNite!

*(Of course, you don't need to be a senior parent to partake in the fun!)*

**Please send your GradNite donation now if you haven't already...**

Your contribution will help make this GradNite even more special for your child.

**Thanks to all senior parents who have already sent a donation.**

*(See your name on our website!)*

**Start selecting those special photos for your child's collage.**

**GradNite Collage Workshops will be held at the Southbury Public Library on January 26<sup>th</sup> or February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:45 to 8:45 pm!**

Drop in to pick up your guidelines and photo mat! Checkout styles and ideas!!

Work beside committee members while making your own collage!!!

Check our website ([www.phsgradnite.org](http://www.phsgradnite.org)) for details and more workshop dates.

All forms, donations and pictures should be addressed to **GradNite**

and either mailed to PHS or dropped off at the school.

**JOIN US FOR GRADNITE AT DIPALMA'S ON FEBRUARY 9TH, WHERE A PORTION OF YOUR BILL BENEFITS GRADNITE 2010!!!**

Thanks for your support of GradNite 2010!

**Maria Papiro**

GradNite 2010 Chairperson

GradNite is a fully self-funded event & does not benefit from Region 15 funds or taxpayer dollars.

[www.phsgradnite.org](http://www.phsgradnite.org)

[phsgradnite@yahoo.com](mailto:phsgradnite@yahoo.com)

## VESTAGE 2010

### PHS Yearbooks on Sale

The cost is \$70. Checks made payable to Pomperaug High School. Please complete the following form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Maureen Honan  
Pomperaug High School  
234 Judd Road  
Southbury, CT 06488



## Important Dates at PHS - February/March 2010

February 2 ..... NHS Blood Drive - Auxiliary Gym	March 1-5 ..... CAPT Testing
February 4 ..... 8th Grade Curriculum Orientation (Parents) .... 6:30 p.m.	March 5 ..... Registration deadline for April ACT
February 4 ..... Registration deadline for March SAT	March 8 ..... BOE Meeting - AP Room #103 ..... 7:30 p.m.
February 5 ..... Report Cards distributed in Advisory ..... 9:00 a.m.	March 10 ..... PTO - AP Room #103 ..... 7:00 p.m.
February 6 ..... Senior Semi-Formal ..... 6:30-10:30 p.m.	March 12 ..... Progress Reports distributed in Advisory ..... 9:00 a.m.
February 6 ..... ACT	March 13 ..... SAT
February 8 ..... BOE Meeting - AP Room #103 ..... 7:30 p.m.	March 17 ..... Marching Band in NYC for St. Patrick's Day
February 10 .... PTO - AP Room #103 ..... 7:00 p.m.	March 18 ..... District-wide Grades 5-12 String Concert ..... 7:00 p.m.
February 11 .... Middle & High School Band Festival-PHS ..... 7:00 p.m.	March 19 ..... <b>SNOW DATE FOR District-wide Grades 5-12</b>
February 12 .... <b>SNOW DATE FOR Middle &amp; High School Band</b>	<b>String Concert ..... 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Festival-PHS ..... 7:00 p.m.</b>	March 19 ..... Scholarship Applications due in
February 15-19 - Mid-Winter Recess and Presidents' Day NO SCHOOL	Counseling Office ..... <b>2:30 p.m.</b>
February 22 .... BOE Meeting - AP Room #103 ..... 7:30 p.m.	March 22 ..... BOE Meeting - AP Room #103 ..... 7:30 p.m.
February 23 .... Middle and High School Chorus Day at PHS	March 24 ..... Talent Show
February 23 .... Scholarship application packets distributed	March 25 ..... Registration deadline for May SAT
February 26 .... Snowflake Ball - Cafeteria ..... 6:00-10:30 p.m.	March 26 ..... Professional Development-Early Release Day for Students
	March 29 ..... Passover begins at sundown