



"The Navigator"

Principal's Newsletter

St. Charles North High School

Vol. V No. 2 December 2003

255 Red Gate Road / St. Charles, Illinois 60175 / Phone 630/443-5700

We value feedback from the District 303 community. Write or call us. Your response is always appreciated

Mr. Frank Kesman, Principal
e-mail:mringsby@d303.org

STC NORTH WINS PRESTIGIOUS AP EXCELLENCE AWARD

North HS is one of twelve schools nationwide being honored for its participation in and promotion of the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Program.

Principal Kesman accepted a Siemens Award on the school's behalf from the Siemens Foundation. The school will receive \$1,000 and a plaque.

The Siemens Foundation honors students, teachers and schools who have achieved excellence on the AP tests to support and promote mathematics, science and technology education. Those tests assess students' knowledge in science and mathematics courses at all grade levels in United States high schools.

The Foundation also honors schools which have shown notable improvement in AP enrollment and performance. The AP tests students in these mathematical and science subjects: biology, calculus, chemistry, computer science, environmental science, physics and statistics.

Two years ago St. Charles North offered four AP tests. This past school year the high school offered all nine of the AP science and mathematics tests that are offered. Two years ago, 25 North students took AP exams, while this past year, that number jumped to 147.

Some of that improvement is due to North having a smaller population two years ago because it did not have a senior class. Still, College Board officials believe the achievement is notable because it shows North High School's efforts to promote the AP Program among its students.

North has sent teachers to summer workshops so that they could learn to teach the AP Program in the most effective way consistent with College Board expectations. "There is an overall emphasis on excellence in this district and at our school," Kesman said. "I am very proud of the fact that we're a young school and able to receive this recognition." "There has been a lot of hard work on the part of a lot of staff and commitment to our students and the overall program, and we look forward to continued success in the future."



Siemens Award presentation

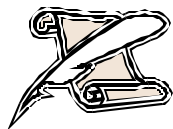
(front L to R) AP teachers – B. Maloney, K. Harrington, M. Moore
(back L to R) AP teachers – J. Harbecke, M. Smith, M. Brumball, J. Young; Siemens VP for HR - Allen Jakes; Business/Math IC - B. Mitchell; Principal - F. Kesman. (not pictured but present at presentation – AP teacher T. Olson.)

Nat'l Merit Scholarship Commended Students

North High School seniors Matt Bossemeyer, Emma Eschenfeldt, and Kori Roys have been named Commended Students in the 2004 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, was presented by Principal Kesman to these scholastically talented seniors as they were recognized at the October Breakfast with the Stars Program.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2004 competition for Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the 2004 competition by taking the 2002 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"Recognition of academically talented students and of the key role played by schools in their development is essential to the pursuit of educational excellence in our nation," commented a spokesperson for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. "The young people being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their strong performance in this highly competitive program. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and that they will continue to pursue scholastic excellence and to develop their abilities to the fullest. These young people represent a very valuable national resource."



“Pen of the Principal”
Mr. Frank Kesman, Principal

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the December holidays. It seems like “only yesterday” that we were opening our doors to the new freshman class and helping them become a part of the St. Charles North family. Our plans for next year’s freshman class (2008) and registration and course selection for all current students are already well underway.

New this fall is the ETC development days. *Excellence Through Collaboration* provides opportunity for our teaching staff to work together to improve instructional practice and curriculum implementation. The results of the six dates this fall will be reported to the Board of Education in January for their review. Pending continued support, we look forward to additional opportunities to support the educational process next spring. Early discussions indicate that we are impacting and will continue to impact student learning with this initiative.

With the close of another successful fall season the winter program begins. Whether it is athletics, activities or special interest clubs, I would like to offer my thanks to our students and staff for their hard work in these extra-curricular opportunities. Through this hard work, we have continued to enjoy success. Your support of these programs is critical to our student’s success and that support is shown in a number of ways. Whether you are fund raising or driving your students *to yet another practice*, you remain a key component of a successful program.

I continue to be amazed by the high energy level and the commitment of our many parent organizations. Friends of Music, PTO, Athletic Boosters, The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation and others are true partners in our efforts on behalf of students. In the November 2001 issue of the Navigator, I wrote, “*In addition, our Boosters are beginning a project to provide an all-purpose facility at our athletic stadium.*” This facility is now a reality and of particular note is the completion and grand opening of our concession pavilion located at the stadium complex. Through the hard work and commitment to our students by many parents and community members, we now enjoy service and fundraising from a well-designed and practical facility. *Thank you* is perhaps too simple of words. I hope they express our appreciation.

As we look forward to 2004, please mark your calendar for the annual Greater St. Charles Education Foundation dinner and auction on Saturday, February 7th. This annual event has provided outstanding support of our educational program through their fundraising and awarding of Foundation Grants. Look for an opportunity to support this or any of our special programs.

The reflective Thanksgiving Holiday has passed, the hectic days of December are upon us, and a New Year is fast approaching. Whichever of the season’s great holidays you celebrate, the entire Kesman family wishes each of you and your families a holiday marked with blessings, peace, joy, and a new year filled with contentment and optimism.

Frank A. Kesman
 Principal

Students Named AP Scholars

Eight St. Charles North High School students have been named “AP Scholars” by the College Board for their exceptional achievement on the Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams. (All honored students graduated in 2003).

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program lets students take challenging college-level courses while still in high school for college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams.

The following students were named AP Scholars (received grades of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP Exams on full-year courses: Marie Diana Alhambra, Kenneth Chakour, Heather Dague, Justin Havens, Anneka Pryce, Corgan Tvrdik.

The following students were named AP Scholars with Honor (earned an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on 4 or more of these exams: Gregory Fenton, Matthew Gill.

Almost 15 percent of the more than one million high school students in more than 14,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP Exams earned the “AP Scholar” accolade, according to a College Board press release.

Students took AP Exams in May 2003 after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of yearlong courses and exams.

Congratulations to our AP Scholars on their accomplishments.



North Star PTO

Homecoming

Thanks to all the parents who volunteered during Homecoming Week – from assisting with float building to window painting to transforming the school. Our Homecoming Committee was truly impressed by the incredible organizational skills of the Junior Class. A special thank you to Dipika Cherala, Junior Class President, and to parents Rosemary Ditman, Tammy Nilsen, Anita Hornung, Kim Cook and Vicki Justice for your incredible talents and time.

Chili Cook-Off

Our first annual PTO-Central Booster Chili Cook-Off, held on October 17th, was a huge success. With only three weeks advance planning time our organizers, Kerry Fenoglio, Anna Hurst and Julie Vicory, put together a spectacular event. Dressed in Chili Cook-Off aprons, 16 teams, including 4 from Sodexo, competed for the coveted Best Chili Award. Distinguished judges, Thompson Principal, Dr. Pam Kibbons, Haines Middle School Asst. Principal, Mr. Charlie Kyle, and former St. Charles Mayor, Fred Norris, selected “**Sweet 5 Pepper Chili**” from Young Life of Kane County as the event’s Best Chili. In addition to the gold embossed red glass chili bowl, the first place team won three \$45 gift certificates to Outback Steakhouse of South Elgin. Crowd Favorite was the cheerleading group – “**Spicy Spirit Chili.**” Look for better advertising and a more central location next year.

Teacher Conference Dinners

Once again our Hospitality Committee provided a light supper for our dedicated teaching staff during parent-teacher conferences. We have heard that the staff looks forward to this every year. After coming to school early and leaving after 8:00 pm, we are happy to make this day a little less stressful. The PTO thanks all of you that brought in food for this meal.

Market Day

Market Day is off to a great start this year. We have just finished the great pie event - over 700 pies were ordered by various booster groups. As a result, each group earned \$3.50 per pie ordered. Special thanks to all the organizations that are assisting with delivery and distribution.

8th Grade – Future Freshmen Night

On December 2nd St. Charles North PPS will be hosting our incoming freshmen. It is a planning evening for parents and students. They will be given information about next year’s registration, tour the building and talk to students about the various clubs and organizations on campus. The Hospitality Committee will be contacting our volunteer bakers shortly.

Fund Raisers

If you paid PTO membership and have not picked up your student directory, please have your student go to the main office and speak with Mrs. Zucker. If you would like an additional directory, they may be purchased for \$5.00.

Once again, it’s time for our annual Post Prom Poinsettia Sale. The deadline for ordering was November 21st. Pick up is Thursday, December 4th from 3-6 pm in the main foyer. Call Pat Screeden at 377-2448 or Sue Becker at 513-0514 for details.

We hope you have had an opportunity to admire the beautiful print of St. Charles North High School that resides in the main office. The print sells for \$25.00 and with it you’ll receive a \$25.00 coupon toward framing. We have some great framing ideas so that it can be used as a keepsake for your student. Call Theresa Shoup at 365-6797 or check out the PTO web site for more information. We also have note cards of the print. Ten note cards sale for \$5.00 and are perfect for writing those senior thank-you notes. Call Cindy Hueneke at 377-9692 for information.

PTO Meetings

PTO meetings are held in the LRC from 7-9 pm on the 3^d Monday of the month except during the month of December. Please join us. You can also find our meeting minutes and budget on the PTO web site.

Jan Stark – PTO President

CURRICULUM CORNER

Excellence Through Collaboration

ETC UPDATE

Thank you to all staff, students, and parents for contributing to the success of the first ETC late start morning on 11-05-03. The teachers were able to meet in course teams to set goals and develop action plans for their work together. The students who arrived early were able to use the LRC computers, study, work on class projects, and socialize with their friends. The information in the table on the opposite page is a summary of the important work teachers are conducting during the ETC meetings. We anticipate improvements in curriculum, instruction, and assessment as a result of this work. The dates for the next five ETC mornings are:

- ❑ November 19th
- ❑ December 3rd and 17th
- ❑ January 7th and 21st

A reminder that the morning bus schedule runs according to normal pick-up times, yet classes start at 8:11 am.



Course	Summary of Goals for ETC Fall 2003 Session
World History	We will identify specific content/skill standards to be addressed through the use of learning goals and essential questions for specific units of study
Spanish II	We will establish a system to teach/learn the preterit/imperfect in the area of Spanish II, establish an end goal (assessment) and revise units
Government	We will create and clarify common assessments for the citizenship participation project (Honors level), and the Constitution assessment (each level) in the area of government, and then continue implementing authentic assessments that meet the D303 Social Studies standards.
Spanish III	We will create authentic assessments to be administered in the area of Spanish 3 and then implement these assessments to benefit student learning.
French I – IV	Create and revise learning goals and/or essential unit questions for specific units of study in French I – V and then implement these ideas
Spanish IV H	We will integrate grammar review into the literature unit of fables in Spanish 4 honors and then change the delivery of instruction and assessment
All Art Courses	We will articulate the scope and sequence of the three foundation classes which will include the organization of Art History resources. In the area of 2D,3D, Artech there will be a deeper understanding of the themes and concepts of each unit.
All Choral	We will develop a common assessment to be given to all choir students at the end of the first semester - measuring not only student application of musical concepts, but also student comprehension of musical concepts.
English I	We will create a common final assessment in the area of English I for Spring 2004 – and the map units of study to lead to the final assessment
English II	We will establish research goals connected to Literary Criticism, and implement/evaluate using the second semester research paper.
11/12 th Grade English	We will adapt a unit of study based on the essential question “What does it mean to participate in a literate community?” in the area of English, and then pilot this unit in the second semester.
Jazz Group	Creation and administration of a common final assessment
Economic	Formulate unit outlines for remaining Economics' units, debrief on previously completed units, align units with standards
Coop	Create a Rite of Passage Unit for 2 nd Semester Co-op 11
Web Page	Develop a curriculum unit in Macromedia Flash for students to incorporate in their Final Project – Website
Pre-Calculus	Align the course goals of the Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry/College Algebra Courses
Statistics	Investigate additional materials, software for statistical modeling
Algebra II - LH	We will align our course, (content, assessments, general timelines) as well as create take home problem sets
Geometry	We will utilize Geometer's Sketchpad NEW version 4.0 to develop unit questions/activities for at least 3 sections of instruction in Semester 2
AP Chemistry	Develop a unit question and common assessment for the course
Earth Science	Agree upon the learning goal and essential unit questions for each unit of study in ES and ES/GEOG and then develop a common assessment.
AP Biology	Agree upon the learning goal and essential unit questions for a unit of study in the area of AP biology and then develop a common assessment
ICB	Agree upon the learning goal and essential unit questions for a unit of study in the area of atomic structure and then develop a common assessment
Biology	Agree upon the learning goals and essential unit questions for a unit of study in the area of biology and then develop a common assessment
Honors Biology	Agree upon the learning goals and essential unit questions for a unit of study in the area of biology and then develop a common assessment
Physics	Agree upon the learning goals and essential unit questions for physics and use this information to discern differences between honors and L2
Chemistry	Agree upon the learning goal and essential unit questions for each unit of study for L2 and LH Chemistry
Woods	Develop common assessments to be administered to all students.
Material Processing	Agree upon the learning goals and essential unit questions for a unit of study for material processes.
Sociology	We will develop and implement a common rubric for the courses final assessment.
FACS	We will develop common assessments to be administered to all students
PE Leaders	We will identify the ideal progression of the curriculum to enhance connections and applications of skills and strategies in the area of Physical Education Leaders I and then implement it to increase the students' ability to serve as Sr. Leaders and role models to others.
Jr/Sr PE	We will develop an environmental Health unit that meets the Illinois State Standards for that area.
Health	We will develop a final assessment aligned with state standards and D303 curriculum to be used in all Health classes during the spring 2004 semester.



Market Day News

THANK YOU! Two small words that hardly seem enough in the face of the tremendous response that we've gotten for the PIE Sale. Final figures aren't available yet, our profit from this fundraiser sets at nearly \$3,000.00! Seven groups will benefit from the top profit level we achieved as a whole. Each pie sold netted a \$3.50 profit for the group that sold it. Now that's something to cheer about! So THANK YOU AGAIN!!!!

Market Day continues to grow with your support! We're making good progress this year in adding patrons to our base. Since PTO's main purpose is to help our students, we have decided to give one half of each month's profits to the group or groups that help us at the sale. Key Club was the first group to receive the benefit, and they earned \$182.00 for their effort! Key Club has donated all their earnings to the Literature Festival, which in turn will bring authors to our high school in the coming months.

With our last Market Day check we received rebate money from Market Day's online shopping fundraiser, SchoolShare™. Market Day launched this program in the fall of 2000 and it has grown to be a wonderful way to earn extra profit for our school. When our parents and supporters start their on line shopping via www.schoolshare.com, our PTO receives rebates from participating merchants. You can also access SchoolShare through www.marketday.com. There is no cost to you. Check out the SchoolShare site today. There's information about the program and a "Frequently Asked Questions" tab.

If you haven't tried Market Day yet, give us a try! If you have, please tell a neighbor or friend! You may pick up an order form in the North High School Main Office. If you have any questions or need help in ordering please call: Treva Wine (630) 762-8287, Kathy Polito (630) 513-0299 or Margie Jimenez (630) 443-8562. We look forward to your continued support!

DANGEROUS INTERSECTION

There have been a number of accidents involving our students at the intersection of Red Gate Road and Randall Road. ***Please use extreme caution when using this intersection.***

Make sure all traffic has cleared the intersection before venturing through it. This includes making sure that there are no other drivers racing through the light. If you are in the intersection and waiting to turn left onto Red Gate and the light has turned red, please be sure to check for any cars northbound on Randall to make sure they are going to stop at the light.

District Notes



- ❑ Anyone with a health or safety concern about any District 303 building is encouraged to complete an ***Environmental Request for Action form*** which is part of the district's "Health and Safety Protocol." These forms are readily available in each building's main office and on the district website (www.d303.org) under "About 303".
- ❑ Please contact District 303 Director of Communications, Tom Hernandez, at (630) 513-2593 or thernandez@d303.org to receive district information electronically.



Selective Service

The law states that any student turning 18 years of age will need to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Registration may be done on line at: www.sss.gov or go to any U.S. Post Office and fill out a Selective Service Registration Card. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Guidance Office.



"Between the Lines"

After a great fall season highlighted by a 2^d place finish at State by our Girls' Golf team, we begin the winter season that includes Girls' and Boys' Basketball, Wrestling, Girls' Gymnastics and Boys' Swimming.

There will be plenty of opportunities to support our teams. Wrestling opens its season Wednesday, November 26, 6:00 p.m. at St. Charles North vs. St. Charles East while Boys' Swim has a home meet on Tuesday, December 10. The basketball teams will all play on Saturday, December 13 vs. East Aurora and Gymnastics opens their season on Monday, December 1st.

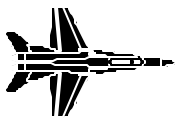
Extra-curriculars are an important part of every student's high school experience. Help support our students by attending athletic events. It is going to be a great season to be a North Star.

CENTRAL BOOSTERS

We appreciate the overwhelming fan support for our NORTH STARS. It is truly fun to see all the sports getting the recognition from family, friends, and the faculty. Our support really helps the students perform to their best abilities.

Please remember that your family and faculty passes **allow you, your spouse, and your children under high school age** to attend the home games for free. We recently have experienced a lot of people bringing friends and extended families into the games expecting to get them in for free using their passes. Please remember the minimal \$50 fee is quite a savings, as are the benefits of the district teacher's pass. Remember by not paying for those guests the passes do not cover, we are depriving the school district of much needed funds.

Let us all be responsible, continue our strong support of our North Stars by using our passes properly.



US Air Force Academy Educator Orientation Program

Guidance Counselor Jeanine James was among 120 educators from across the United States selected to attend the US Air Force Academy Educator Orientation Program for 2003.

This program, hosted each year by the USAF Academy Admissions Directorate, familiarizes educators with the recruiting and selection process for high school students.

The educators, who competed for selection after being nominated by their local Air Force Academy Admissions Liaison Officers, also learn about the Air Force Academy's world-class facilities, academic opportunities, excellent staff, and the military training required by cadets.

Upon completion of the program the educators are able to counsel young men and women on scholarship opportunities available at the Air Force Academy.

Coach Rob Prentiss To Hall Of Fame

Head Boys' Golf Coach, Rob Prentiss will be inducted next May into the Illinois State Golf Coaches Hall of Fame. The ceremony is slated for May 21st in Bloomington.

Prentiss has coached golf for 20 years in District 303 (starting at St. Charles HS and currently at North HS). His teams have won eight conference championships, nine Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Regional titles, five IHSA Sectional Titles, and appeared nine times in the state finals – winning it all twice in 1991 and 1998. While at St. Charles High School, Prentiss achieved an amazing 141-21 meet record.

North HS Boys' golfers were undefeated conference champions in 2002 – only the program's third year. His North golfers have made two sectional appearances and have produced two individual state qualifiers. Prentiss so far has compiled a 35-17 dual meet record at North HS.

Prentiss is quoted as saying "I've been blessed with a lengthy career and outstanding players, and my peers must think a lot of me to give me this honor."

Congratulations Coach Prentiss!



MATH TEAM CALCULATES A GREAT YEAR

This year's Math Team is off to a great start. There are forty members, with more joining each week. At the first meet, Shaun Joy took first place in our division in the Orals Competition. The Senior team also placed first (out of twelve schools). Overall, the team took third place.

This year, for the first time, the Math Team will be competing in the ICTM State Math Contest. The regional competition, which is the qualifier for the state competition, will be held on February 28th. We hope to send some students to the state competition.

Breakfast with the Stars

The *Breakfast with the Stars* Program honors individual stars within our school community. Some of the individuals nominated are out there for all of us to see and congratulate. Others are behind the scenes or who, in their quiet way, demonstrate a level of excellence through service, academics, competition, or simple kindness. Some of these students give of their special talents on a day-to-day basis in the classroom and some of them excel in our extra and co-curricular activities. Each student is unique and special in the way they share and develop our school community.

October Award Recipients

<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Miss Amanda Jacobs	Matt Riehm
Mrs. Marsha Brown	Brandon Duensing
Ms. Anita Ainsworth	Angela Giudice
Mrs. Judy Vonasch	Dan Modica
Mr. Rob Rooney	Michael Collins Bethany Conrad Philipp Conte Brenna DeLeo Nicole DeRuyck Stephanie Droho Michael Harriett Jacob Rigert Jennifer Stephens Samantha Brooks Dominic Pileggi
Mr. Jim Lotarski Mr. Peter Gleason	Joe Giudice
Mr. Frank Kesman	Elyse Dankoski Matt Bossemeyer Emma Eschenfeldt Kori Roys
Ms. Linda Goll	Vanessa Bossert

November Award Recipients

<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Mrs. Michele Machowicz	Andrew Dittman Jacqueline Gilpin Preston Reilly
Mr. Steve Mahoney	Anthony Deliberto
Ms. Sarah Manwaring	Lindsey Hitt
Mrs. Amy Macechko	Edward Izenstark
Mr. Joe Larson	Jillian Rigert Joanna Bebenek Robert Zeman Kelsey Leingang Michael McDonnell Nathan Becker
Mrs. Sandy Szmajda	Zachary Federman
Ms. Laura Wilkinson	Joshua Richardson
Mrs. Valerie Landbo Mrs. Amy Litke	Justin Doyle
Dr. Bruce Lane	Frances Samolowicz Michael Harriett

The Battle Ends Here

Homecoming 2003

Dressed in armor of purple, yellow, green, or red, the students of St. Charles North High School came together in the Clash of the Classes that took place as we celebrated The Battle between Good vs. Evil during Homecoming Week 2003. There were 10 competitions during Homecoming week in which classes competed to win the coveted spirit flag. These competitions included class cheerleaders, t-shirt design, penny wars, class flag design, window painting, display case design, cafeteria wall design, co-ed volleyball game, float building, and small games competitions. After points with tallied, the Junior Class came away with the Homecoming 2003 Spirit Flag which was presented during half time of the Homecoming game on Friday evening. The Sophomore Class came in second, the Seniors came in third, and the Freshmen placed fourth.

Planning for Homecoming started in June when the theme for the week was picked and class meetings were held to design the class t-shirts and the class flags. The next five competitions took place once Homecoming week started. The first task required each class to design and paint a window in downtown St. Charles. The festivities on Saturday continued at St. Charles North when the classes worked to design the display cases for the students in the hallways as well as the walls in the cafeteria to commemorate the Battle between Good and Evil. On Monday, the school came together for a homecoming assembly where the first round of tug-a-war took place (a small games event) and the homecoming court was introduced.



Sophomore, Gilmour Hildebrand, competing in small games

The following students were chosen by their peers to be on the 2003 Homecoming Court:

Kaitlin VaWingerden & Jason Biarnesen – (FCCLA)

Leah Shales & Austin Trayser – (Class of 2006)

Erin Murphy & Adam Zabinski – (Class of 2004)

Jenn Jancik & John Quinlan – (Varsity Cheerleading)

Morgan Andrews & Chris Levin – (Tennis) **

Johnny Buchta & Katie Kurtz – (Student Council) **

Becky Dobberfuhl & Mike Magneta – (Key Club) **

Rachel Kruzan & Joe Pelizza – (Drill Team) **

Dave Brackmann & Brea Rathmann – (Cross-Country) **

Brock Galauner & Jennifer Ringsby – (Tech Club)

Denise Gonzalez-Mendez & Jon Marby – (JV Cheerleading)

Alexa Lefelstein, Brody Rathman & Erik Ringsby – (Class of 2007)

Ashton Butler & Jason Javers – (Class of 2005)

Vanessa Bossert & Dan Modica – (Chess/Literary Magazine)

Kindel Mahoney & Jeff Morken – (Volleyball)

Brooks Autry & Kendall Burke – (Student Outreach Society)

Cathy Klinchuch & Dominic Pileggi – (Nat'l Honor Society)

Lauren Johnson & Mike Schuartz – (LaCrosse)

Kasey Mennie & Bill Thomas – (Drama Club)

Bobby Clark & Meera Jogani – (Art Club/NAHS/Photo)

Jennie Wyrwicki & Mike Zubik – (Yearbook/Multi-Media)

(**Seniors chosen by student body to be 2003 Homecoming Royalty)



2003 Homecoming King & Queen seniors, Brea Rathman & Mike Magneta

A new competition was added to Homecoming this year. Each class was required to assemble a squad of male cheerleaders that was to come up with an original cheer and routine to perform Tuesday night as the classes strove to serve, set, and spike their way to glory in the Volleyball Tournament. The last three competitions were small games that were held on Wednesday evening, the float competition that was judged Friday before the parade, and the penny wars that took place throughout the week in the cafeteria.

Homecoming King and Queen Candidates (Royalty) for this year were announced at the Small Games Assembly. From this group of royalty, the senior class voted for individuals to be King and Queen. On Friday night, the Homecoming King and Queen were announced during half time of the Varsity football game. The King and Queen for 2003 at St. Charles North High School are Mike Magneta and Brea Rathman. The night ended with a homecoming victory over the East Aurora Tomcats, 7-6, and the fireworks that illuminated the evening sparkled as the North Stars reigned victorious in their quest for all things good.

Student store

The school store has new zipper-up hoodies for girls! They come in either dark gray or black. The store has also restocked their supply of regular North Star hoodies. In addition to clothes, the store is also selling star jewelry! They have a variety of styles of earrings, bracelets, and necklaces in black, blue and silver! Come check it out!!



Dr. Debbie Kling

Kling to serve as IDSA President

Dr. Debbie Kling, our Assistant Principal for Student Activities and Operations, has been elected to serve in the role of President of the statewide Illinois Directors of Student Activities; an organization that interfaces and articulates with the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). Dr. Kling has been active in IDSA, serving as an active Board Member for the past 8 years.

The Illinois Directors of Students Activities is committed to helping teachers and administrators develop ideas and formulate plans to better educate and influence today's teenager outside the regularly scheduled school day. High schools, as well as students, benefit from all students' involvement in activity programs.

Anyone who has met Dr. Kling, knows how passionate she is about promoting student involvement and participation in all extracurricular activities. Students involved in activity programs often experience a heightened interest in academic courses; have an opportunity to socialize with students and interact with teachers in a setting other than the classroom; are recognized for their involvement and achievement; and are given an arena for healthy use of their leisure time.

Serving in the role for all 4 years in North Star Country as Director of Student Activities along with her other duties as Assistant Principal, Dr. Kling has worked in earnest with over 90 advisers to develop and implement our Student Activities Program from the ground up. It is through her enthusiasm, resiliency and perseverance that many of our programs and traditions get implemented and established here in North Star Country. She promotes open lines of communication between students and staff; the building of school spirit and student morale; expanding the scope of classroom activities and students' development of social skills. She continuously advocates for kids. Her ideas and time commitments seem endless. Under her leadership, the Student Activities Program has implemented over 50 clubs, activities and organizations that serve a diverse population of our student population. Dr. Kling can be characterized as a positive, energetic, enthusiastic and hardworking visionary who exudes North Star Spirit through and through, leads by example and epitomizes the role of President of IDSA. Congratulations!



Spanish V Immersion Day

Most people acknowledge that the best way to learn another language is to be "immersed" in it. The Spanish V students from St. Charles North did just that. On Wednesday, September 17th, the students spent the entire day immersed in Spanish. They signed a pledge to speak only Spanish for the entire day. Using the facilities at Baker Memorial Church, the students participated and performed their skits in the park nearby. For lunch, they walked to El Puente Restaurant, where they spoke only Spanish with each other and the staff. It was a tiring, but worthwhile, experience for all.



News from the LRC

The LRC staff would like to thank those families who donated plants to the Learning Resource Center. The plants are "alive and well" in the areas near the windows and brighten that area considerably. Thanks for the touch of green!

Alan Holtz, one of North's media specialists, presented a workshop session at the annual school library media conference held in Decatur at the beginning of November. Alan presented information about graphic novels, an illustrated form of literature gaining popularity. Since many school libraries have started graphic novel sections, his session was well attended by those present at the conference.

Media specialists in the LRC have recently concluded working with the freshman information literacy unit. All freshmen spent several days in the LRC increasing their technology skills as well as their knowledge about LRC policies and procedures. Some of the topics covered were website evaluation, efficient searching of the Internet, using the library online databases, using PowerPoint, and citing research sources.

TRANSITION PLANNING

Our students' years at North are filled with many experiences that will guide them into adulthood. As parents and educators we try to make this transition into post-high school life comfortable and relevant to their desired life outcomes. We can only do so much before the student needs to take the reins and make choices and act on those choices. Often, students with disabilities have not yet developed the essential skills needed to make these life choices. Students need to use self-advocacy and self-determination skills to advance to new levels of independence.

The Special Education Learning Area is committed to helping students reach a high level of independence and reaching their desired life outcomes. To attain this goal we create an Individualized Transition Plan that is implemented throughout the student's high school career. This plan incorporates all aspects of life after they leave us at North. The Transition Plan brings together students, parents, teachers, potential employers, and representatives from higher education in order to build a plan that will cultivate meaningful results.

We are always looking for community members that would like to provide opportunities that broaden our students' experiences. If you feel you can offer these opportunities or have suggestions, please contact Kevin Scotellaro, Instructional Coordinator of Special Education, at 630.443.2740. These experiences allow students multiple situations in which to build skills that will lead to success in the future.

The intention of the Individualized Transition Plan is to provide the student and those invested in the student with a tool that leads the student to attain the desired outcomes that benefit both the individual and community.

"The goal is less to teach the truth than to show one how he must always go about discovering the truth." -- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1762

Infant Observation Day

Mrs. Fasbender's 3rd hour Child Development class has been studying the physical, social/emotional and intellectual development of infants.

The class was fortunate to be able to have first hand interaction with three babies. A six-month old and a pair of two-month olds were brought in by their mothers to visit the class. The class asked many questions of the mothers that pertained to their child's development and what their experiences were like. The class also observed the babies and mothers interact with each other. The students enjoyed their little guests and having the chance to hold a real baby and make comparisons to the Baby Think It Over simulators that they have been caring for.

The students were thankful that these new moms took the time to visit the class with the infants to help teach them about developing babies

Important Dates for the CLASS OF 2004

- ❑ **Jan. 20, 2004 – Senior Exit Planning Meeting:** *During 3rd period. Senior cap and gown measurements will be taken, information for ordering graduation announcements and graduation requirements addressed.*
- ❑ **Jan. 23, 2004 – Order Graduation Announcements:** *Cafeteria Foyer*
- ❑ **May 13, 2004 – Academic Scholars Night:** *Auditorium*
- ❑ **May 20-21, 2004 – Cap & Gown Distribution:** *Cafeteria Foyer*
- ❑ **May 25, 2004 – Mandatory Grad Group Meetings:** *2:40 PM in assigned rooms*
- ❑ **May 26, 2004 - Senior Farewell Candlelight Ceremony:** *Location TBA*
- ❑ **May 27, 2004 – Senior Sunset BBQ:** *Courtyard*
- ❑ **May 28, 2004 – Graduation Practice:** *7:40 AM in Main Gym*
- ❑ **May 28, 2004 – Senior Breakfast:** *Following graduation practice – Location TBA*
- ❑ **May 30, 2004 - Commencement Ceremony:** *Stadium field*



P. P. S. CLASS Notes

As we approach Thanksgiving and the winter holidays, all of us from PPS wish you and your family the very best of the season!

We have successfully navigated past the first quarter of the school year! For all of us this time has been a roller coaster of emotions that has mixed the incredible joy of continued positive traditions and quality performances of our talented students and staff with the great sadness that life sometimes brings to us. The challenge for all of us in life is to continue on by doing our best as individuals, friends, family members, students, staff and members of our broader communities. St. Charles North High School is a very special community. All of our students have proven that repeatedly over the last several weeks, over this year's first quarter, and over the years that have passed since we opened our doors. With great pride, commitment, and compassion, we will continue.

As we pass the quarter mark and approach the semester milestone, we will begin to focus on course requests for next year. Included in this months *CLASS NOTES* is a brief summary of the dates and activities for the registration process. Also included are some brief reminders for our seniors as they continue to work on their transition to careers and colleges. Juniors will want to note the test preparation opportunities available and may also want to attend some of the senior financial aide activities. Sophomores and Freshmen will be continuing their efforts to establish a strong, positive history of academic success while identifying potential areas of career interest.

As always, the members of the PPS Team are available to support you as you move forward toward your goals and the completion of another successful year. Feel free to call us at 443- 5716 or e-mail us.

We are excited to have the opportunity to serve you!

Dr. Bruce A. Lane
Assistant Principal
Pupil Personnel Services

FRESHMAN-SOPHOMORE-JUNIOR CLASS NOTES

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR

Below is important information for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors regarding the timelines for selecting courses for the 2004-05 school year. While this process officially begins with Curriculum Day on January 20th, students and parents are encouraged to begin the process immediately by discussing as a family the student's career and educational goals beyond high school.

- **Late November, December and early January: Parents and Students Review Their Four-Year Plus Plan.** The first step in the 4-Year *Plus Plan* review is the *Plus*. This means thinking beyond high school to set a general goal for what you want to do the first few years after graduation. **Freshman**, this process connects the career awareness work you did in middle schools and your review of your individual Explore results with the choices and goals you made with the help of your parents as you entered high school. **Sophomores**, you should be narrowing these options as you review your high school course experiences and the results of your PLAN test that will be available in December. **Juniors**, you should be well on your way to significantly narrowing your fields of choice as you reflect upon your work in the career research unit taught in your sophomore English class and you begin the process of searching for post high school career and educational opportunities. All students should work to bring their general career goals and the kind of education or training that is needed to achieve these goals into sharper focus. By doing this, the connections between school and the world of work become stronger; and, these connections provide increased motivation toward success in high school.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR (Cont'd)

Your 4-Year *Plus* Plan will likely change as you learn more about your own skills and interests and the post-high school careers and educational opportunities available to you. Reviewing this goal annually helps you track your progress and make adjustments as necessary. The second step is to fill in any revisions to the *tentative* sequences of required and elective courses you plan to take to get you to your *Plus* goal. A careful review of the courses you have taken and your progress toward completing graduation requirements will help you select the courses needed to reach your goal. Matching elective choices to your career goal, the requirements of the colleges or training schools, and your own special interests will help you keep your four-year plan current. Students who set clear goals, develop plans to meet their goals, and monitor their progress along the way greatly enhance their chances for success in high school and beyond.

- **January 20th: Curriculum Overview Day.** During the first day of second semester students attend each of their first semester classes one more time. In their 1st hour classes they should bring their copies of the Course Offering Booklet to school. Their first hour teachers will provide them Curriculum Day Worksheets on which to get recommendations from their current teachers regarding the next courses they should take. Throughout the day they receive information regarding the next courses in the sequences they are taking and elective options, including: pre-requisite skills, course expectations, types of assignments and other information to help them make good decisions. Students note courses of interest on their Curriculum Day Worksheets. Teachers review the student's choices and provide informal advisement regarding their choices. The students turn in a copy of their Curriculum Day worksheets during their last hour class and take the second copy home to share with their parents. It is strongly recommended that parents discuss with their student the courses selected by the student and any informal recommendations that the teachers may have made. The Curriculum Day Worksheet **is not the final Course Request Form** used by the student to request courses. It is designed to be a tool that helps students and their parents consider course options and to obtain informal teacher advisement before making final decisions regarding the courses they will request.
- **January 21st: Counselors Meet with each Class to Review Completion of the Course Request Form.** The counselors will meet with all freshmen during 1st period, sophomores during 2nd period, and juniors during 3rd period on this day to review the registration process, how to complete the Course Request Form, and to answer questions students might have about the process. Each student will be given an official Course Request form on which to list the courses they want.
- **January 26th - February 4th: Individual Students Meet with Counselors to Make Final Course Requests.** The counselors will meet briefly with individual juniors on January 26th and 27th, sophomores on January 28th and 29th, and freshmen on January 30th and February 2nd. By these dates students should have their Course Request forms completed, including the three alternative electives. Counselors will review each student's course requests, answer any final questions, and enter their requests into the computer. Students should come to those meetings prepared with their course request form completed and signed by a parent, prepared to ask any final questions, and prepared to make their final course choices for next year.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR (Cont'd)

- **February 9th: Deadline for Completing Registration Form.** February 9th is the last day for students who may have missed the initial meetings to turn in their registration forms. Forms should be completely filled out, including selected alternative electives and parent signature. Students who have not turned in their forms should turn them into the guidance office by the end of the day.
- **By February 20th: Course Verification Letters are Sent.** On or before February 20th letters that verify the courses the student has requested will be mailed to all students and their parents. Students and parents have until March 12th to request course changes for the 2003-2004 school year. *It is extremely important that parents and students carefully review the courses listed on this verification letter to be absolutely sure they are the courses wanted for the following year. **After March 12th requests for course changes will not be made unless a clerical error has been made or a master schedule conflict requires the selection of a different course.***
- **March 12th: Deadline for requesting any course changes.** The complexity of building the master schedule makes this **March 12th deadline** the last date to make course request changes. An accurate accounting of the number of students selecting particular courses is necessary to determine which courses will be offered and the teachers that are necessary for these courses. **After the March deadline changes will be made only if there is a clerical error or if a master schedule conflict requires the selection of a different course.**
- **April: Schedule Conflicts are Resolved.** Once the master schedule is built students may be notified that they will have to select alternative courses because the courses requested did not have sufficient enrollment to be offered or they could not be fit into their schedule. Students then select courses from the alternative elective courses that they identified on their course request form. This again underscores the importance of listing alternative courses on the course request form. Failure to list alternative electives could result in lost opportunities for the courses you would rather take.
- **Late June - Mid July: Fee Sheets.** During late June to mid July the sheets indicating the fees owed are mailed to each student. Payment is required before students may pick up their final schedule in August.

Registration Begins!

The first steps in the course selection process for 2004-2005 took place on November 19th at Thompson Middle School. Counselors from East and North presented important information to the Thompson 8th Graders.



Counselor Kari Batka, Larry Nothnagel, Jeanine James and Steve Schreiner present important course request information to Thompson 8th Graders.

SENIOR CLASS NOTES

No REALLY! Finish Strong!

The best advice for your senior year continues to be "Do not miscalculate." Make sure you know exactly where you are in each of your classes. Leave no room for error. Remember that final admission and entry into the college or career of your choice is contingent upon a final transcript that meets the college's or employer's expectations. The jobs that await you require that you finish high school; and, if you want to be competitive in a tight job market, you must finish strong.

There are many wonderful senior activities ahead for you! You need to maintain that focus and balance to get it all done.

College Application Process

It is important that seniors follow the *College Application Process* to assure that your applications arrive on time. Remember that it is extremely important to *turn your applications in a minimum of two weeks before the due date.* Applications due by January 1st must be received in the Guidance Office *one week before* the winter holiday break begins to ensure that they are received on time. If a counselor recommendation is requested, they must be turned in *a minimum of two weeks before* the holiday break. ***Because of the volume of applications that are processed, students who do not follow these guidelines run a very real risk of not getting their applications processed by the college's deadlines.***

Financial Aid and Scholarship Nights



The Guidance Office strongly recommends that students and their parents attend at least one of the following financial aid informational meetings. All areas of financial aid will be addressed, such as completing the FAFSA, scholarship searches and scams, and the various facts and sources of financial assistance. There will be time to have your questions answered and useful handouts will be available. Although these presentations are intended for seniors and their parents, everyone is welcome to attend!

Fox Valley Area
Financial Aid Night
Thursday, December 4
Geneva H.S.

7:30 pm – Financial Aid 101

Guest Speaker: Mr. Gary Rold,
Financial Aid Director for
Elmhurst College

St. Charles High Schools
Financial Aid/Scholarship Night
Tuesday, January 6
St. Charles North H.S. Auditorium
7:00 pm - Financial Aid 101
8:00 pm - Insider Scholarship Tips

Guest Speakers: Mr. Robert Laws, Director of Financial Aid (ECC); and
Ms. Stephanie Bonvallet, Scholarship Coordinator (ECC)

JUNIOR CLASS NOTES

ExcelEdge ACT 36 Test Preparation Program

Designed for college-bound juniors, **ACT 36** is a test preparation program that will be offered at St. Charles North High School this coming winter-spring. The classes will allow students to develop confidence about the ACT by helping students analyze this pre-college test, practice with test questions, and master the pacing required to complete the exam. The eight-week, 18-hour course will be offered on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. The classes will begin on January 26 and will end on March 22. Classes will not meet on February 16, Presidents' Day. St. Charles North High School juniors may take the ACT on April 3. They will take it again as part of the Prairie State Achievement Exam on April 28.

ACT 36 has been created by ExcelEdge, Inc., a private test preparation company that has worked with many top Illinois high schools for almost two decades. The Excel course will cover all four ACT content areas: English, math, reading and science reasoning. The course will conclude with a full-length practice test and test review.

ACT 36 registration packets will be mailed to St. Charles North juniors in November. Students may enroll in **ACT 36** by completing the ExcelEdge registration packet, including a check for \$172, and bringing the registration form and attached check to the Guidance Office by December 12. **All students who register on time are guaranteed a spot in the program**, and class lists with room assignments will be posted in the Guidance Office the week before classes begin. Please contact Mrs. Kim Munro-Krusz or the Guidance Office with any questions on registration or test preparation.

The Huntington Exam Prep Center Offers an SAT Prep Course at North

The Huntington Exam Prep Center is pleased to provide a 34-hour Prep Course for students at St. Charles North High School.

The SAT is a standardized test that measures the verbal and math skills needed for college-level work. SAT scores are a major part of the college admissions process. The higher your score, the better your chance of getting into the school of your choice.

The best way to get ready for the SAT is to actively prepare. The Huntington Exam Prep Center will be offering the SAT Prep Course on Tuesday Evenings. The classes will be held at St. Charles North High School from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, January 20, 2004 and ending on Tuesday, April 27, 2004.

The Huntington 34-hour SAT Prep Course will include:

- Two actual SAT practice exams, pinpointing student's strengths and weaknesses in math, verbal and writing skills.
- Verbal, math, and writing instruction by certified teachers.
- Reading, testing, and time-management strategies.

Tuition, materials, and registration fee is \$375. The total cost of the course is due at the time of the first practice exam. The registration deadline is Friday December 19, 2003.

To register for the SAT Prep Course and make an appointment for the first practice exam, call Sue Armesy, Center Director of the Huntington Learning Center- Geneva at (630) 262-0560.

SOPHOMORE CLASS NOTES

The PLAN Test Review. A presentation to assist sophomores who took the PLAN Test on Saturday November 15, 2003 will be held on January 8th. PLAN results provide an estimated range of a student's ACT Assessment composite scores, information regarding a student's relative strengths and areas for improvement for the ACT, and valuable career interests information. The PLAN interpretation meeting to help sophomores and their parents better understand and use the results to prepare for both the ACT and making important career decisions.

Transportation Reimbursement Information for 2003-04 School Year

Parent(s) or legal guardians(s) who must provide transportation to and from school **because free transportation is not available for their children** may be eligible to receive money from the state to help offset some of the cost, for example, bus fares, or mileage reimbursement for private automobiles at .36 cents per mile.

If you can answer **yes** to the following questions for the 2003-04 school year, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for providing such transportation.

1. Will the pupil be under the age of 21 at the close of the school year ?
2. Is the pupil a full-time student in grades kindergarten through 12 ?
3. Does the pupil either live 1 ½ miles or more from school or live less than 1 ½ miles from school but **must be transported** due to a serious safety hazard approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation ? (See following paragraphs)
4. Does the pupil attend a school within Illinois which meets Illinois compulsory attendance laws ?
5. Did the parent/guardian incur transportation expenses resulting from transporting the pupil to and from school ?

If you answered yes to the above questions, lived in Illinois and wish to file a claim, you must go to the school where each of you children is enrolled by June 30, 2004, to submit claim information. You may provide claim information to appropriate school personnel at your child's attendance center until June 30, 2004.

In addition, parent(s)/guardian(s) who have pupils living **less than 1 ½ miles** from the school attended must verify that a safety hazard due to vehicular traffic exists by completing an Application for Determination of Serious Safety Hazards. Parents can obtain a copy of the Application for Determination of Serious Safety Hazards from the Office of the Regional Superintendent of Schools for the county in which they reside **except** parents residing within the City of Chicago. Chicago residents can receive a copy of the Application for Determination of Serious Safety Hazards from the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Funding and Disbursement Services, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777. All applications for Determination of Serious Safety Hazards must be received no later than February 1, 2004, at the office from which the application was requested. Example : ISBE (Chicago residents). ROE (Illinois residents other than those residing in Chicago). The Regional Superintendent of Schools is required to send the Application to the Illinois Department of Transportation within 15 days. The Illinois Department of Transportation reviews and approves or denies the application and returns it to the Regional Superintendent of Schools within 30 days. Upon receipt of the reviewed application, the Regional Superintendent of Schools will mail it to the parent/guardian who requested the safety hazard be verified. **If the safety hazard is approved, the parent/guardian must go to the school the pupil attends to submit claim information.** Parents who received verification of a safety hazard during and after the 2000-01 school year, whose children attend the same school and live at the same address do not have to reapply for safety hazard verification.

Once all claim information is submitted at the school, it will be transmitted electronically to the Illinois State Board of Education. If your claim information is approved, you should receive a check directly from the state for the lesser of the cost of transporting your child/children or the average per pupil reimbursement paid to public schools for transporting regular education pupils. If insufficient funds are appropriated by the General Assembly, all claims will be prorated.

If you have any questions, please call or come to the school as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT DATES

ETC Day - Dec 3, School starts at 8:11 AM
Breakfast with the Stars - Dec 4, 6:45 AM, LRC
Board of Education Meeting - Dec 8, 7:30 PM, Admin Building
Madrigal Dinner - Dec 11, 12 & 13, 6:10 PM & Dec 14, 2:30 PM
Baker Church
Constellation Concert - Dec 16, 6:30 PM & 8:30, Auditorium
ETC Day - Dec 17, School starts at 8:11 AM
Winter Vacation - Dec 22 - Jan 2
School Resumes - Jan 5
ETC Day - Jan 7, School starts at 8:11 AM
Breakfast with the Stars - Dec 8, 6:45 AM, LRC
Plan Presentation - Jan 8, 6:00 PM, Auditorium
Board of Education Meeting - Jan 12, 7:30 PM, Admin Building
Finals - Jan 13-15
End of Second Quarter - Jan 15
Teachers' Work Day - Jan 16, No School for Students
M.L. King's Birthday - Jan 19, Schools Closed
PTO Meeting - Jan 19, 7:00 Pm, LRC
Senior Planning Meeting - Jan 20, Auditorium, 9:09 AM
ETC Day - Jan 21, School starts at 8:11 AM
One Act Plays - Jan 22,23 & 24, Auditorium, 7:30 PM

Order Graduation Announcements - Jan 23, 10:12AM -1:38 PM,
Cafeteria Foyer
Board of Education Meeting - Jan 26, 7:30 PM, Admin Building
Breakfast with the Stars - Feb 5, 6:45 AM, LRC
Board of Education Meeting - Feb 9, 7:30 PM, Admin Building
Winter Play - Feb 12, 13, 14, Auditorium, 7:30 PM
President's Day - Feb 16, Schools Closed
PTO Meeting - Feb 16, 7:00 PM, LRC
Vocal Jazz Concert - Feb 17, Auditorium, 7:30 PM
Instrumental Jazz Concert - Feb 19, Auditorium, 7:30 PM
Board of Education Meeting - Feb 23, 7:30 PM, Admin Building
Wind Ensemble Concert - Feb 24, Auditorium, 8:00 PM
Special Symphonic Concert - Feb 26, Auditorium, 8:00 PM
Teachers' Institute Day - Feb 27, No School for Students
Board of Education Meeting - Mar 8, 7:30 PM, Admin Building
End of Third Quarter - Mar 19
Spring Break - Mar 29 - Apr 2
School Resumes - Apr 5

St. Charles North High School
255 Red Gate Road
St. Charles, IL 60175



**A community dedicated to achievement and growth through
discovery, cooperation, preparation, and inspiration.**