



"The Navigator"

Principal's Newsletter

St. Charles North High School

Vol. V No. 3 February 2004

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

Buchta & Van Cleave Chosen for Daily Herald Leadership Team

Congratulations to seniors John Buchta and Katie Van Cleave who were chosen to be members of the 3rd Annual Daily Herald Leadership Team.

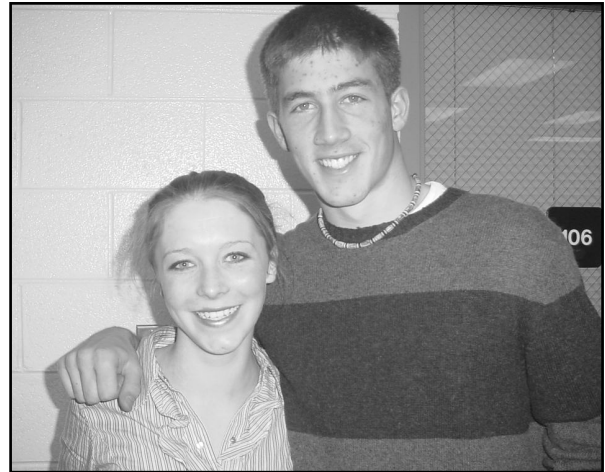
Students are nominated by their high schools and then a committee consisting of community leaders reviews the nominations to make the final selections. Only ten students from each region are chosen.

John and Katie represent some of the best examples in our area of civic involvement of young people in our community. These two students are working hard, studying conscientiously and volunteering their time helping to make themselves and their community better.

John serves on the Executive Council for the North Star Student Council as second vice-president, plays North Star baseball, and continues to maintain a high GPA. Volunteering as a basketball coach for middle school girls, with the American Red Cross, Citizens for Excellence in Education, serving at a homeless shelter and participating in school functions through National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society have kept John very busy.

Katie also serves on the North Star Student Council while maintaining a high GPA. Art Club and National Honor Society are a few of her other school extra-curricular activities. Katie has volunteered her time for the March of Dimes, supported athletes in the Fox River Duathlon, served for the Salvation Army, and worked with Alzheimer's and elderly patients.

John and Katie represent what's good about our youth and give hope for our future.



Katie Van Cleave & John Buchta

COUNSELOR TO SERVE ON IMPORTANT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Illinois State Board of Education is committed to ensuring the presence of quality educators in our public schools and is moving from a course-based system of certification to one that is standards based. As part of that commitment the ISBE is developing a new certification for



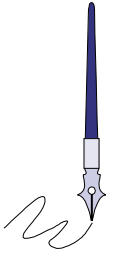
Dr. Robert Freitag,
NHS Counselor

As part of this process a School Counseling Content Advisory Committee is being formed. This committee will be responsible for reviewing the newly developed assessment materials to ensure that the assessment is appropriate for school counselors.

The ISBE Director of Certification and Professional Development, Lee Patton, has asked Dr. Robert Freitag, a school counselor at SCNHS to serve on the School Counseling Content Advisory Committee that will assist in the development and review of this new certification process.

It should be noted that an invitation to serve on this committee is a very positive recognition of Dr. Freitag's status in the state's guidance and PPS communities.

Pen of the Principal



Our second semester is well underway and St. Charles North High School has added another semester of something we can call "history". With the first half of the year behind us, our school continues to be transformed into a place where students are not only learning, but are also enjoying a variety of activities. Together, the comprehensive program that we offer will help them develop academic, leadership, and social skills.

By the time you read this message, you should have completed your family conversations and submitted your course requests for the 2004-2005 school year. With these registrations, and from information received from other projections, it is no surprise that next year will be another year of growth. We expect that our student population will increase from 1,940 to 2,025.

With this growth, will come new challenges in the form of space utilization, staffing and program improvements. We are already working with District administration regarding each of these areas and we can expect additional staff to meet our classroom instructional needs. In addition, we are also working with support personnel to help resolve space issues. Proposals are being discussed that will bring mobile classrooms to our site to meet these needs. While plans are being developed at this time, exactly where these will be placed, how many will be on our campus, and how they will be used is yet to be determined.

Our ETC days this semester have been a resounding success. Our teaching faculty has used this uninterrupted time to develop course goals, identify expectations, develop new instructional strategies and establish common assessments. These and other strategies will improve student learning and performance. In a previous issue of the *Navigator* we identified a complete list of the projects that represent the goals of these professional days. Following a Board of Education review, we will be continuing this work into second semester.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the work of our Greater St. Charles Education Foundation. The annual auction event on February 7th will continue to provide important resources for our schools. We are very appreciative of their efforts on behalf our students.

In closing, I would like to welcome the families and students of the class of 2008. Our incoming ninth grade students are now on their way to becoming "North Stars" as we work with them on the registration and orientation programs throughout this second semester.

Frank A. Kesman
Principal

New Superintendent Named

Dr. Barbara Erwin has been chosen by the Board of Education as the new CUSD 303 Superintendent. Dr. Erwin will replace Dr. Kostel effective July 1.

Dr. Erwin comes to us from Scottsdale, Arizona, where she has been superintendent of a 30,000-student school district. She has also been a superintendent of two school districts in Texas and Indiana. Dr. Erwin was a special education teacher earlier in her career.

Mary Jo Knipp, President of the Board of Education stated, "The Board of Education is confident that she will continue and improve upon the good work of her predecessors to make District 303 an excellent school district. She is an impressive educator, a strong public leader and an effective administrator. She is adept at fiscal management and has a diverse background and broad experience dealing successfully with nearly every challenge that public education faces, ranging from academics, to finances, to growth."

North Star PTO

It's been a rather quiet two months on the PTO front but we are looking forward to many activities to come.

One very important area of concern for our community is the safety issue of Randall Road. Former St. Charles North parent and school board member, Steve Cole, is spearheading an effort to have meaningful safety changes implemented on Randall Road. The City of St. Charles, the St. Charles School Board and the PTO are fully behind these efforts. We have drafted a letter that we are sending to the Kane Country Transportation Department indicating our concerns. If you would like to draft your own letter or add your name to ours, please contact Jan Stark at (630) 513-5883 or Sue Wachs at (630) 587-1121 to see how you can participate. The Transportation Department is currently meeting to address safety issues and we want our concerns known.

It's hard to believe that we are half way through the year. It will be graduation before we know it. Did you know that PTO sponsors four \$750 scholarships? Have your senior pick up an application form in guidance. We also sponsor speakers for the Junior Life Skills presentation in April. These speakers are very powerful. For more information on this event, contact Student Activities.

The St. Charles Literature Festival is back again this year. It is a wonderful event for our community and for every student in the district. The dates are March 8-12, 2004. Watch for event announcements in the local papers and on the school web site. Additionally, our Resource Center staff is putting together a reading incentive program that begins March 8th to coincide with the Literature Festival and will conclude April 24th - the last day of National Library Week. The PTO is trying to secure small prizes for this event. If your business/organization would like to donate, please contact Alan Holtz, media specialist at the high school, at 443-5672 or Jan Stark at 513-5883.

It is also that time of year to begin the nomination process for next year's PTO Board. It is a great way to find out what is happening in the school. If you are interested in serving in any capacity - large or small - please contact Sue Becker at 513-0514 or Pat Screeden at 377-2448.

Post Prom Progress: The Post Prom Committee has been working since last June planning for this year's event. The event will once again take place at Gameworks in Schaumburg. The student response to last year's evening was very positive. We had also considered hosting the evening at school - as East does - but we didn't get a very encouraging parental volunteer response. So....

The theme for the evening is "Got Game?" Some very clever ideas have been suggested for t-shirts and logo. If you are interested in assisting in current activities, contact chairs Mary Fremgen (513-0917) or Christine Krog (443-1104). There are still lots of opportunities to help - including chaperoning.

Freshmen and sophomore parents, you may think it is too early to even think about this, but when it comes time for your son or daughter to attend you need to know what goes into planning. Also, many juniors and seniors do not want to see their parent chaperoning, so please think about volunteering now. Last year the staff at Gameworks praised our students for their exemplary behavior. We should be proud of them.

North Star PTO (Cont'd)

Education Foundation Jazz Party: The Education Foundation's annual fundraiser was to be held on February 7th at "Q" Center (formerly Anderson Consulting). Dinner, entertainment (the North and East high school jazz bands) and auction items including a framed portrait of St. Charles North High School and an art project from one of our art teachers were part of the evening.

Up Coming Events: Did you know that Student Activities hosts a month long Ping Pong Tournament in February? If you are interested in monitoring a session during the lunch hour, call your grade level PTO parent rep (found inside your Student Directory). It's lots of fun and it's not a long-term commitment.

Parent Resource Network (PRN) has two possible programs in the planning stages - one on College Financial Planning and the other yet to be titled but will focus on Healthy Lifestyles for our teens. Watch for flyers, newspaper notices and/or contact Jan Stark at 513-5883 for more information.

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.

The Perfect Setting, in Geneva, sponsored a "shopping night" for St. Charles North High School on Dec. 3rd. They generously donated 10% of the purchases to the PTO. It was a great opportunity to see other North parents, have some hors d'oeuvres and get some of the holiday shopping done. Thank all of you that participated. We made \$400.00.

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 sell 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 3rd Monday of the month, the exception being on those nights that we have a school holiday. During those months the meeting will fall on the Tuesday night following the holiday. Please join us. You can also find our meeting minutes and budget on the PTO web site. Next meeting Tuesday, February 17th.

Jan Stark - PTO President

SUMMER SCHOOL 2004

SUMMER SCHOOL 2004 will be hosted by St. Charles East High School. Registration for summer school will begin **AFTER SPRING BREAK**. Forms will be available in the Guidance Office at both high schools. We anticipate offering the same courses as last year, but the dates of summer school have not yet been determined. More information will be made available in March.



Curriculum Corner

Update on Excellence Through Collaboration – ETC



Introduction. *Excellence Through Collaboration (ETC)* is our plan to support professional development for all teachers with a minimal impact on students and the school day. Specifically, ETC has provided blocks of time, 45 minutes in length, within the school day for teams of teachers to work collaboratively to improve curriculum, instruction, and assessment. To date, we have completed the six sessions in the program pilot and have made significant progress toward the goals set by each teacher team. Due to the success of the ETC pilot, we are planning to extend the ETC schedule through the second semester of the school year.

Evidence of Success. The ETC Steering Committee will compile a comprehensive summary of the work completed during the ETC pilot within 30 days of the completion of the fall session. However, we feel we have ample evidence to move forward with the current ETC Program including revised final exams, new lessons/units, and rubrics to accompany projects/performances. The fluid continuation of the ETC schedule into second semester will maintain the positive momentum gained during the pilot and provide

consistency of the every other Wednesday morning late start. In general, teachers from every Learning Area have provided informal feedback to their Instructional Coordinators, Assistant Principals, and the Principal about their appreciation for the time to work/think with their peers and have requested the program continue through semester two. Also, several schools have contacted STC North to learn about the ETC model and are interested in implementing a similar late-start model at their high school.

Logistics. The ETC Steering Committee worked hard to anticipate any logistical problems and designed the program to meet those challenges. We are happy to report the pilot was well organized and ran smoothly: all teachers formed teams, selected meaningful goals, and worked collaboratively to meet the goal; transportation/busses ran on schedule; students who arrived before 8:00 am were supervised in the LRC or Cafeteria; students used the computers/technology available in the LRC; and the Administrators, Deans, and Deans Assistants worked in teams to provide appropriate supervision for the number of students in the building (200-350 students).

ETC DATES Second Semester

Wed., February 4th
Wed., February 18th

Wed., March 3rd
Wed., March 17th

Wed., April 7th
Wed., April 21st

Wed., May 5th
Wed., May 19th

* Reminder - 1st period begins at 8:11 am – please allow adequate time to enter parking lot/building

What's with Weighted Grades?

Do you think weighted grades are the greatest thing since sliced bread? Or, do you have a concern with using weighted grades? Maybe you do not know what weighted grades are. If you are a parent who has wondered about the function and use of weighted grades or want to voice your opinion on their use, come to meet with a new focus group at North High School.

This group will meet to educate and share opinions about weighting student grades. The goal of this group is to provide information to teachers and administrators about your attitudes and perceptions of weighted grades.

The group will be meeting on Wednesday, April 7 from 7:00-9:00 pm at North. If you are interested participating please contact Scott Woods at 443-3370 or swoods@d303.org.

Marching North Stars "Dazzle" Disney World

The St. Charles North High School marching North Stars recently traveled to Orlando, Florida for a performance in the Magic Kingdom of Walt Disney World. The band was selected to lead the Spectra Magic Parade that winds down Main Street U.S.A in the Magic Kingdom. The performance took place on Saturday, January 17 and the students performed in front of 60,000 audience members clapping and cheering as the band performed a medley of John Phillip Sousa marches.

The color guard, directed by Mrs. Bach, led the parade and was followed by Mr. Kesman, Dr. Kling, Mr. Stombres and Mr. Dahl as they led the band through the streets of the Magic Kingdom. Two hundred students and twenty adults participated in this Disney experience.

The students enjoyed seeing many behind-the-scenes portions of the park and saw what it takes to be part of the Live Shows Department at Disney World. Mr. Stombres, Mr. Dahl and Mrs. Bach are very proud of the students who represented St. Charles North High School. Congratulations to the Marching North Stars.



The Marching North Stars represented our high school with pride and precision down Main Street at Disney World.



(L to R) Colin Banker, Ian Banker, Danny Vanderburg, Joe Lancaster & Mark Hughes help load luggage on one of five coach buses. The trip took 21 hours each way.



While we were all enduring frigid temperatures, (L to R) Genna Sparacino, Tracy Burzynski, Stephanie Droho, Amber Kari, Stephanis Ricklefs, Megan Evans, Mrs. Burzynski & Mrs. Eigenhauser were enjoying Florida sunshine!



Our North Star banner led off the parade in Disney World, followed by our color guard and marching band.



(L to R) Mark Hughes, Katie Evans, Steven Oscarson, Bob Lanning & Josh Richardson had a wonderful time at the Magic Kingdom.