

"The Navigator"

Principal's Newsletter



St. Charles North High School

Vol. 92 No. 2

November 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

"The Matchmaker" Was A Successful Production

In October, the St. Charles North Drama Department presented Thornton Wilder's comedy, "The Matchmaker," as their fall production. This comedic farce, set in the 1890's, was about a wealthy merchant from Yonkers and a matchmaker who was hired to help him in his search for a suitable wife.

The production was the culmination of weeks of practice and hard work by the dedicated cast and crew. The students created a complicated set which entailed four major scene changes. Mr. Ryan Colton, the Director, Mr. Eugene Olsen, the Assistant to the Director and Mr. Joe Pietrie, the Technical Director/Production Designer should also be acknowledged for their endless patience, encouragement and work with the students.

There are many opportunities for students to participate in the drama productions at North HS. Encourage your student to become involved in future productions. Some of the various positions are on stage, but many students have "back-stage" roles. There is always a need for scenic artists, make-up/costume artists, musicians, lighting/sound crew, producers, video masters, fly crew, and the list goes on.

If you missed this wonderful fall production, don't fret. The following theatrical productions are planned for the future:

Winter Play –a drama, "Picnic", February 3 – 5, 7:30 PM

Spring Musical –"The Little Shop of Horrors", April 28-30, 7:30 PM

One-Acts- student directed plays, May 19-21, 7:30 PM



Maggie Wiggins, senior, and Evan Bravos, junior, rehearse a scene from *The Matchmaker*.

Electronic Reader Board Sign

The North High School Class of 2003 and Class of 2004 spent three years collectively working toward their class gift of an electronic reader board sign. While fundraising efforts were productive, a roadblock occurred when students learned that a sign ordinance prohibited electronic digital signs. Last winter, through the Office of Student Activities, students worked through a city government process in getting an electronic reader board sign ordinance changed. Last spring, the city approved and authorized an amendment to the reader board sign ordinance that allowed the students to move forward with their collaborative class gift. The class gift has finally arrived and was installed on our campus during the month of September. Congratulations and thank you to the Classes of 2003 and 2004.



New Electronic Reader Board Sign is now in place and operational.



"Pen of the Principal"

It is hard to believe that we are mid-way through the second quarter of the school year and as of this issue of "The Navigator" the holidays are fast approaching. It seems like just a few days ago that we were opening our doors to the new freshman class and helping them become a part of the North Star family. They represented themselves well this fall and soon they will be a part of the plans to welcome the next freshman class of 2009.

Our ETC days continue this year and have become a regular part of our efforts to improve curriculum and instruction. This time that we set aside for staff collaboration is beginning to make a difference in our classrooms. It has manifested itself through the improvement of daily lessons, assessment of students, and increased consistency across the various content disciplines. These important days support our NCA/School Improvement Plan and remain an integral part of our efforts toward raising student achievement.

Our PPS Department continues to focus on services designed to assist students with college and career plans. Included in this list of services is a comprehensive testing program including the PSAT, ACT, SAT, PLAN, A.P. and the state mandated Prairie State Exam. This test is required of all juniors, is administered in April of each year, and the individual results are included on every student's transcript. The components of this test include the ACT and evidence of student success on State of Illinois Learning Standards. We are in a continuous process of aligning our curriculum with the State Standards, and evidence of student learning is received through this test.

I would like to offer my appreciation to our students and staff for their hard work this fall season in any number of extra-curricular opportunities. Through this hard work, we have continued to enjoy success in music, theater, special interest clubs and a comprehensive athletic program. 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 are 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. On October 29th, during the football playoff game, we received the "Key" to the concession pavilion located at our stadium. Constructed through donations of labor and material as well as substantial fundraising, this project was planned and implemented entirely by volunteers. We appreciate this effort by the Central Boosters and all other Booster Organizations that will benefit North Star students and families for many years to come. As we look forward to 2005, please mark your calendar for the annual Greater St. Charles Education Foundation dinner and auction on Saturday, February 12th. This annual event has provided outstanding support of our educational program through the awarding of Foundation Grants. Look for an opportunity to support this or any of our special programs.

The reflective Thanksgiving Holiday is approaching, the hectic days of December will soon be upon us, and a New Year is just around the corner. 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 Kesman
Principal



"Between the Lines"

*North Star Athletics
John Rutter, Athletic Director*



Our fall athletic season is coming to a close very quickly. We have enjoyed many successes over the past three months. Our boy's varsity cross-country team finished 2nd at both the Peoria Woodruff and the West Aurora Invitational and were team champions at the Downers Grove South Invite. Both our sophomore and varsity boys' cross-country teams were champions at our own North Star Invite. This weekend they head to Peoria, Illinois to represent St. Charles North High School at the IHSA State Cross Country Meet. The girls' cross-country team performed well all season. Jenny Dinges has qualified for the IHSA State Cross Country Meet this weekend as well. Our football program had a very successful season. The varsity team went undefeated in UEC play with a perfect 7-0 record. Their season ended at the hands of the Rolling Meadows Mustangs in a very entertaining playoff contest. The freshman football North Stars went undefeated this season with a perfect 9-0 record. The North Star boy's golf team had a successful season winning the DeKalb Invite and qualifying for the sectional tournament. The Girls golf team continued where they left off last season. They had an outstanding fall winning the Plainfield South Invitational, the Naperville North Invite, and the Elgin Invite. To top it all off, they won the Upstate Eight Conference title for the first time in school history and were IHSA Regional Champions. Our boys soccer team won the St. Charles East invite in convincing fashion defeating the host Saints 4-0. They were defeated in regional play by a very good Geneva soccer team. The girls swim team continues to build momentum as we head toward the sectional meet. They were team champions at the Fenwick Invite and just this week finished 2nd in the UEC meet. Our girl's tennis team won the Morton Invite this past fall. Freshman Megan Gow qualified for the IHSA State Tennis Championships by placing 3rd at the St. Charles East Sectional meet. Our girl's volleyball teams were awesome! The sophomores were team champions at our own invite and the freshman enjoyed a great deal of success throughout the season. The varsity volleyball team went undefeated in the UEC finishing with a perfect 8-0 record. They won the St. Charles North Regional for the first time in school history and finished the season with an incredible 32-6 record. Way to go girls!

Finally, as our winter sports season approaches, I remind each athlete and parent that proper paperwork must be on file prior to trying out for a winter sports team. This includes: a signed parent consent form, a current physical examination, and a signed code of conduct form. Registration materials are available in the Athletic Office.

On behalf of the student-athletes, coaches and administration, we would like to thank you for your continued support of North Star Athletics and invite you to be a part of the St. Charles North High School 2004 Winter Sports Season! St. Charles North High School values your support and believes it is critical to our success. Hope to see you at a North Star contest!

GO NORTH STARS!!

"Polaris Challenge"

On November 7th the St. Charles North High School Cross Country Team and the Tri-Cities Salvation Army hosted the first "Polaris Challenge" to benefit the Salvation Army children's programs and the cross-country team.

The cross-country team challenged the school mascot, Polaris, to help keep the school track occupied with runners from noon to 3:00 PM on the 7th. The participants paid \$5 to run the track any length of time they wished or walked with Polaris.

Proceeds from the Polaris Challenge will be divided equally between the Tri-Cities Salvation Army children's programs and the cross-country program.

Curriculum Corner

Dr. Denise Herrmann, Assistant Principal

Excellence Through Collaboration Fall 2004. New teams of teacher have formed, determined needs, and set improvement goals from one of the following four goal types:

- Curriculum: designing or redesigning “what” students will learn (create, implement, and revise new lessons and/or units)
- Instruction: selecting “how” students will learn (select, implement, and analyze effectiveness of instructional strategies)
- Assessment: determining “how much” the students have learned (designing, implementing, analyzing assessment data - formative and/or summative - to inform practice, revise lessons/units)
- SIP: working collaboratively to learn, implement, analyze, and reflect on implementation of one goal within our SIP plan (increasing student responsibility or increasing student ability to think and write effectively)

The goals the ETC teams selected and the work they are conducting focuses on enhancing teaching practice as well as understanding / documenting the relationship between those practices and increased student achievement. In order to do so, each team has created an action plan that includes the completion of 4 key steps: Step 1 – PLAN; Step 2 – DO; Step 3 – REFLECT; Step 4 – REVISE.

Course/Group	Summary of Goals for ETC Fall 2004 Session
World History	We will plan a UBD unit for the Middle Ages in Ancient World History in order that students will show achievement of the unit's declarative and procedural standards (TBD) as evidenced by student performance on an authentic assessment (measured by a rubric) and student reflection.
US History	We will create a comprehensive binder of primary sources for US History. We will include citations and potential lessons in order that students show achievement of the Social Studies Standard 7 and all its indicators on all formative assessments leading up to and including the summative/"Common Assessment" for Junior year.
Social Studies	We will develop a progression of instructional strategies that will result in students demonstrating increased proficiency in meeting or exceeding the procedural social studies standards of information analysis and interpretation, effective research, and constructing support as evidenced by a common assessment grading rubric for those procedural standards.
American Studies	We will make use of the UbD Design Model to develop some common course questions, content, skills, and assessments in order to improve student achievement in this way: Clarifying expectations for students and articulating the integrated way of thinking and knowing. Students will show growth through improved performance on a second semester assessment requiring curricular connections.
Foreign Language	We will share current practice, explore student needs and best practices, and make suggestions for better articulation of the program years 1-5 in the content areas of Spanish and French in order to improve student achievement as evidenced by an online survey that will provide quantitative data regarding student attitudes and achievement of foreign language standards.
Latin	I will examine/revise the two years of Latin III and IV (and the authors read in order that students read and analyze classic literary works in order to better understand the development of Western Civilization as evidenced by final exam performance and student reflection data.
Algebra 1	We will create a variety of assessments in the content area of Algebra 1 aligned with the CPM program in order to improve student achievement by measuring student learning and progress.
Algebra 2	To design at least one investigative activity per unit for Algebra II L2, and analyze its effectiveness by using a ticket out the door. Additionally, formal pre-tests will be developed for each unit to create another way for students to self-assess and better prepare for formal assessments.
Calculus	We will design and assign problem sets based on AP-style questions for students in the area content area of Calculus in order to improve student achievement by allowing our students to be more prepared for the AP examination and to enhance students' understanding of fundamental calculus concepts.
Geometry	We will continue to develop the curriculum in the area content area of honors geometry in order to improve student achievement by helping them learn problem solving, complete expanded weekly problem sets and the use of a portfolio.
Geometry Honors	We will work collaboratively together to create a common final in order to improve student achievement by making up the semester exam now so that we can focus our instruction to achieve this goal.
Coop/ WECEP	We will redesign the curriculum for Coop and WECEP in order to make our Cooperative education classes more cohesive in order to improve student achievement in workplace skills, job search skills, career research, financial management, writing skills, oral communication skills.
Economics	We will redesign the insurance unit to incorporate content from summer workshop and align and create alternate assessments for all units in order to improve student achievement by allowing for more student-driven curriculum and improve assessments by using data from assessments for curriculum decisions.

Curriculum Corner (cont'd)

Art	We will develop a writing template for students' self-reflection of their artwork in order to improve student achievement we will pilot the template and revise as needed
English - Portfolio	We will facilitate and direct the use of writing portfolios in classrooms across the humanities. We will assess pieces placed in tracked portfolios in order to provide feedback to both teachers and students about areas of strength and weakness. We will also encourage students to be more reflective about the cognitive processes involved in writing and to make frequent use of writing strategies.
English - Reading	We will research and implement reading strategies to help students improve reading speed and comprehension in the content area of English in order to improve student achievement in this way we will give students the tools necessary to help them take ownership of their own learning.
English/Speech	In order to improve student achievement in the area of communication, we will establish communication skills (nonverbal and verbal) needed for a comprehensive four-year English program, focusing on the Freshman and Sophomore year, with teacher instruction support in the area content area of English.
Music - vocal	We will implement sight-reading materials into the curriculum, evaluating their effectiveness via assessment of student growth and learning. These new materials will be implemented into the curriculum at least on a bi-weekly basis and students will be assessed via performance on the sight-reading materials, as well as on their ability to apply the information to real world situations.
Music - Instrumental	We will design a program of video and written assessment to evaluate students' proficiency in the content area including: major scale knowledge and performance, rhythmic counting, and tone quality.
Product design & architecture	Teachers will develop an online accessible learning tool for students of design related classes that will be usable by students outside of the classroom.
Technology	Teachers will work to create lessons, activities and opportunities for students to inform themselves about career options in technology related fields.
Physics	Teachers will plan, design and organize supplementary materials for students to further their understanding and abilities to meet science standards.
AP Biology	Teachers will work collaboratively to design curriculum, activities and or assessments that specifically relate to AP Biology that incorporate scientific reasoning skills such as those measured by the ACT and AP exams.
Scientific Reasoning	Teachers will design supplemental materials and or assessments that incorporate scientific reasoning skills for students such as those measured by the ACT and will seek to share these with all department members for regular use in all science classes.
RES and Earth Science	Teachers will work to design lessons, activities or assessments that incorporate technology into the curriculum of Earth Science and RES
Reading Remediation	We will analyze data from last year's KTEA testing, recent MAP results, and the soon to be administered John's Reading Inventory to determine areas of deficits, conduct research in remediation strategies and implement strategies for specific reading areas of need, and then post-test to determine any significant change.
Psychology/Sociology	Planning, implementing, analyzing and revising an integrated unit on homelessness.
PE I/II	Creating common assessments for the WSI, stroke mechanics and fitness foundation units in these courses with a focus on state and district 303 standards.
PE III/IV	Designing, implementing and analyzing a unit plan and curriculum for the cardiovascular disease unit.
FACS	Review and revise assessment tools used in Foods, Fashion Design and Child Development courses
Driver Education	Planning, implementing, analyzing and revising units that align instructional strategies with the classroom and behind-the-wheel assessment tools.
Academic Assistance	We will assess the effectiveness of the Academic Support evidenced by growth of students participating in the Applied Study program by collecting data and reflecting on academic support to revise our practices.

Speaking of reaching goals...

Congratulations to the following North Star's for successfully completing the *Chicago Marathon* on October 10th, 2004.

Student - Katie Van Cleave (senior)

Staffs- Bob Dobbertin, Dawn Hall, and Denise Herrmann

Parents- Scott Fors, Joan van Oss, Cindy Weaver



PTO NEWS

Thank You, We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

- Homecoming Week - Thank you to all the parents who volunteered; building class floats, helping with decorations, contributing and serving refreshments at the dance.
- Great weather, great location and great chili. Forty-six gallons of chili and 48 dozen cookies were consumed by hungry football fans. The 'Best Chili' award went to Football Boosters and 'Best Presentation' was awarded to Peer Leadership 4A. This cooperative event with Central Boosters was a great 'fun-raiser.' Thank you to everyone involved.
- That bare space near the front entrance is looking great. Thank you from the Beautification Committee to the families who donated plants that will continue to enhance the entrance.

Post Prom is Coming Home!!!

- Five SCN parents have agreed to organize the Post Prom event on May 14-15, 2004, right here on the North High School campus!
- Post Prom was instituted in our community as a safe evening for our upper class students, to keep them off the streets during one of the most dangerous nights for teenage drivers. We are hoping to provide a fun evening that will attract most of the 800+ students in the junior and senior classes (all juniors and seniors are invited to Post Prom regardless of their decision to attend Prom).
- The plans for the evening (which will run from 11:30pm-3:00am) includes games (Bingo, Twister, Money Machine, 21 For Fun), "fun house" type activities (Adrenaline Rush, Gladiator Joust, Bungee First-Down, Sumo Suits), food, music, dancing, swimming, prizes and more!
- Post Prom is a HUGE undertaking. Much help is needed - whatever your student's year in school, we need your help. If you are interested in this event, contact Sue Wachs at 587-1121, sewachs@sbcglobal.net OR Sue Becker at 513-0514, NBCK@comcast.net.
- The Poinsettia Sale fundraiser for Post Prom; orders are due Nov 19, with pick-up at school on Dec. 2. Call Kim Sutcliffe at 587-3897.

Ongoing Fundraisers

- Did you know that shopping with your Target Visa isn't just shopping? It's giving. Every time you use your card at Target or Target.com it can help our school. Target donates an equal amount to 1% of your purchases to our school through the Take Charge of Education program. To designate SCN call 1-800-316-6142 or visit target.com/tcoe.
- Market Day continues every month. November is featuring Pie Bonus Days! Many groups (sports, clubs, boosters) are selling pies. Pie orders are due to individual groups on Nov. 14. Market Day orders are due Nov. 10, and internet orders are due Nov 13. Order forms are also available in the Main Office. **PLEASE NOTE:** Pick up on Nov. 17 will be relocated to the Music Wing, around the back of the auditorium, doors 17 & 18. Call Treva Wine, 762-8287.
- SCN High School prints are available for \$25, with a \$25 coupon toward framing. (See the framed print hanging in the office.) Call Theresa Shoup at 365-6797 or check the PTO site on the school web-site for info. We also have note cards of the print. Ten cards & envelopes for \$5. Call Cindy Hueneke at 377-9692 to purchase a pack.

Upcoming Events

- Fundraiser at The Perfect Setting, 447 S. Third St., Geneva is Thursday, Nov. 18th from 5pm to 7:30pm. You will receive 10% off everything you purchase AND SCN PTO will receive 10% of all sales. Wine and Hors d'Oeuvres will be served. Get a jump on your holiday shopping. Please RSVP to Sue Wachs at 587-1121, sewachs@sbcglobal.net.

Student Directories

- Student Directories are available in the Student Activities Office for \$2.

PTO Meetings

- The PTO meets in the LRC from 7 to 9pm on the following dates: 11/15, 1/18/05, 2/22/05, 3/21/05, 4/19/05 and 5/16/05. Please join us. PTO minutes can be accessed on the school website, click on 'Community' then 'PTO'.

Sue Wachs - PTO President
587-1121

Paula White Keen - PTO Vice President
377-2050

Learning Area News

HUMANITIES

Michele Machowicz, Instructional Coordinator

The Choral Program is in full swing this year. Our first concert, featuring the Vocal Jazz Ensemble was held on October 6th in the auditorium. Our other choirs were featured in their first concert held on November 4th in the auditorium.

This year's Madrigal Dinner will be held at Baker Memorial Methodist Church on December 9, 10 and 11. Tickets went on sale to the public on November 1st and can be purchased by calling the Madrigal Dinner Hotline at (630) 587-7193.

Seventeen SCN choir students auditioned and were selected for the Illinois Music Educators Association District Festivals to be held in November. Ten students will be representing SCN in the Concert Choir and seven students will be representing SCN in the Jazz Ensembles...way to go gang!

Members of the Chorale and Bel Canto Choirs will be traveling to Greece in June of 2005, more details to follow.

Auditions for this year's musical, Little Shop of Horrors, will be held the week of February

14th. Any SCN student is eligible to audition for the show, information will be made available via morning announcements and the information kiosk after Winter Break.

TECHNOLOGY/MEDIA

Cheryl LaMaster, Instructional Coordinator

Busy! Busy! The LRC started the year with a high level of teacher usage with the scheduling book filled to capacity many hours of the day. Online testing in the areas of mathematics and English took place on the computers in and adjacent to the LRC as well. Foreign language teachers used print materials and websites to enhance their curriculum, classes were treated to book talks on various fiction titles prior to selection for class projects, and business teachers used various websites to supplement their economics units.

Freshman English teachers have been bringing their classes into the LRC for orientation and technology-based information literacy. Research lessons have been coordinated with topics based on a book read in the English class. Students have then created a Powerpoint on their topic, to be later presented in class.

New laptops have been purchased this fall to replace some of the ones stolen in the burglary over the summer. The laptops have been placed in the mobile wireless carts, and carts are requested by teachers to be placed in a classroom for a particular hour to access programs on the network and/or the Internet.

The LRC is participating in the upcoming St. Charles Reads Project. Copies of the chosen book, Peace like a River, along with suggested activities, have been made available to English teachers and librarians as well as several copies of the book being added to the library collection. Copies of the book are also available for purchase in the library.

Learning Area News

WELLNESS

Audra Christenson, Instructional Coordinator

Climb On!!!

New Fitness Lab has students hanging off the walls!

The Physical Education Program is proud to announce great progress in the creation of their fitness lab. In early August the transformation of the "old" weight room began. In addition to the relocation of equipment, the vacant room was primed for renovation. This included the construction of a traversing wall! As our program continues to focus on lifelong fitness and activities, the traversing wall will enable students to enhance muscular endurance, communication, problem solving, and teaming skills.

For those unfamiliar with traversing, it is a form of horizontal rock climbing. The wall is eight feet tall and has various peaks and holds which allow for diverse degrees of difficulty. While Hallenbeck Expeditions installed the structure, the junior PE Leaders assisted with the placement of holds. Once that was completed and the PE staff discussed climbing safety, the wall was open for all PE classes to use.

Currently the fitness lab is comprised of the traversing wall, step aerobic equipment and stability balls. We continue to investigate funding internally and externally as we hope to include cardiovascular equipment such as spinner bikes, treadmills and elliptical machines. This will enable our students to measure and enhance their fitness levels in a variety of ways.

We are very thankful for the chance to provide our students with such unique opportunities and we invite you to come check the wall out.

Period 1 PE Leaders were among the many who helped with placement of climbing holds on our new traversing wall.

GLOBAL STUDIES

Dr. Kathy Zimmer, Instructional Coordinator

As part of Rebecca Reber's World History class, students have been investigating what is meant by the Eastern Worldview. To address our Social Studies standard of "understanding how to explain, analyze, and show connections among patterns of historical change and continuity", students have analyzed the relationship between cultural expressions such as art, and belief. These relationships will enable students to draw conclusions regarding the values and behaviors of cultures across time and facilitate a deeper understanding of lives different from our own.

On November 3rd, students had the opportunity to explore Asian art first hand as they traveled to the Art Institute for a day and engaged in dialogue with an Asian art expert while participating in a tour of the Institute's Asian exhibits. Students will add this information to their on-going investigations, finally synthesizing their learning in a final project due in January.



