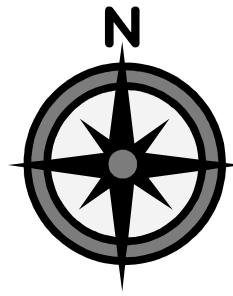


"The Navigator"

Principal's Newsletter



St. Charles North High School

Vol. 911 No. 5

June 2006

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

Mrs. Kimberly Zupec, Principal

e-mail:mringsby@d303.org



NORTH STAR AWARD recipients: (front L to R) David McGill, David Hutter, Frank Bisceglie, Jeffrey Engel, Daniel Blumeyer. (back L to R) Andrew Simerson, Katelyn Ohlrich, Kady McFadden, Heather Kopec, Jessica Cohen, Grace Harriett, Heather August.

CLASS OF 2006 SENIOR EVENTS

Senior Week went off without a hitch, as members of the Class of 2006 attended their traditional senior events. On Wednesday, May 24th, seniors attended the Senior Candlelight Farewell, a baccalaureate type ceremony with speeches from the Class Advisor, Ms. Erin Fasbender, Student Body President, Kady McFadden and Salutatorian, Joanna Bebenek, as well as songs from senior choir members. On Thursday, May 25th, the seniors gathered in the cafeteria for the annual Senior BBQ and Trunk Full of Funk performances. Mr. Kirby and Mr. Moore fired up the grills and over 300 hamburgers and 200 hotdogs were consumed. Seniors also had a chance to see pictures from Freshman Orientation 2002 at this event. On Friday, May 26th, the seniors gathered at 7:30 AM one last time for Graduation rehearsal and then made their way to Christ Community Church for the Senior Breakfast. The meal this year was catered by IHOP and

attendees also received their Senior Supplement magazines, heard a speech from classmate Sam Urhausen and a song, "Seasons of Love", from senior choir members. Class President, Jess Cohen, also announced the class gift, a 200 gallon fresh water fish tank (and fish), which will be placed in North's LRC this summer. On Sunday the community gathered for commencement ceremonies, which were held outside for only the second time in North's history. Jess Cohen gave her class farewell speech and Valedictorian Liz VanDril gave her address. Even the 90 degree heat could not bring these students down, and the ceremony was beautiful.

Greetings, Members of the Class of 2010!

As summer vacation begins and summer calendars are established, be sure to reserve Friday, August 11, 2006 for Freshmen Orientation Day. This is a half day program, morning or afternoon depending on alphabet assignment, for all our incoming 9th graders. It is an opportunity to meet and interact with new classmates and learn about the locations and procedures of many of the most important places on our high school campus. On Freshman Orientation Day students receive their textbooks, schedule, locks and locker assignments. We encourage *all freshmen* to participate in our Orientation Day Program since is this so vital to a successful transition experience. Our Freshmen Orientation Day will help ease the transition and hopefully eliminate some anxious feelings our new students may have to give our freshmen the best possible start at St. Charles North High School.



As summer vacation gets underway, look to the future – our future "North Stars". We know our new 9th graders are looking forward to starting their first year in high school. We are excited about meeting the Class of 2010 and welcome them to "North Star Country"!





"Pen of the Principal"

As we end this school year, I wish to congratulate the 491 graduates of the Class of 2006. The spirit and drive of this class was amazing. On behalf of the staff of North High School, thank you for a wonderful four years. You have inspired us all.

Looking forward to the fall of 2006, our School Improvement Team will be implementing several pilots. First, three classes of a freshman lunch advisory will be implemented, focusing on those skills needed to be successful in high school. Secondly, we will pilot a mentoring program with a group of tenth graders to provide more one-on-one guidance. Finally, several of our teachers will be hosting student-led conferences in their particular content areas. An overall focus for next year will be Professional Learning Communities. Beginning with freshman classes, teachers will be working with their content peers to measure student progress through a variety of means. These assessments will guide the teachers in the analysis and adaptation of their instruction to further assure student success. A group of teachers will also be investigating alternative use of study hall time as well as the use of technology to support student learning. Dr. Herrmann has outlined each of these projects and others under Curriculum Corner in this newsletter. Our School Improvement Team is energized and ready for the new year. We will work to always keep you updated as to our progress.

Finally, I wish to offer a deep felt congratulations to Dr. Denise Herrmann, Dr. Debbie Kling, and Mr. Bruce Lane as they move to new opportunities. Dr. Herrmann has accepted a principalship in Middleton, Wisconsin; Dr. Kling a principalship in Bloomingdale, IL; and Mr. Lane a directorship in Lockport, IL. The North Community is by far a better place due to their valuable contributions. Stepping into their roles are Mr. Mark Moore, currently a math instructor here at North, and Mr. Kevin Scotellaro, the present Instructional Coordinator for Special Education. Mr. Moore will be the new Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction and Mr. Scotellaro will be the Assistant Principal for Pupil Personnel Services. We will be announcing the Assistant Principal of Student Activities shortly. Each of these gentlemen bring many talents to their appointed positions and will carry on the good work started by their predecessors.

In closing, I also wish to thank the PTO and the parent community as a whole. Your support of our school and programs enables us to move forward with the many exciting ventures planned for next year.

Have a great summer!

Kim Zupec
Principal

Lotarski Named IMSA Award Recipient

North High School science teacher, Jim Lotarski, was named 2006 IMSA Award Recipient for Teacher Recognition. Mr. Lotarski was nominated for this award by a former student, Jenny Zhang.

This award is given annually by the Academy in recognition of educators who have challenged, inspired and encouraged IMSA students' academic and personal growth prior to their enrollment at the Illinois Math & Science Academy.

Congratulations Mr. Lotarski on this well-deserved recognition!

CURRICULUM CORNER

Denise Herrmann, Assistant Principal for Curriculum & Instruction

Curriculum / Honors Course Update

From the letter to parents dated 5/25/06:

We will continue to offer honors courses for 2006-07 seniors as previously communicated in February. In order to open additional opportunities for junior and senior students while protecting the integrity of their course selections, honors level courses have been added for the 2006-07 school year. Additionally, several current courses will be designated as honors level. These designated courses will earn weighted grade credit.

Advanced English III
Spanish IV
German IV

U.S. History
French IV
Latin IV

Building Update:

- Request forms were collected from students / parents the week of May 30th
- Class schedules were revised the week of June 5th
- Students with irresolvable conflicts were contacted starting June 7th to make a choice between courses

ST. CHARLES NORTH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT NEWS

NHS Secondary School Re-Design Initiatives for 2006-07

RIGOR	RELEVANCE	RELATIONSHIPS
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES – Modeled after the highly successful PLC model at Stevenson High School, this initiative will support the formation, training, and implementation of PLC's in key 9 th grade courses. All Algebra I, English I, and Global Issues teachers will have common planning time, during which they will meet regularly to plan for instruction, develop common assessments, review student performance on common assessments, and revise/re-teach to ensure students meet course goals (power standards)		
GRADES – What do grades mean/measure? How are course grades aligned to standardized test scores? This team will investigate best practices in assessing student learning and make recommendations for consistent grading practices at NHS	SENIOR PROJECT – How can the senior year become more relevant in the eyes of senior students? This team will investigate structures and outcomes for successful senior projects that anchor meaningful learning within areas of studies that are relevant to the lives of 12 th grade students	MENTORS – This team will identify at-risk sophomore boys and match each one with an adult volunteer from the NHS school community. The mentors will receive training on how to support and guide adolescent boys through the challenges of high school
STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES – This team will identify one course from their teaching load in which they will pilot the process of student-led conferences. During the first quarter students will set goals, select pieces of quality work, and reflect on the evidence of progress toward goals. During November, each student will lead a 15-20 minute conference		EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE – This team will investigate ways to support teachers with personal and professional wellness goals.
POWER STANDARDS – What are the 'essential learnings' for each course in our curriculum? How can these essential learnings guide assessment – course alignment – focused instruction? This team will guide the process of using existing district and state standards to create Power Standards that explicitly state the learning outcomes for each course.	SERVICE LEARNING – This team will coordinate our current service learning projects as well as recommend structures to allow more students to participate in a broad range of local and regional service projects	ROOTS & CULTURE – This team will continue to build a positive school climate through increased communication and participation in school-wide events. The initiative includes ways to build student-student, teacher-student, teacher-teacher, and NHS-community relationships.
	TECHNOLOGY - This team will support the training and integration of new and emerging technology into our curriculum and school community. (<i>Blackboard</i>)	
FRESHMAN ADVISORY – How can we better help students transition from 8 th to 9 th grade? How we help freshman gain the study skills required for rigorous course work? How can we help all freshmen build a relationship with an adult and a group of peers? This team will investigate and pilot an advisory program designed to support freshman students with academic and social/ emotional issues.		
USE OF INSTRUCTIONAL TIME - This team will investigate best practices in how high performing schools use their instructional time		

HOST AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT

The Center for Cultural Interchange, a non-profit organization from St. Charles, is in search of families interested in hosting an international exchange student for the '06-'07 school year at St. Charles North. There are many students to choose from, from many different countries. The students come with their own spending money, fully insured and speak a high level of English. If you would be interested in hosting, please contact:



Sandra Chavez, Area Representative
(630) 587-8808 or
email: Chavan21@comcast.net

PTO NEWS

Thanks

- To all the parents who once again made Post Prom a wonderful party for the students!
- To Karen Porter and all her helpers for the Senior Yard Signs!

Updates:

- At our May PTO Meeting we reviewed a funding proposal submitted by SCN faculty members. It was decided to use year end PTO funds to help the following projects that will impact many students at the school. The science department will be able to purchase a telescope. The LRC will be able to obtain an additional set of the Abraham Lincoln Award Book Collection for use by student literature circles. Finally, monies were provided for the Woods 3 students to design and build a permanent kiosk for the main lobby.
- PTO Awarded \$750 scholarships to 4 graduating seniors to pursue post high school education. There were 19 applicants and the 4 recipients chosen after blind review were: Brian McDonald, Grace Harriett, Jessica Cohen and Catherine Nosal. Best wishes as they begin this new chapter in their lives!
- 4 parents helped with interviewing candidates for the 3 Assistant Principals positions at the school. These parents brought a unique perspective to the sessions.
- Just a reminder that a copy of the 2006-07 Student Directory will not be included in the PTO dues. Directories will be on sale for \$3 at Back-to-School Night or in the main office after that evening

Volunteer Opportunity:

- If you are interested in helping with incoming Freshman Parent Survival Sessions on August 11th 8 am till 9:30am or 12pm-1:30pm, please email Julie Small jamdec62@aol.com or Pat Papke at steve_and_pat@comcast.net. We need parents to answer questions and tour groups of new parents through the common areas of North

Our PTO Officers for next year are:

President: Lisa Beer #443-7383

Vice President: Lori McQuillan # 587-3352

Secretary: Gina Morici # 847-468-0897

Treasurer: Marlene Pedone #847-695-0328

Our first PTO meeting for the 2006-07 school years is August 21st in the LRC... Please join us!

Sue Wachs Paula White Lisa Beer
SCN PTO

Post Prom a HUGE SUCCESS!!



People can truly amaze you, they have talents that you could never dream of having but wish you did. If you had the opportunity to come to the public viewing of the school for the post prom activities, you would know what I am talking about. Two women (Theresa Sacomani and Shirley Nichol) dreamed up all the decorations and then hundreds brought it to life. If you went to Theresa's house prior to the event, you would have been totally flabbergasted at how some of these things are made and at how her basement was taken over (literally) by the jungle. Who can make lights from straw hats? Or make bamboo trees using toilet paper rolls and paper bags? Not me! But others truly have talents and it takes a lot of different talents to make the post prom event happen. In total we probably had over 125 parent and student volunteers for this event. Everything from decorating on Friday afternoon to the clean up crew on Mothers Day was needed to pull this off, and based on the reactions from the kids, they did pull it off and the students had a great time.

For the people that did have the opportunity to work the event that night, I think you saw that we do have a great group of kids at St. Charles North and by providing them this prom party alternative they truly are appreciative. We had about 550 students attend this event which costs about \$20,000 to run in total. There were a ton of games and activities along with the great prizes.

It was a fun and special night, and I would like to thank the entire post prom committee for making it happen. These people spent HUNDREDS of hours starting back in December to pull off this event. If you have the chance – they would love to hear your comments about the night (parents and students), just drop a note off at the school with POST PROM COMMITTEE on the envelope and you will make their day!

Committee Chairs: Sue Becker / Kathy Bultema
Decorating – Theresa Sacomani / Shirley Nichol
Food – Cindy Hueneke / Nancy Travers / Carolyn McDonald
Fundraising – Kim Sutcliffe
Games – Jeanne Hosler / Kathy Polito
Prizes – Paula White Keen / Debbie Hopkins / Mary Johnston
Publicity – Karin Roberts
Security – Janine Holm
Thank You - Pat Screeden
Tickets – Rose Kowal / Amy Storm / Mary Fremgen
Treasurer – Jane Vandril
Volunteers – Sue Wachs / Lisa Beer



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE PARENTS WHO VOLUNTEERED:

Julie Peterburs, Lynne Pittner, Mary McNamara, Jayna Richardson, Connie Coulson, Carole Gentile, Marilyn Ringsby, Karen Casement, Lisa Pinto, Nikki Pfeiffer, Trish Thompson, Lori Tobin, Kay Perez, Laney Henry, Kathy Lamb, Michele Collingbourne, Gaylene Doyle, Jean Bettis, Sherry Corry, Julie Haney, Debbie Audette Schryer, Donna Bihner, Judy Lang, Ann Dvorak, Debra Gonzalez-Mendez, Mary Lynn Zwolinski, Lisa VanDyck, Dan VanDyck, Michele Horton, Heather Matuszek, Janet Treffy, Marianne Jamison, Mike Jamison, Chris Danielson, Jennifer Peterson, Eric Peterson, Carolyn Reynolds, Roberta Merwin, Darlene Barrowclift, Mary Beth Reilly, Cindy Hueneke, Rick Hueneke, Carolyn McDonald, Nancy Travers, Peter Storm, Amy Storm, Maureen Haluczyk, Ron Haluczyk, Ed Doyle, Kathy Janci, Steve Janci, Cary Gallien, Janine Gallien, Phyllis Caranci, Kevin True, Jim Broecker, Mark Shoup, Marcia Sprengel, Ric Manser, Michelle Rathman, Debbie Rosso, Diane Detelich, Sue Fore, Scott Fore, Gloria Powers, Stella Barone, Pat Shales, Jeff Forsell, Susan Forsell, Sheryl Dauksha, Janet Zohorsky, Margaret Trogdon, Mike Oakes, Suzanne Oakes, Neil Tubman, Eve Tubman, John Conte, Al Dickey, Ken Fenoglio, Kerry Fenoglio, Rich Juszczak, Tina Zucker, Bob Buchta, Mary Conrad, Brad LeGare, Chris Schneider, Lisa Schneider, Karen Sigal, Ron Sigal, Brad Burkner, Mary Kay McEnery, Sheila Tustin, Sue Vincent, Susan Klopmeier, Mike Klopmeier, Amy Boynton, Ellen Teichart, Karen Kobler, Maureen D'Amico, Rita Larsen, Marc Propheter, Sue Becker, Norb Becker, Kathy Bultema, Wade Bultema, Rose Kowal, Jan VanDril, Paul VanDril, Shirley Nichol, Theresa Sacomani, Debbie Hopkins, Jim Hopkins, Karin Roberts, Chris Roberts, Kim Sutcliffe, Jerry Sutcliffe, Kathy Polito, Pat Screeden, Jim Screeden, Paula White, Jim Keen, Janine Holm, Jeanne Hosler, Scott Hosler, Sue Wachs, Jon Wachs, Mary Johnston, Lisa Beer, Mary Fremgen, Laura Rasmussen, Mary Johnston, Lisa Beer, Mary Fremgen, Mike Fremgen, Laura Rasmussen, Laura Zimmerman, Tina Zucker, Brent Philips, John Tusken.



