

Newsletter Date

March 10th, 2008

Secondary Principal's 4th Quarter Newsletter

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Good Things Are Happening at PHS!!!

Good things are happening at Plainview Schools! My, how time flies. It seems that we were just preparing to start another school year, and now we are entering our final quarter. As this final quarter of our school year begins, it is easy to forget about what we have achieved. In this newsletter, we have included many accomplishments of our students.

You Are Invited!

As part of the NCA school improvement accreditation process, our school is required to develop a vision statement. We would like your help and participation in this process. Whether you are a student, parent, community member, or staff member, we invite you to come on March 25th at 7:00 p.m. to the high school media center. The meeting will last for no more than one hour. Please consider this your personal invitation to come and assist us.

Speech Team headed to State!!!

Plainview's Speech Team won the C1-5 District at Battle Creek on Wednesday, March 5, with a score of 98 points and 11 medalists overall. Runner-up was Battle Creek with 79 points, followed by Crofton with 74 points.

Of the medalists, only the top two earn a trip to State, which will be held in Kearney, Tuesday, March 18.

District Champions from Plainview include Taylor Christiansen in Humorous Prose, Kelsey Meuret in Persuasive Speaking, Kristen Tassemeyer in Informative Speaking, the Duet team of Ashley Mosel and Camille Friedrich, and the OID team of Kristen Tassemeyer, Abby Holmes, Taylor Christiansen, and Ethan Pellatz.

Runner-up medalists (and also earning a trip to state) include Rachel Wiegert in Humorous Prose, Camille Friedrich in Serious Prose, and Abby Holmes in Entertainment.

Just missing out on qualifying, but earning district medals were Michelle MacGregor in Serious Prose, Ashley Mosel in Entertainment, and Jill Christiansen in Poetry.

"It was amazing to do this well, considering this had to be one of the toughest districts in the State. Our kids knew this going in, which gave them extra motivation. I'm incredibly proud of how hard they have continued to work, to improve, and to care about excelling. Districts is a day always filled with mixed emotions—disappointment that we didn't qualify everyone who we felt was deserving, yet exhilaration for those who were rewarded with the opportunity to compete at State."

This Thursday, the team will host its annual Open House, which will give every member on our team, not just the State Qualifiers, an opportunity to perform. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Tartan Gym, with performances taking place in designated classrooms. Schedules will be available that night.

The following Tuesday, March 18, of course, is the State competition in Kearney. Anyone interested in a schedule for State Speech can access it at the NSAA website (www.nsaahme.org). Click on "Speech"

Class "C" All-State

Seven Plainview High School instrumental students have been selected to participate in the Class C All-State Band at Kearney High School on March 15. Lucas Hitz, Justin Kluver and Tyler Holton have been selected for the Wind Ensemble and Tina Rosberg, Jacob Proskovec, Chris Bevill and Aaron Keck will perform in the Symphonic Band. Students are chosen based on taped auditions or a recommendation by their directors.

Students will rehearse during the day and perform in a concert at 5:30 p.m. 33 class C schools are represented in either the Jazz Band, Symphonic Band or the Wind Ensemble.



FCCLA—Nebraska STAR

Hollie Nelson and Carissa Pollock received first place with a Top Gold in their Focus on Children event at FCCLA District 8 STAR competition held at Wayne State College. Cassie Smith received Runner-up Gold (2nd place) in her Career Investigation event. Hollie and Carissa will move on to the state competition held in April during the State Leadership Conference.



Driver's Education Classes Offered

Plainview Schools will again be offering a Driver's Education Class this summer. This program is approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles and upon successful completion of the course a waiver certificate is given. This certificate will waive the driving and written test when the student wishes to get a Provisional Operator's Permit (POP). The minimum age for taking this class is 14 years old by June 1, 2008. The classroom part of the class will take place from Thursday, May 22 to Thursday, May 29. The driving part of the class will take place throughout the summer, times being determined by the instructor.

Anyone wishing to register their child (that has not already done so) may call the school at 582-4991. The cost for this class is \$190.00, due by May 1.



Develop Your Scholarship Game Plan!

To mount an effective scholarship campaign, the first thing you need is a winning game plan. Start by implementing the following four key action strategies.

1. Plan to apply for as many scholarships as possible

Some students make the mistake of thinking that they maximize their chances of winning by pouring all of their energy into one or two scholarships.

But applying for scholarships is partially a numbers game. A variety of factors outside of your control affect the outcome of any given award. Only by applying for large numbers of scholarships can you minimize such factors, and maximize your chances of winning. In my own scholarship quest, I ended up applying for about three dozen awards.

Even if the scholarship prize is only a couple of hundred dollars, I still recommend entering the contest. This might not sound like much in the context of an entire college tuition bill, but the extra cash can help cover the cost of books for a term, or help pay for that spring break "research" trip to Cancun.

In addition, winning smaller awards provides you with additional credentials that you can include in applications for larger scholarships.

2. Develop a suite of generic reusable materials

When applying for large numbers of scholarships, creating a suite of generic reusable materials saves a great deal of time and energy. By having this suite to draw from, you will be able to focus less on just completing application requirements, and more on customizing and fine-tuning the material you've already prepared.

More than just a reduction in your workload, reusing and rethinking old materials can mean vast improvements as you repeatedly refine and edit the same work. By employing this strategy, you gain the opportunity to fine-tune your materials with every submission. And take it from me—your tenth draft will be far better than your first.

To create this suite of generic materials, first seek to develop standard essay responses to perennial scholarship application themes—such old favorites as college plans, career goals, and future contributions to society.

Next, survey the scholarship landscape and isolate common themes and requirements (whether it is a similar essay question or a comparable extracurricular activity worksheet). Attempt to bridge multiple applications with every sentence you write or form you prepare.

Also, go back into your archive of old scholarship applications (you'll develop one quickly) and try to recycle essays and other past materials. Don't just recopy such passages verbatim; instead, try to rethink, improve, and hone everything to fit the criteria of each new contest.

3. Leverage schoolwork and class time

If you have to do the schoolwork anyway, why not make it count toward your scholarship quest? For example, if you're asked to write an essay on a book of your choosing, you may want to select *The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand. This way, you'll have a submission ready to go for the annual essay contest on this famous novel. If you're assigned a self-reflective essay, pick a personal topic that fits in well with scholarship applications you're pursuing. Moreover, teachers can serve as a helpful source of early feedback for these potential scholarship submissions.

This technique isn't restricted merely to classroom assignments. Most schools offer some type of independent study credit, in which you can pursue your own project under the guidance of an adviser. At many schools, you're even allowed to use a class period during the day to pursue this work. Use the time to complete self-initiated projects that add to your record and improve your chances of scholarship (and college admission) success.

4. Learn from past scholarship winners

In playing the scholarship game, it's extremely useful to have a roadmap of what it takes to win. To obtain this roadmap, make a point of reviewing past winning applications, essays and other materials. Many times, you can request sample winning entries from the organization administering the scholarship program.

In addition, it's useful to interview past winners of scholarships you plan to enter. Ask them about their unique qualifications, the approach they took in filling out applications, and any insights they have about particular scholarship contests you're planning to enter. Many scholarship contests will provide a list of past winners upon request. The best way to master the scholarship game is to learn from those who have played it well.

Local Scholarships

- Plainview American Legion Nurses Education Fund: \$400. For RN or LPN training only. For any accredited nursing college. See Mr. Klein for application. Deadline is April 1.
- Roger D. Hanneman Memorial: \$200. For any college. The senior must have participated in music (band/vocal), drama or athletics for four years. GPA and financial aid are also a factor. Must write an essay on the following subject: How have extra-curricular activities had a positive impact on your life? Deadline is April 15.
- Plainview Chamber of Commerce: \$500. Can be used at any accredited vocational program, community college, four-year college, or university. Deadline is April 15.
- Plainview Professional Education Association (PPEA): \$350. Scholarships will be awarded based on academic ability, character, and an essay. Deadline is April 15.
- Plainview Area Health Systems: \$500. Awarded to a senior who plans on pursuing a career in the health field. Student may attend a vocational program, community college, or 4-year college/university. GPA, class rank, school and community activities and achievements considered. Also, 3 letters of recommendation and an essay required. Deadline is April 4.
- Masonic Lodge 204: \$150. Based on citizenship and community service. Deadline is April 15.
- Plainview Community Theatre: At least \$200. Must be a band/vocal, art, or speech and drama student or any of these for a minimum of 3 years. Financial need is not a factor. Requires an essay regarding the benefits of being involved in fine arts. You must also include a resume of your fine art involvement. Deadline is April 20.
- The Jim B. and Lillian F. Cooper Foundation: \$1500. Available to a graduating senior. One alternate will be selected in the event the winner does not use the scholarship. Deadline is April 12
- Lloyd and Viola Johnson Memorial Scholarship: \$250. First consideration given to a student planning to make production agriculture a career after college graduation--Other majors also considered—Essay (500 words), and a resume listing two references are required. Due to Mr. Klein by April 1.
- Beth Lingenfelter Putnam Scholarship: \$100 renewable for satisfactory progress (3.0 GPA) while attending Northeast Community College. Due April 15.
- P.E.O. Marian E. Brunke Memorial Scholarship: \$400. Requires an essay. Preference given to a candidate pursuing a degree in music or education. Due April 10.
- PPEA/PHSA Scholarship @ the University of Nebraska—Kearney \$400. Due April 15.
- PPEA/Plainview Alumni Scholarship at Northeast Community College. \$300. Based on academic ability, character, and an essay. Due April 15.
- Nebraska Grand Chapter- Order of Eastern Star Scholarship- One scholarship at \$ 250. Due April 1.
- Gerald Hanks Memorial Scholarship- 1 @ \$1000 or 2 @ \$500. Due April 25.
- FFA Boosters Scholarship- 4 scholarships @ \$250 each. For current FFA members who are planning to attend a two or four year college. Due April 1.

Wayne State College Scholarships-

- Rose & Nola Peterson Family Scholarship \$245
- Joyce J. (Pilger) Windeshausen/Plainview Community Scholarship \$975 Due March 30

Student Leadership Assembly

On April 10th we will be having a speaker, Michael Karpovich, come and visit with our students, staff, and community. He is a well known motivational speaker from Michigan. His focus during his assemblies on April 10th will be leadership.

Wednesday evening

- **Reception** **5:00 – 6:30**
- **Community Churches** **6:45 – 8:00**

Thursday

- **Junior High Students (7-8)** **8:30 – 10:00**
- **High School Students (9-12)** **10:00-11:30**
- **Lower Elementary (K-3)** **12:00-1:00**
- **Upper Elementary (4-6)** **1:00 – 2:00**
- **Student Leaders (9-12)** **2:00-3:25**
- **Staff** **3:30 -4:30**
- **Community** **5:30 – 6:30**
- **Parents/Students** **7:00-8:30**



Top 10 Websites!

1. [White House for Kids](http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids) (www.whitehouse.gov/kids)
2. [The Puzzle Depot](http://www.puzzledepot.com)(www.puzzledepot.com)
The Puzzle Depot is devoted to puzzles, board and logic games, skill contests and trivia as well as related books and software for recreation and K-12 education.
3. [News Bank, Inc.](http://www.newsbank.com)(www.newsbank.com)
This site provides information about products and curriculum materials to schools, libraries and research centers worldwide.
4. [Ask.com](http://www.ask.com)(www.aj.com)
This site is a question and answer Web Site. Ask Jeeves lets users ask any question and in two quick steps, they're directly linked to an appropriate home page to find the answer. It allows the user to use simple language like, "What's an intranet?"
5. [Nebraska Online](http://www.nol.org)(www.nol.org)
Here you can take a tour of the Nebraska State Capitol, there's a Nebraska Quick Reference page, and more.
6. [Campbell's Kitchen](http://www.campbellkitchen.com)(www.campbellkitchen.com)
7. [EduHound](http://www.eduhound.com)(www.eduhound.com)
8. [Puzzlemaker.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.com)(www.puzzlemaker.com)
9. [Kids Click! Worlds of Searching](http://www.worldsofsearching.org)(www.worldsofsearching.org)
10. [Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park](http://ashfall.unl.edu/ashfallanimals.html)(http://ashfall.unl.edu/ashfallanimals.html)

4th Quarter Calendar!

March 11—Coyote Jazz Festival @ USD
March 13—Speech “Open House” (6:30 PM)
March 15—Easter Egg Hunt
March 18—State Speech @ Kearney
March 19—Bloodmobile
March 21-24—Easter Break
March 25—Nebraska Jazz Festival @ NECC
March 26-27&31—Achievement Testing (7-12)
March 28—Elementary Wrestling Meet
April 2—JH Quiz Bowl @ ESU 8 (Neligh)
April 2-4—FFA State Convention
April 5&6—Alumni Tournament
April 7&8—FCCLA State Leadership Conference
April 9—Sr. High Quiz Bowl @ ESU 8 (Neligh)
April 10—Leadership Assembly
April 12—Prom
April 14—Teacher Workshop (No School)
April 18—FFA Banquet
April 20—TeamMates Walk
April 21—Athletic Banquet
April 25&26—Community Theatre
April 28—Inter-High School Scholastic Contest/Quiz Bowl
April 28—Junior High Speech Night
May 3—Community Club Golf Tournament
May 5—Jr/Sr High Pops Concert
May 6—Seniors Last Day!
May 6—NHS Induction/Honors Night
May 9—Graduation Practice/Breakfast
May 10—Graduation Day!
May 13—6th Grade Move-Up Day!
May 15—Last Day of School (9-11)



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.plainviewschools.org