

Plainview Jr./Sr. High School

Educate
Encourage
Empower

December 2011



Up-coming Events

December 6

- Financial Aid Meeting for Seniors & Parents (High School Media Center) @ 6:00pm

December 8

- Wrestling Dual vs. Stanton (Parents Night) @ 7:00pm

December 13

- Digital Design Night @ 6:30pm
- Jr./Sr. High Christmas Concert Program @ 7:30pm

December 15

- Bloodmobile (Tartan Gym) from 9:00am-3:00pm

December 21

- Semester testing 3rd & 4th Block

December 22

- Semester testing 1st & 2nd Block



2011-2012 NHS Ceremony

The Plainview Chapter of the National Honor Society held its 2011-2012 Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, November 22. The 19 current members welcomed 7 new members with a ceremony focused on scholarship, leadership, character, and service. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Brittany White, President Cody Elwood gave a welcome. Candles representing the four aspects of the National Honor Society were lit by Cherise Friedrich, Kelsey Bonta, Cody Mosel, and Michael Moeller, who then explained the importance of those values. As Secretary Morgan Brozek called them forward, new members were robed by Treasurer Cody Mosel. President Cody Elwood then presented membership pins. Following the ceremony, members and guests enjoyed a small reception to celebrate their achievement.

Congratulations to the 2011-2012 Inductees!!!

Kaytlyn Johnston, Corby Forbes, Harley Isom, Kaleb Eichberger, Mitchell Klooz, Sam Meuret, and Erika Neumann



Mock Interviews “School/Community Connection”

Life and Career Essentials students in Mrs. Jacobsen’s class this year had the opportunity to enhance their interview skills by participating in a massive mock interview. The eighteen juniors and seniors took turns rotating through thirteen different interviewers who sat at tables located in the Pirate gym.

A series of interviews in progress!

The interviewers manned with a portfolio consisting of a student-written job specification sheet (describing the job student was applying for), job application, cover letter, and resume, conducted approximately 10-15 minute interviews and followed up by providing students with advice on interviews.

To prepare for the mock interviews, students first learned and demonstrated how to complete job applications and then to write cover letters and resumes. Next, students reviewed job interview techniques and held mock interviews with classmates. The mock interview was their final “test” to demonstrate their grasp of knowledge on the interview

process.

Mary Doughtry (center) interviews Rheid Gobel while others conduct their interviews in the background

“Interviewing is one of the essential life and career skills that I believe all students must have,” explained Jacobsen. “Because interviews can be scary and vary so much in procedure, I felt that it was important for students to gain as much experience as they could. This is why I contacted so many people in the surrounding communities to assist with the process. The mock interviewers consisted of people from the Plainview, Norfolk, and Neligh communities and businesses. By the end of the class period, students completed three interviews each.”

“Comments from the interviewers were consistent with the fact that we have great students, however, they need to work on typical issues such as maintaining eye contact, being able to provide examples of their strengths, and provide polish to their portfolios and appearance,” stated Jacobsen. “I was very

proud of how serious the students took the mock interviews and the discussions that have occurred since. I appreciate the professionals who took time away from their day to conduct the interviews and provide such well-written and verbal advice to the students. This truly was a positive experience for them.”

Students had several comments about the experience which included... “I was so nervous”, “Wow, I nailed that interview”, “I blew that one!”, “I want to go again! Give me the hardest interviewer you have!”, “Can they really ask THAT question, I thought it was illegal?”, and of course “Can I take off my tie now?”.





The Unknown Star

By Elton Rokusek

Elton Rokusek of Tyndall, South Dakota has often wondered what his life might have been like if he hadn't been born with a large hemangioma that covers much of the right side of his face and head. One night in Mitchell, SD Elton met Red Skelton and during their conversation Red said something to Elton that changed his life. "Elton, you are a star in your own life, and that everyone is a star if they can see the things in their life that are special." Elton credits many people with encouraging him to look beyond his limitations and identify his potential. That was the message that he delivered to our junior high students on November 1st.

Take advantage of the winter break to prepare for college



It is never too early for your teen to start thinking about college applications. And winter break can be a productive time for all teens to think about the future:

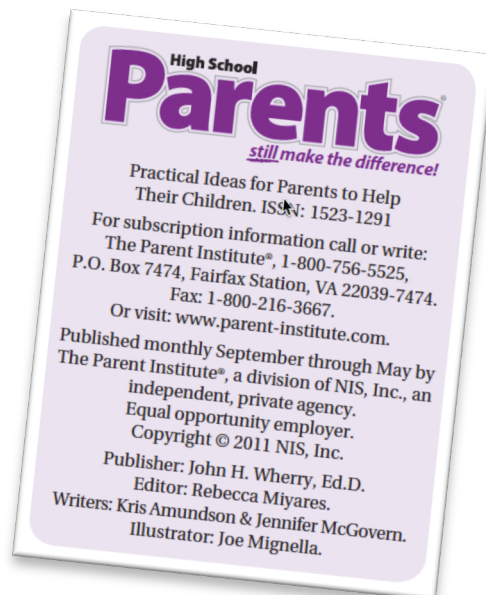
- A freshman or sophomore can use this time to start looking at college websites and brochures. If he has an idea of what he would like to study in college, he can focus on schools with strong programs in that area. He can also look at requirements for his potential course of study—that way, he can talk with his counselor in the spring about making sure he takes the appropriate classes in high school.

- Junior can narrow down the list of colleges he'd like to visit. The spring is when many colleges have open houses. Make travel plans now, if necessary—booking early often means getting the best prices. If your

high schooler is super-motivated, you might also suggest he write a practice college application essay or update his resume.

- A senior should be wrapping up his college applications—many are due in January. Remind him to make copies of his applications before he sends them, so he's not starting from scratch if one gets lost in the mail or if the file doesn't go through. And celebrate when he has completed all his applications!

Source: "College Application FAQs," "CollegeBoard," www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/the-application/8487.html.



Free and Reduced Lunch Application

We are writing to let you know how important it is to fill out the free and reduced school meal application form.

Some parents are concerned about listing income amounts and social security numbers on the application. Any personal information you provide will not be shared:

- Free and reduced price meal applications are **confidential**. Your information will only be used to determine your child's eligibility for the school meal programs. **We cannot share your information without your written permission.**
- Students who receive free and reduced price meals are not identified. No other students, staff, or teachers need to know who is receiving free or reduced meals and who has paid.

There are two important reasons to fill out this form:

- If your child qualifies for free or reduced price lunches, he or she qualifies for free or reduced price breakfasts at school as well. We want to help your child eat healthy meals at school.
- Our school may receive other grant opportunities. The number of applications that are returned and approved can affect how much funding our school receives to help students meet academic benchmarks, including materials like books and computers.

It is not too late to apply! If you would like to apply, you may contact the school or stop in and pick up an application.

Did You Know?

Free world-class educational resources for anyone anywhere.

- Khan Academy – www.khanacademy.com (Videos of teachers teaching a variety of lessons)
- Study Blue – www.studyblue.com (Create online flash cards for students to prep for exams)
- Drop Box – www.dropbox.com (A file storage site that enables students to work on files both at home and school)
- Purple Math – www.purplemath.com (Online resource in math-particularly in the area of Algebra)
- Bright Storm – www.brightstorm.com (Videos in math, science, English, and test prep)
- Hippo Campus – www.hippocampus.org (Homework help for advanced classes such as Physics and Calculus).

FFA Selling "Poinsettias"

It is that time of the year!!! Mr. Kment's FFA program will be selling poinsettias again this year. The prices for the poinsettias are \$10 each; 3 for \$25; or 5 for \$40. They will be also selling the poinsettias during the elementary and secondary Christmas concerts (while supplies last). To order your poinsettias contact Mr. Kment at 402.582.4991.



Advantage Class

Your teenager can combat cyberbullying

High schoolers spend much of their time texting their friends or chatting with them on social network sites such as Facebook. Not surprisingly, these are the channels that many bullies use to harass other students. Studies show that 42% of kids have been bullied while online.

But teens can play an important role in defeating cyberbullies. Here are five simple steps your teen should take.

1. Delete any messages he receives that are mean spirited or make fun of others. He should not forward them to his friends. Bullying only works if others help spread the message.
2. Block any messages from a known cyberbully. It's like getting a good lock on the front door.
3. Report bullying to a trusted adult. Teens operate under a code of silence. But bullying is harmful, and telling a trusted adult can help bring it to an end.
4. Talk with other students. Your teen should let his friends and classmates know that he thinks bullying is uncool and absolutely unacceptable.
5. Work with the school. Your teen can see if he and other students can help plan or work with an anti-bullying program at the school. When students get involved, they can be effective leaders in reducing bullying.

Source: National Crime prevention Council, "Cyberbullying," www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying.

Purpose: To increase student achievement by providing time for students to succeed.

Emphasis: Academic achievement, not a disciplinary action.

Monday – Friday 3:30 – 4:30

1. Open to any student who wishes to utilize the time as a supervised study time. Anyone in attendance will remain for the full hour.
2. 70% or below automatically qualifies students to attend Advantage.
 - a. Monday through Thursday, 3:30 to 4:30, in an assigned room. Students will attend Advantage a minimum of 4 days. Grades will be re-evaluated on a weekly basis. Additional interventions may be added if grade averages do not improve.
 - b. Teachers need to submit a list of students who have a 70% or below to the office before leaving school on Thursday.
3. It is highly recommended—(Research has proven that early intervention is the key to a successful program, instead of waiting for a student's grade to fall below a 70% before they use this program.) Listed below is what some schools are using...
 - a. Any student who has a late or incomplete assignment must have that assignment turned in before school commences the next day or will qualify for Advantage that afternoon. Students will continue to attend Advantage sessions until work is completed.
4. Further interventions will be implemented on an individual basis as needed.

Example A:

A student comes to class without their assignment done. They will not receive full credit and have until the beginning of school the next day to get that assignment to the teacher. If not, the student will attend Advantage that day to complete the assignment and continue to attend until the assignment is complete.

Example B:

Monday – student is absent

Tuesday – student receives the assignment

Wednesday – assignment is due completed to the satisfaction of the teacher by class time if the student is to receive full credit

Thursday – student has until start of school to turn assignment in or will be in Advantage that day