

PPHS PANTHER PRIDE UPDATE

APRIL 2008

By Principal, Connie J. Wenker

April Has Arrived!

The March Madness has ended and spring will arrive one of these days. Congratulations to all of the coaches and students of wrestling, boy's basketball, girl's basketball & cheerleading. Also, good luck to the coaches and students of softball, baseball, track and speech.

DATES TO REMEMBER!!

- 4/4—Band solo and ensemble contest in Battle Lake
- 4/5—PROM
 - a. Pictures at 4 p.m. PPHS
 - b. Grand March at 6:00 p.m. PPHS
 - c. Parkers Prairie Comm. Center at 7:45—Lock In
- 4/9—Vocal solo and ensemble contest at Osakis
- 4/10—Early dismissal at 12:40
- 4/10—Parent Teacher Conferences from 1:00-7:15 p.m. (Staff will be on supper break from 5:30-6 p.m.)
- 4/16—Music students to the Chanhassen
- 4/18—State speech contest
- 4/27—4/29—State FFA convention

STATE MANDATED MCA TESTING SCHEDULE

Grade 7---April 14 and 15 for reading

Grade 7—April 21 and 22 for math

Grade 8—April 14 and 15 for reading

Grade 8—April 21 and 22 for math and April 28 and 29 for science

Grade 10---April 14 and 15 for reading and April 30 and May 1 for science

Grade 11---April 21 and 22 for math

*These test scores will be included on graduation transcripts.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

- Saturday School is available for all students who want to work academically and is also used for students who have received detention
- Saturday School will be held on April 12th and April 26th from 8-noon.

Driver's Training Inquiry

Central Lakes Driving School will present a class at PPHS starting on Friday, May 23. The class will run for the next 10 days from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. (excluding Sundays and Memorial Day). The test out day will be Wednesday, June 4. If your son or daughter will be 15 by September 1st and would be interested, please contact the high school office at 338-6011 or have your child sign the list in the office.

YEARBOOKS

PARENTS/GUARDIANS—Please be sure to send your final payment for the yearbook ASAP. This second payment may be brought to the office. Also, there are a few yearbooks available for purchase at \$45.00. If you missed out ordering in the fall, just give us a call at 338-6011 X 110 so we can reserve one for you. The yearbooks are scheduled to be here in May.

Set A Good Example --- Speak Up & Buckle Up!

Teens continue to be disproportionately represented in traffic crashes and deaths on Minnesota roads. Inexperience, unsafe speeds, distraction and seat belt non-use are the main factors contributing to these tragedies. During the month of April, District 547 will once again be involved in a "Seat belt Challenge" as a friendly competition against seven other school districts in Otter Tail county. The challenge is to get all students to wear their seat belt every time they are in a moving vehicle and to use their voice if others are engaged in risky behaviors while driving. We are asking you as parents to "speak up" and set a good example as well. If you would like to be a part of this program in any way, please contact Heather Netland at the high school, 218-338-6011 ext. 108. We appreciate your support!

Safety – Are you a Survivor?

If you are a survivor because you were wearing a seat belt, we would love to hear your story! Please contact Heather Netland at 218-338-6011 extension 108.

From Jeff Kalpin, Academic Advisor

The guidance department has received many completed applications for **Dollars for Scholars/Wedum Scholarships**. If you have not returned your application you still have time. Please return these to Mr. Kalpin by April 4, 2008.

Information regarding scholarships, ACT dates, post-secondary recruiting sessions, financial aid and useful news can be found on the schools webpage at www.isd547.com In the left hand margin click on "Counselor's Corner" then go to the specific tabs you would like to view. You may also access the Counselor's Corner at www.counselor.isd547.com

The 2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) can be picked up in the Career and College Room in the library. Before applying for financial aid you must have a PIN. The application process for the PIN takes approximately 5 minutes and can be done at www.pin.ed.gov

Parkers Prairie High School subscribes to a very useful site that helps students plan for college and career decisions. It also lists numerous scholarship opportunities. Students in grades 7-12 can take advantage of using this site, but students in grades 9-12 should be accessing it more frequently. The website address is www.mncis.intocareers.org User Name(PPHS) and

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Password(Panthers). Students may also see Mr. Kalpin to pick up an informational card with additional instructions.



Upcoming ACT test dates and registration deadlines can be found in the table below.

| Test Dates | Registration Deadline (regular fee) | Late Registration (late fee required) |
|----------------|--|--|
| April 12, 2008 | March 7, 2008 | March 8-21, 2008 |
| June 14, 2008 | May 9, 2008 | May 10-23, 2008 |

Sections of Chapter 9---SAY YES TO NO by David Walsh

This month we will cover the Parent Tool Kit—Teenagers and *NO* from chapter 9. How would you answer the following questions:

1. I have clear and consistent rules for my teenager.
2. I'm able to avoid power struggles with my teenager.
3. I can generally stay calm even when my teenager can't.
4. My teen and I have a common definition of respectful behavior.
5. I model respectful behavior in the way I treat my teen.
6. I do not accept foul or abusive language from my teen son or daughter.
7. I talk to my kids about alcohol, drugs, and sex.
8. I have a zero tolerance policy with my teen about substance use.
9. I can say no to my teen about something important even if "all of the other kids are doing it."
10. I don't panic when my teenager questions my values because I know that's how they shape their own.

Later in the chapter Dr. Walsh discuss the dos and don'ts.

DO

- Know what is normal adolescent behavior, so you know what to expect and what is not normal, so you know what to look for.
- Set clear rules and expectations for behavior. For example, instead of saying, "I want you to help out around the house," say "I want you to have the lawn mowed by Saturday evening."
- Spell out consequences for noncompliance. Consequences for teenagers usually involve the loss of privileges. "If you cannot limit your instant messaging to one hour a night, you will not be allowed to use the computer for one week."

- Loosen but don't let go. For example, even though you can make the curfews later as teens grow older, you still need to enforce them.
- Have a zero-tolerance policy for tobacco, alcohol and drugs.
- Make sure that teenagers have household chores so that they don't become rent-free boarders.
- Have the courage to communicate with your teens about the tough topics: sex, alcohol and drugs. Communication does not mean lecturing. It means listening and expressing your values clearly.
- Maintain a sense of humor and go out of your way to let your teen know that you love her *and* like her.





DON'T

- Patience is essential, but don't become a doormat for disrespectful behavior.
- Don't get dragged into power struggles. Calmly state your expectations and consequences. Let your teen know that you expect him to comply, but that if he chooses not to, he will have to accept the consequences.
- Don't ever attempt to out shout your teen. Say, "We don't seem able to discuss this right now. When you're ready to talk about this without yelling, let me know. We need to talk before you go out." Then make sure to come back and finish the talk. Teens should not be allowed to go on to the next activity until the discussion has been completed.
- Don't ever put your teenager down or call her names, which damages the parent-teen connection, the lifeline through these years.



April 2008



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | ¹ Music Department Noodles & Notes 5:00-7:00 p.m. | ² | ³ FFA Contest @ NDSU 9:30 a.m. | ⁴ Mid-Trimester 3 Band Solo & Ensemble Contest at Battle Lake | ⁵ Prom-Event Ctr Pictures 4:00 Grand March 6  |
| ⁶  | ⁷ | ⁸ SB @ OTC 4:30 BB h OTC 4:30 | ⁹ Vocal Solo/ Ensemble Contest @ Osakis | ¹⁰ Faculty Workshop Half Day-Dismiss 12:40 P/T Conf. 1:00-7:15 Seat Belt Lyceum V-TR @ Sebek 4:30 SB h NYM 4:30 BB @ NYM 4:30 | ¹¹ A & B BB h Osakis 4:30 JHBB @ Osakis 4:30 SB @ Verndale 4:30 | ¹² ACT Test Saturday School 8-12 Sec. 6A Speech @ Menahga Alumni Basketball Tournament here |
| ¹³ | ¹⁴ MCA Reading-Test Gr 7, 8 & 10 Talent Show 10:00 SB h Brandon/ Evansville 4:30 | ¹⁵ MCA-Reading Test Grades 7, 8 & 10 SB @ Bertha 4:30 BB h Bertha-Hewitt 4:30 TR @ Long Prairie 4:30 Board Meeting 6:30 | ¹⁶ Music Students to Chanhassen | ¹⁷ SB h Sebek 4:30 BB @ Sebek 4:30 TR @ Pillager 4:00 | ¹⁸ State Speech @ South St. Paul Varsity & JH BB @ Ashby 4:30 | ¹⁹  |
| ²⁰ | ²¹ MCA Math Test Gr 7, 8 & 11 Varsity & JH SB h Ashby 4:30 | ²² MCA Math Test Grades 7, 8 & 11 SB @ Pillager 4:30 BB h Pillager 4:30 TR @ Perham 4:30 | ²³ Mock Car Crash 10:30 a.m. | ²⁴ TR @ Osakis 4:30 SB h Vern 4:30 BB @ Vern 4:30 | ²⁵ BB h Wadena/ DC 4:30 | ²⁶ Saturday School 8:00-12:00 JH BB Tournament @ Bertha 9:00 |
| ²⁷ State FFA | ²⁸ MCA Science Test-Grade 8 Gr 7-9 PRC TR @ Sebek 4:30 State FFA | ²⁹ MCA Science Test-Grade 8 SB-DH @ Menahga 4:30 BB h Menahga 4:30 TR Quad @ Alex 4:30 State FFA | ³⁰ MCA Science Test-Grade 10 Section 6A Visual Art Contest @ NYM | <u>Thursday, May 1</u> MCA Science Test-Grade 10 |  | |

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE PARKERS PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT?

Come and join a community discussion
about this important topic.

We need to hear your voice!

Get the facts about the District's:

- Financial Status
- Declining Enrollment
- Lack of Adequate State Funding
- Increasing Expenses
- Cost of Athletics and Activities
- Transportation Costs and Responsibilities
- Personnel Costs

Give your Ideas About:

- When we should attempt to pass another referendum?
- What we can do to better get the message out about our district's grave need?
- How far into debt do we want to see our district go?
- What quality of education are we committed to for our students?

**APRIL 14
7:00pm
Elementary Gymnasium**