

PPHS PANTHER PRIDE UPDATE

MARCH 2008

By Principal, Connie J. Wenker

News from Your School

The high school is in the process of registration for next year. After much discussion by the board, teachers and administrators a decision was made to switch the high school to a 7 period day. The decision was based on a variety of reasons including Federal mandates—NCLB (No Child Left Behind) which requires the MCA testing. We will be scheduling time for all 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students and parents to listen to a presentation on the changes that will occur and time to ask teachers questions regarding different courses. Once that has occurred, the student will be asked to select classes for the 2008-09 school year. We will be placing further details regarding a date and time in the Independent and/or April newsletter.

DATES TO REMEMBER!!

- 3/3—The first day of Trimester 3
- 3/3—Prairie Fire Theatre Week at elementary
- 3/7—Sr. High Spring Concert at 7 p.m.
- 3/10—NO SCHOOL! This is a change from the original calendar. All teachers will be attending a workshop in Fergus Falls on this date.
- 3/11—All 9th grade students will be attending a Health Conference
- 3/12—Large Group Band Contest at Henning
- 3/17—FFA Banquet in the old gym
- 3/18—Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 3/20—Early dismissal (12:40) for a Faculty Workshop
- 3/21 and 3/24—NO SCHOOL—spring break
- 3/25—Winter Sports Potluck 7:00 p.m.
- 3/31—Monday-- several events:
 - * Belgian Waffle Fundraiser for 8th grade trip: from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in east gym of high school----come hungry!
 - *8th grade trip discussion with parents and students in the music room at 7 p.m. .
- 3/31—Spring Sports Pictures at 3:15 p.m.
- 4/1—Music, Noodles & Notes from 5-7 p.m
- 4/5—PROM-Grand March at 6:00 p.m.

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 March 15th and 29th from 8-noon.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS ESSAY CONTEST

Dollars for Scholars is sponsoring a scholarship essay contest for **sophomores and juniors**. Each class will be judged separately. An information sheet has been included with this newsletter. Parents, please encourage your son or daughter to participate.

SAY NO TO YES

Chapter 6 and 7 from David Walsh's book, *No, Why Kids of All Ages Need to Hear It and Ways Parents Can Say It*, discusses birth through pre-school. I am going to jump ahead to chapter 8, entitled "Catching Kids Being Good—The Middle Years." Dr. Walsh states that it is important for parents to be specific and positive. Use these 7 statements in the Parent Tool Kit for "Catch Your Kids Being Good" to see how you're doing. Please answer "yes" or "no" to each one as you read them.

1. I know many ways to say no without using the word itself.
2. I set limits using positive statements like, "Thanks for keeping the volume down on the TV," instead of, "Don't have the TV loud."
3. I make sure to thank my teen for helping out.
4. I try to have more compliments than criticisms.
5. I can avoid power struggles and win/lose battles.
6. I try to smile and laugh with my kids every day.
7. I let my kids know the things I appreciate about them.

*Later in the chapter, Dr. Walsh gives the following Do's and Don'ts:

Do

- Look for opportunities to encourage or praise your child.
- Practice the three steps to encouragement: identify, label, and acknowledge.
- Learn and practice the subtle ways to give positive feedback. For example, a smile and the word *thanks* can go a long way.
- Support your child but don't take over the projects or responsibilities.
- Make sure your son/daughter has household responsibilities or chores.

Don't

- Don't overdo the praise. Kids see through false praise
- Don't do things for your children that they can do for themselves.
- Don't overprotect your children.
- Don't ever mock, ridicule, or humiliate your children.
- Don't compare your children to siblings or peers.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PHONE-A-THON

The 6th Annual Phone-A-Thon to raise funds for scholarships will be March 16 & 17. Parkers Prairie students will be contacting you Sunday or Monday between 6:30-9:00 p.m. These donations assist Parkers Prairie graduating seniors with financing their post-secondary education. Due to the tremendous support last year, \$4,000 was raised. The success of this Phone-A-Thon cannot be realized without your help. Our students' futures will benefit from your generosity. Thank you!!

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DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER

The Parkers Prairie Dollars for Scholars Chapter has decided to gather recipes to create a cookbook, and we need your help! We would like students in grades 7-12, as well as teachers, school staff, former students/ teachers and community members to get involved by submitting some of your favorite recipes!

Maybe your mom makes brownies that are out of this world, or your grandma's chicken dumpling soup is absolutely the best. Pull out your cookbooks with your favorite recipes. To the best of our knowledge PPHS has not put together a cookbook. If you have ties to PPHS, past or present, you can get involved!!

All proceeds will go toward scholarships for students to further their education. If you are currently a student, please include your grade level along with your name. Turn in recipes during your first period class. The class with the most recipes will have a pizza party.

Everyone is welcome to drop off recipes at the Parkers Prairie High School office or mail to either Connie Thoennes, 54470 State Highway 235, Parkers Prairie MN 56361 or Yvonne Debilzen, 1801 Karnis Drive NW, Alexandria MN 56308.

The deadline to submit recipes is April 15, 2008. We hope to get things underway quickly to have cookbooks available for purchase at the Parkers Prairie Fall Festival. Have fun gathering recipes and feel free to submit as many as you want. Remember, we can't do this fundraiser without you!!

BE A HOST FAMILY

#1: Can your family make a difference in the world?

If you like to try new things...

If you like to meet new people...

If you're curious about the rest of the world...

If you enjoy talking about your family and country...

If you enjoy listening to stories about other families and countries...

If you sometimes wonder about the people behind the headlines

If you think people would get along if they knew each other better...

.... then your family can make a difference by volunteering to host an Aspect Foundation international exchange student!

Aspect Foundation students hail from over 50 different countries around the globe, but all share the same dream – to experience life in the USA with a family like yours! Students are aged 15 to 18 and have their own spending money and insurance. Host families can be married or single, with or without children at home.

To learn more about how your family can have this unforgettable experience, please contact Marilyne Morisette at 320-859-4696 (Osakis).

SIBSHOPS





A workshop for individuals of brothers and sisters with disabilities will be held on March 28, April 4 & 11 at McKinley Elementary School in Fergus Falls from 3:45-6:00 p.m. (includes meal). Sibshops are games, activities and discussion open to typically developing children 6-13 who have a sibling with a mental, emotional or physical disability. You may contact Permanent Family Resource Center at 218/998-3400 or pick up a registration form in the high school office.

DRIVER'S TRAINING INQUIRY

If there is enough interest, 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 extension 100 or have your child sign the list in the office.



March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Speech @ Battle Lake GBB Semis @ Morris State WR
2	3 Tri 3 begins BBB @ Henning 5:00	4 Caucus	5	6 Speech @ Breckenridge BBB h Hancock 6:15	7 ACT registration deadline 4-12 test GBB Finals @ Morris 7:00 Sr. High Spring Concert 7:00 p.m.	8 Speech @ Underwood BBB Pigtail
9	10 NO SCHOOL Teacher Workshop Jr. High Speech @ Underwood	11 9th Grade to FF Health Conf. BBB Playin TR & SB practice begin	12 Large Group Band Contest @ Henning FFA @ NDSU State GBB	13 State GBB BBB Qtrfinals	14 State GBB	15 Speech @ Henning Saturday School 8:00-12:00 State GBB
16	17 BB practice begins FFA Banquet 6:30 	18 Board Meeting 6:30 BBB Finals	19 Large Group Vocal Contest at Eagle Valley	20 Faculty Workshop Half Day Dismiss at 12:40	21 NO SCHOOL	22  Alumni BB Tourn.
23	24 NO SCHOOL	25 Winter Sports Potluck 7:00	26 State BBB	27 State BBB TR @ Bemidji State 1:00	28 Sub-Section Speech @ Henning V&JH SB h W-H-N State BBB	29 Just For Kix Performance new gym Saturday School 8:00-12:00 State BBB
30	31 Spring sports pictures 3:15 8th Grade Waffle Feed 4:00-7:00 FFA Reg 3 Banquet		<u>April 1</u> Music Noodles & Notes 5:00-7:00 in the old gym	<u>April 5</u> PROM Grand March 6:00 p.m.		

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS ESSAY CONTEST - 2008

Dollars for Scholars is sponsoring a scholarship essay contest for sophomores and juniors. Each class will be judged separately.

Scholarship awards will be as follows:

Juniors: 1-\$200.00 Scholarship
 2-\$100.00 Scholarships

Sophomores: 2-\$100.00 Scholarships

The essay needs to be between 750-1,000 words typed and double spaced. Please indicate a word count. The essay will be judged on the following criteria:

CONTENT/IDEAS:	50 POINTS
GRAMMAR:	35 POINTS
NEATNESS:	10 POINTS
PARAMETERS:	5 POINTS

Both grades will have the same choice of topics which are the following:

Who do you admire the most and why? What characteristics does this individual possess that you consider to be admirable? How has this person affected your life, directly or indirectly? (Note: The person may be living or deceased.)

OR

If you were elected as the President of the U.S.A. in 2008, what 3 platform topics would be most important to you? How do you feel your choices will benefit the people of this country?

DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR ESSAY. Write your name and grade where indicated below. Your essay will be given a number before being judged. If you are awarded a scholarship, please indicate below if you would want your essay read.

RETURN YOUR ESSAY TO THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE by March 20th, 2008

NAME: _____ **GRADE** _____

_____ **YES, I AGREE TO HAVE MY ESSAY READ.**

_____ **NO, I WOULD NOT LIKE MY ESSAY READ.**