

“FROM OUR NEST
TO YOURS”

Future Parent Conference

Dates:

- December 3, 2008
- February 18, 2009
- April 29, 2009

ACT Testing

Dates:

- December 13, 2008
- February 7, 2008
- April 4, 2009
- June 13, 2009

Upcoming Student Art Shows:

- November 24-
December 12
- February 13-27
- April 27-May 8

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VOLUME 2008-2009, ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 10, 2008

Volunteerism Abounds at West High

Winston Churchill lived a long a fascinating life; a life where his decisions touched the very fabric of life of millions around the world. He also had a unique way of reducing complex thoughts, ideas and solutions to the essence of an issue. The MetLife Foundation published a report just this year that put the value of volunteer hours in the U.S.A. during 2007 at \$239 billion. During that year, 83.9 million American adults (44 %) volunteered, representing the equivalent of over 9 million full time employees. One of the many responsibilities of schools is to teach students the skills they need to become successful, contributing members of our society. That mission is accomplished in classrooms and through co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Volunteerism is a valu-

able component of our society, not only in financial terms, but as a vehicle to make the world better. West High School and the West High School Community benefit from the volunteer activities of our students and adults. During the 2007-08 school year, our Business Academy students and teachers contributed 10,986 volunteer service hours. This year, well over 500 hours have already been donated to causes including our neighbors, Camp Abe Lincoln and Falcon Futures Day. Other student organizations are also busy. The Mississippi Bend Food Bank has benefited from the energies and talents of our Student Senate. I-JAG students are in the planning stages to work with the United Way, the National Honor Society is volunteering at the Sisters of Humility Shelter meal site, and our Funktastic Crew has been ap-

proached to assist at elementary buildings. Our Athletic Booster parents staff concession stands and make possible meaningful Senior Night activities. Band and Vocal Music Boosters provide snacks for Marching Band students, inventory and repair uniforms and costumes and raise funds to insure a quality experience for our all of music students. This is but a small sample of activities that WHS students, staff and parents have completed this year. The dedication of our volunteers should be an inspiration for all of us to act. Back to Winston Churchill, who once said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” Numerous West High Falcons are demonstrating on a daily basis that they have the skills to have a “life.” West High School is indeed best. —Nancy Jacobsen, Principal

New Iowa Law Requires Dental Exam

Legislation was passed by the State of Iowa, effective July 1, 2008, requiring all students entering Kindergarten, 9th-grade, and any students new to Iowa schools to have a dental screening. The purpose of the dental screening is to improve the oral health of Iowa's youth.

To comply with this new requirement your student must provide a certificate of dental

screening to the Davenport West High School's nurse's office by **March 1, 2009.**

A screening completed within one year prior to August 4, 2008 is acceptable. So, if your student has recently been to the dentist, please have your dentist or hygienist complete a Certificate of Dental Screening Form. These forms will be printed on the back of your student's report card. Additional

forms are available in the Nurse's Office.

If financial assistance is needed or assistance is needed to locate a dental health provider, please contact:

Briana Boswell
Scott County Health Department @ 563-326-8645 or email bboswell@scottcountyiowa.com

Linda Manders, RN School Nurse
Davenport West High School

I-CAN College Planning Website



Visit the *I Can* Iowa College Access Network. This is a great resource for parents and students alike, the <http://www.icansucceed.org> website provides information to help students succeed in high school, explore careers and make college a reality. Some topics that can be found on this site include:

- **College Planning Tips**
- **A link to sign up to receive *impact***—ICAN's monthly e-newsletter filled with college planning and financial aid tips, interesting articles and helpful tools
- **Iowa Choices Login**—a free, web-based career exploration, academic planning and college

and scholarship search tool)

- **A downloadable *High School Success Guide* for freshmen and sophomores**
- **A link to the Regent Admission Index Score (RAI)** used by Iowa, Iowa State and UNI to determine admissions eligibility
- **A link to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The form for 2009-10 is available in January, 2009 and should be completed as soon as graduating seniors and their parents have completed their 2008 tax forms. **Graduating seniors**

who plan to attend a post-secondary institution and want to be considered for financial aid (scholarships, grants, loans and work-study) must fill out this form.

- **A link to the FAFSA PIN website.** Both the student and parent require a PIN to electronically apply for federal student aid (FAFSA) and to access their Federal Student Aid records online. These PINs should be kept in a safe place. They can be used **each year.**

"All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work."

—Calvin Coolidge

Driver's Education

With many West High students approaching age 16, thoughts turn to getting that first driver's license and hitting the open road! However, before earning a driver's license, students should enroll in an accredited driver education program.

Mr. Achs, a Social Studies teacher at West High, is the main building contact person for the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (AEA) Driver Education Program.

Currently, there are five Driver Education classes scheduled at West. The first class started September 8, but class number two starts on December 1. There is also one "early-bird" class starting in January 2009.

For more information on class scheduling and sign-up, visit the Mississippi

Bend AEA website http://www.aea9.k12.ia.us/en/programs_and_services/general_education/student_programs_activities/driver_education/ or Mr. Achs's website at: [http://manila.davenportschools.org/achs/stories/storyReader\\$84](http://manila.davenportschools.org/achs/stories/storyReader$84)

Here are some important driving tips suggested by Mr. Achs:

- Complete 20 hours of supervised driving before starting Driver Education class, it will make the class a lot easier!
- Always wear a seat belt, even in the back seat.
- Don't drink and drive or get into a car with anyone who has been drinking. Call for a ride.
- Don't use a cell phone while driving.



- No teen passengers for the first six months after getting a driver's license.
- Have a Teen-Parent Contract.
- Don't drive after 9pm for the first six months after getting a driver's license.
- Complete 50 hours of supervised driving before getting your driver's license (in all kinds of weather and traffic conditions.)

Parents should note that in the driver education program provided by the AEA is one of many options available for West High students. There are also several private driver education schools operated in the Quad City area.

2009-10 Course Selection Starts in December!

Course selection is RIGHT around the corner. It's hard to believe we're heading into our 2nd term and it is time to start thinking about choosing classes for next year. **What are some questions that students should be asking themselves?**

- Did I fail any classes that I need to re-take?
- Am I taking the appropriate required classes?
- Am I taking classes that are challenging and will help me be successful in my career and in future education?
- Should I schedule an appointment with my counselor to review questions?

It is never too early to think about "what I want to be when I grow up" and then explore how my high school education fits into my career plan. It all starts here; West has great courses to prepare students for the future. **Here are some "basics" to remember:**

- I need 26 units of credit to graduate

- I need to take 3 "years" of Math, Science, and Social Studies
- I need to take 4 "years" of Language Arts
- I need to take a technology class (word processing or computer apps)
- I need to take lifetime fitness as a 9th grader and one term of PE for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades
- I NEED to pass all of the above classes!
- I need to read the course guide and let my parents look at it too and explore my options
- My advisor and my counselor are here to help ☺

Other things to think about for optimal success:

- I should get 4 years of a world language in if I plan on attending college
- To go to a 4 year college I need to get through Algebra II

- I should take Math and Science every year in High School
- AP and Dual-Credit classes are "hard", but so is College and so is Life
- Taking an "easy" senior year probably won't help me be academically successful in future education endeavors.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS:

Course selection will occur during the month of December. Please ask your student:

- Can we go through the course selection guide together?
- Can I help you fill out the Pupil Enrollment Data Form? (*this is important because we ask for emergency numbers, email address, doctor numbers, etc*)
- Can I help you make your choices on the Course Selection Card? (*remember to write the NAMES of the courses clearly in the sixteen boxes available on the course selection sheet*)

Helpful Tips for Your Junior or Senior Student

The following information comes from the ACT website: <http://www.actstudent.org>

Jump-start Your Junior

It's time for juniors to spring into action. Ideally, juniors have already been thinking about college and investigating choices, but now is the time to get busy. As a parent, you know time goes by very quickly. Here are some reminders to keep them on track.

Juniors should:

- Continue to take challenging courses. That includes the senior year. While it's tempting to sign up for easy courses, that will hurt chances for college admission and make it more difficult to handle college coursework.
- Begin to make a preliminary list of colleges to investigate further. Surf the Internet and use college resources in the counseling office or library.

- Fill out the ACT's free college comparison worksheet found at the above website.
- Make plans to visit colleges in the fall or spring when classes are in session.
- Start or update an academic resume.
- Have a Social Security number. Students will need this for college applications.
- Register for the ACT. Juniors should be academically ready to take the ACT by spring of the 11th grade.
- Check into applying to college online. Sometimes this saves an application fee.

Investigate scholarship opportunities. A good website is <http://www.fastweb.com>

Don't Let your Senior Slump

Once your child has a college offer in hand, the urge to coast through the rest

of the school year may seem tempting. After all, doesn't a senior deserve to slack off??? NO!

Don't let your child give in to **Senior Slump**. The college may be watching.

Colleges, especially selective universities, have been known to withdraw offers of admission to students who drop college prep classes or begin earning uncharacteristically low grades. If your child hasn't slumped too far, colleges might send a warning letter and add certain stipulations to the admissions offer, such as requiring a higher grade point average during the first year of college.

Taking an extended breather during the senior year can make a student's freshman year of college very difficult. So, let your child have fun during 12th grade, but don't let college preparation fall by the wayside.

I-JAG and Business Academy Assist with Day of Caring

I-JAG and Business Academy Students at Camp Abe Lincoln



Iowa-Jobs for America's Graduates (I-JAG) is a not-for-profit organization that works with schools across the state in transitioning students that face multiple barriers to success in their post-secondary paths. This year marks the beginning in which the I-JAG

program is in all three Davenport Community High Schools. On September 10th, I-JAG students from all three high schools plus the West High Business Academy participated in a national **Day of Caring** sponsored by the **United Way** of the Quad Cities. On this day students and staff advisors assisted the Scott County YMCA in the clean up of Camp Abe Lincoln from last summer's devastating storms. Students worked all day long in making

the camp ready for public use.

This was the first activity in which the Davenport Community School District I-JAG programs have had the opportunity to work together. What a great opportunity for us to share with the community what I-JAG is and how we are here to support the great things already happening in the high schools. For further discussion, please don't hesitate to contact me at (563) 386-5500 x-112 or by email at rossm@davenportschools.org

Determine that the thing can and shall be done and then we shall find the way.

— Abraham Lincoln

Business Academy At the Zoo

On Thursday, September 18, four West High Business Academy Students accompanied Good Samaritan residents to Niabi Zoo.

Amber Bohannon, Jessica Ingles, Myranda Brown, and Danielle Collier volunteered their time to chaperone wheelchair bound

Good Samaritan residents on their trip to Niabi Zoo. This was the fourth year in a row that the Business Academy has helped out with this worthwhile activity.



Students Assist Local Charity

The Exceptional Education Students at West High School have been working closely with the organization, *Partners for Freedom: Disability Assistance Dogs*.

The students have been working on making placemats for the next big event for the organization. The

placemats display students interacting with disability dogs!

Partners for Freedom helps to train dogs who go on to assist as guide dogs, signal dogs for the hearing impaired, or medical response dogs. Response dogs include; seizure response,

diabetes response, and psychiatric service dogs.

If you would like further information about this program feel free to visit their website:

www.disabilityassistancedogs.org



Students and their placemats

2008 Student Food Drive

Congratulations to the West High **Student Senate** for another great effort in the **Annual Student Food Drive!** This year, West finished second in the large school division with 114,804 pounds of food collected. The Student Food Drive collected 728,003 pounds of food this year.

Student Senators raised money and food by hosting many events and selling raffle tickets. One of our most successful events was the **Haunted Hunger Dinner** held in the West High cafeteria. Senators dressed up in Halloween costumes and served food that was donated from many area restaurants.

In addition, during the month of

October, senators volunteered their time to work at the Haunted House held at the Mississippi Valley Fair Grounds.

Other notable fundraising events included: A Chili and Soup luncheon hosted by a group of teachers and the Family and Consumer Science Department; ComedySportz performed at West for students, Quad City Dining Book sales; and Hat Days held from October through the end of the Food Drive. In all, Student Senators raised over \$20,000 for the purchase of food!

Student Senate would like to thank all of the volunteers, community

members, West High faculty and staff and those who participated in their many fund raising activities. Through all of their hard work and dedication, the food donated to the River Bend Food Bank will amount to approximately 115,000 meals that can be served to area families.

This year's collection amounts to 55.2 pounds of food collected for every West High Student, a 7% increase over last year. **Way to go Falcons!**

Mr. Finley
assists
Freshman
Students
with team
Building



Falcon Futures Day

September 25, 2008 was an extraordinary day for the West High Community. The first ever **Falcon Futures Day** came to West High and brought many prominent community members and nationally recognized guests speakers to our campus.

The planning for this day started last year in a faculty focus team, with the intent to have a career fair. The idea morphed into guest speakers, team-building, ASVAB testing, career exploration, fun activities with a faculty member, and homecoming bonfire and queen coronation festivities.

Each grade level had their day planned out with a focus matching their current and future needs.

Freshman students were divided into three groups and sent to three workshops. The Business Academy hosted team building activities similar to those

given by the YMCA at Camp Abe Lincoln;

Ms. Ohare hosted *Making High School Count*, a national program aimed at helping Freshmen succeed in High School; and the Guidance Staff hosted a Graduation Preparedness Workshop with many helpful tips and strategies to ensure students graduate on time.

Sophomore students spent the morning taking the ASVAB test, a test administered by the federal government that helps students identify skill levels, interests and work values.

Junior and Senior students began their day with **Larry Patten, CEO of Palmer Chiropractic College**. Mr. Patten is a nationally recognized motivational speaker. Then each student attended three career or college information sessions. There were over 100 community members in attendance covering many career choices.

For the next two hours, Sophomore, Junior and Senior students chose a fun activity hosted by a faculty member to participate in. Activities ranged from ice cream making to SCUBA diving. Students went to lunch during the fun activity time.

After lunch and fun activities, all students met in the gym to hear motivational speaker **Gaye Hanson**. Gaye spoke to the students about **Igniting Yourself**.

The end of the day brought students to the football practice field for the annual **Homecoming Bonfire and Queen Coronation**. It was an awesome sight having so many students on the hillside of the practice field singing the fight song and cheering for the newly crowned Homecoming Queen.

Reactions from students, staff and district administration were quite positive with many looking forward to next year's event.

Archery and Clay Target Activities at West



West High Archers at 2008 State Meet

You do not lead by pointing a finger and telling people some place to go.

You lead by going to that place and making a case. —

Ken Kesey

Bob Gill (PE) was a busy grant writer this summer! He was successful with his submission for two grants related to lifelong outdoor activities for our students.

The first was from the Iowa Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD). West was awarded \$1500 (the maximum amount!) to be used for a new program starting soon called the Iowa High School and Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). The SCTP is a team-based clay target-shooting program that is changing the lives of elementary, middle and high school students nation-wide and in Iowa. Through organized clay target shooting, kids are learning lifelong skills such as gun safety, teamwork, respect for self and others, mental focus and self-discipline. Practices will start in

March, followed by local matches held with neighboring teams. All of these activities lead up to the Iowa High School State SCTP Championships each May. The top male and female shooters earn scholarship money for college.

Coaches Gene Belz and Bob Gill attended the Shotgun Coach Certification course September 14. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided this training.

The second grant of \$1172.38 was awarded by the DNR for the National Archery in the School Programs (NASP). A matching amount was provided by **District AD Paul Flynn** and **Principal Nancy Jacobsen** to pay for West's new archery equipment. The archery program is in its second year here at West. Currently

there are over 50 Iowa schools participating in the program. Last year, West sent 6 shooters to the NASP Iowa State Championship. The top male and female shooters also earn scholarship money for college. Once again the DNR provided the Archery Coaches Certification Training.

These are two new and different activities offered here at West. These programs cross all barrier lines because all students can participate, regardless of athletic skill or socio-economic status. All kids can join (there are no cuts!) and have fun, be successful and truly become a part of West High.

If you would like any more information about these two programs (SCTP/NASP), please contact Bob Gill or Gene Belz.

Samantha Walsh Goes to Washington!



Samantha Walsh and I-JAG Dignitaries

The West High I-JAG program would like to congratulate **Samantha Walsh** for being selected to represent West High

School and the state of Iowa at this year's National Student Leadership Conference. She won all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. in December. Samantha is currently the West High Career Association President.

To win this award Samantha collected three letters of reference, submitted a resume, and wrote a 500-word essay on how I-JAG has benefited her. Her letters of reference were from Mrs. Jacobsen, Mr. Ross and her supervisor

at the West Kimberly Hy-Vee. The letters of reference contained a common theme that Samantha represents herself in a responsible and trustworthy manner. The essay mentioned several ways that Samantha has grown and improved her life.

While in Washington D.C., Samantha will meet numerous sponsors of the Jobs for America's Graduates Program. Notable sponsors including Miss America, Leaders of Fortune 500 companies like Verizon Wireless, and many government officials. This wonderful opportunity will cost nothing to Samantha. In fact, she is given \$200.00 to go shopping for clothes to wear

while on her trip! The Board of Directors of the Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates program funds this unique opportunity for three students each year.

This wonderful experience will provide Samantha with her first time on an airplane, first time away from home, and the awesome chance to make positive decisions with her personal and professional goals. The students of West High I-JAG are very proud of Samantha for her efforts in leading them to successful opportunities to improve their lives and to be recognized for something positive! Way to go Sam!

Seniors Select West High Staff to Recognize

West High Senior Athletes recently had the opportunity to recognize a staff member who has had a positive impact on them during their time at West.

Each of these staff members was recognized during fall athletic contests. The following are quotes from the athletes about why they chose their staff member.

I would like to recognize **Mrs. Lietz** because she is a fun and outgoing teacher that makes learning interesting. Mrs. Lietz cares about her students and does her best to accommodate their

needs. — **Brittany Johnston**

It is commitment, not authority, that produces results. — **William Gore**

I picked **Mr. Fiegel** because he has helped me a lot since I've been in High School. I can always go to him for help if I need it he's always there to count on. — **Adam Cunningham**

Mr. Ross helps me

get prepared for life after school by helping with leadership skills, community service and by helping find a job after school. — **Derrick Trader**

I picked **Madame Castellucio** because she inspired me to learn French. She helped me find the one thing I am passionate about. She has always shown caring and compassion towards me and other students. Thank You! — **Perry Harrah**

Mrs. Trimble is very important to senior students. She works very hard to letting seniors know about their future as in college or whatever their plans may be, as well as pushing them in the class room to achieve their full potential. — **Erik Moralez**

I picked **Ms. Stevens** because she is a very nice and caring teacher who has a lot of school spirit, and is a good example of what a teacher should be like. — **Anthony Reyes**

I chose **Mr. Zinn** because of the way he influences students to get their work done. Not only has he taught me how to weld, he has prepared me for the real

world. He has also taught me how to be a leader and to be successful at the next level. — **Reed Dietz**

I chose **Mr. Wells** because I took his class my junior year and saw him as a friend more than a teacher. His teaching skills to me were top of the line. He never revealed his anger in class and was always cool and laid back. — **Byron Haddon**

I would like to recognize Mrs. Trimble because she is really funny and relates to the class very well. She explains the activity in a way that everyone can understand and if you don't she will explain it more. Her classroom environment is welcoming, which makes the students want to strive to learn more. — **Jessica Aney**



Upcoming Booster Club Events

Trivia Night

The West High Booster Club is hosting a Trivia Night on Friday, November 14 in the West High Cafeteria. Doors will open at 6:30 pm with competition beginning at 7:00.

The entry fee is \$10 per person and teams should have from six to eight players. If you don't have a team and just want to participate, just

show up and you'll be assigned to a team! Food and Beverages will be available for sale, so please don't bring your own.

Any questions or pre-registrations should be directed to Boosters by calling 323-0798 or email West-Boosters@aol.com

Winter Sports Kick-Off

This year's Winter Sports Kick-Off Night will be Friday, November 21,

from 5:30—8:00 pm at West High. The Booster Club is serving Chili at 5:30, followed by introductions of the Winter Sports Falcons and a short basketball scrimmage.

Come out and support the Falcons and cheer them on to successful winter sports seasons. For more information, contact Athletic Director Jeff Nance at **563-386-5500**.

Upcoming Booster Club Meetings:
The West High Booster Club meets on the 1st Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. In the West High Library.

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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West High Administrative Team



Standing: Bob Tollefson, Associate Principal; Jeff Nance, Athletic Director; Mike Lawler, Assistant Principal; Kris Whalen, Associate Principal; Al Blocker, Dean of Students
Sitting: Marilyn Peters, Head Counselor; Nancy Jacobsen, Principal; Gwen Maxwell, Associate Principal

Yearbook Ordering Information

It is not too late to order your yearbook for the 2008-09 school year!

Orders for this year's edition of the **Shaheen** will be accepted until December 19, 2008. Please see Mary Sammon, in the main office to reserve your copy.

The cost for this year's edition is \$55 until November 25. The cost increases to \$60 if you reserve after the 25th. Payment plans can be set up in the main office with Mary Sammon.

Also, parents who wish to

include recognition for their senior student in the yearbook can purchase space at the following prices:

- 1/16 page, no picture, but 30 words = \$30.
- 1/8 page picture and 15 words = \$50.
- 1/4 page with picture and 30 words = \$100.

Please direct any questions or senior recognition information to our Yearbook Advisor, Natalie McDermott.