



February 2010

www.asdk12.org

News from the
Principal's Office

Dear West High community,

We are fast approaching the end of this school year and spring is in the air. It has been a wonderful year at West High, a year of many successes and many changes. I am convinced our successes are attributed to people and how well they work together as a team. During the months of April and May we extend our appreciation and recognize our administrators, our teachers, and our support staff for the wonderful job they do. We have a great team here at West High, and I would like to take this opportunity to extend my admiration and gratitude to all the staff members at West High. I have enjoyed my fourth year at West High School and appreciate the community of West very much.

I'd also like to continue to thank the community and parents, specifically our PTSA and our Alumni Association for their ongoing efforts on behalf of West Anchorage High School. Our Academic and Athletic accomplishments continue to excel and the support from our community is very much appreciated. Our school spirit is at an all time high with the school fight song being sung loud and proud at many of our athletic events, assemblies and community functions.

I continue to be excited with the level of academic and athletic achievement that I see in our classrooms and school. Our boys cross country ski team won the highest GPA award for both the region and state. The girls basketball team finished at an all time high with second in regions. The girls finished the season with a strong showing at State and walked away with

the team Sportsmanship Award. Our boys basketball team ended the season as the 2010 State Champions. Our girls and boys soccer, track and field, baseball and softball teams our experiencing high numbers of student participation. As we enter these seasons please come out and support our EAGLES.



If you would like to recognize an outstanding staff person, I would recommend that you go the ASD home page, scroll down to "Quyana," and make your recommendation on line. Summer break is just around the corner! Enjoy your children and the warmer weather!



Please join us for Graduation ceremonies on May 13, 2010, 2:00pm, at Sullivan Arena. We expect to graduate approximately 380 students this year.

Rick Stone
Principal



Activities Corner

Spring Sports

Spring is upon us and it is time to head outside and play. The following spring sports are in season:



Softball and Baseball



Track and Field



Soccer

Winter Sports

Winter sports are over and West High was MAGNIFICENT. The following West High teams won awards:



- Boys Hockey took FIRST place in Regions and took FIRST in State making them the STATE CHAMPIONS
- Girls Hockey, won the State team GPA award and place SECOND in Regions
- Cheerleading: In the Top of World Competition the Comp Squad took FIRST place, Basketball Cheer took SECOND in Regions, Hockey Cheer took FIRST place at Regions and were GRAND CHAMPIONS



- Nordic skiing was awarded the State team GPA award.
- Boys Basketball took third place in Regions and FIRST place in State making



- them the STATE CHAMPIONS.
- Girls Basketball second place in Regions.
- DDF won Second place in the STATE Competition.

Wow! WEST HIGH ROCKS!!



Air Force ROTC

Howdy West! Time sure has flown and now the end of the year is quickly approaching and graduation is in sight. With the end of the year so close there are tons of events up coming and we want you know about them!

April 3rd and 17th AK-033 is our annual car washes and as always they will be a renowned success. With our projected large turnout of cadets every customer leaves happy! On April 10th our cadets will run a coat check at the Anchorage Museum. We are the Corps of preference and the museum always appreciates our service. We are having a "flying day" at Birchwood airport with the CAP flying both gliders and single engine airplanes. Please make sure your cadet turns in their "release of liability" paperwork.

The event that all the cadets had been looking forward to will be here this month...our 2010 Annual Awards Banquet/ Dining out which will be held on April the 16. This event continues to be a great evening at the Egan Center and you can get your tickets now for just \$30.00. We want to congratulate all our cadets who will be receiving awards at this ceremony. We are so proud of you and know that you have worked hard and justifiably earned and deserved them.

We had a color guard on 17th March for the Band Concert and performed 10 Color Guards for the State Basketball playoffs. They were all huge successes.

Also once again the cadets that represented West High did a great job! Last but not least for the month of April we will have a World Affairs luncheon on the 23rd that a selected number of cadets will be able to go to. And please don't miss the 2010 Summer Leadership School/Camp Parent Cadet mandatory meeting on 29 April at 6 pm in room #33.

The month of May has got to be exciting for all the cadets because it's the last month of the school year and on the 7th of May we have our "in house" Awards Banquet. And finally we would like to congratulate all of the cadets who are graduating this year.

Thank you for reading the West High Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps News letter. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Major Dove or Chief Pickel at the school at 742-2533.



Curriculum and Counseling

Spring is already upon us, which means we are entering testing season in the Anchorage School District. Testing begins April 1 when Sophomores will take the science test during 1st hour, and the rest of the school will be on a normal schedule.

The next week, the mornings of April 6 through 8 will be dedicated to testing. Freshmen will take the SBA tests, sophomores the HSGQE tests, and juniors and seniors who need to pass any of the HSGQE tests will do re-takes. Juniors and seniors who have passed the tests will not report to school until 11:10 for afternoon classes. There will only be two classes in the afternoon each day: Tuesday – 1st and 2nd, Wednesday 3rd and 4th, and Thursday, 5th and 6th. Busses will run on the normal schedule and they will run three hours later for those students who have passed HSGQE. Special education busses will only run in the morning.

The tests will be as follows:

Tuesday: Reading
Wednesday: Writing
Thursday: Math

Teachers have been preparing students for the SBA and HSGQE tests. There are also practice tests that students can look at on the Assessment page of the ASD website:

http://www.asdk12.org/depts/assess_eval/

Right under the menu on the left side of the page you can click and drag to HSGQE or SBA and find practice tests for the different curricular areas.

If your student is ill and cannot take the test, the HSGQE cannot be made up until next fall. Ninth graders who miss the SBA may make up the test on Friday and Monday. Tenth graders who do not pass the HSGQE will have four more chances to pass the test prior to graduation in the fall and spring of the next two years of school.

Activities will still go on after school on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday prior to testing days, but all activities must end at 6:00 so students can have plenty of rest so they can do their best the next day.

Students should bring reading material or homework to class so they have something to do when they complete their test. If they finish early, they have to remain in the testing area until 10:25. There is no time limit, and extended test takers will have lunch provided for them and they may continue their test and will be excused from class in the afternoon until completion.

Sue Holway
Assistant Principal
Curriculum



Senior Class of 2010 Dates to Remember

- 4/12** **Senior in danger of failing sem. 2 class(es) parent and counselors notified by teachers**
- 4/19 Honor Graduates' Breakfast
- 4/26** **Senior in Danger of failing semester 2 classes parent and counselors notified by teachers**
- 4/27 Awards Program (5:00 p.m. in the West-Romig Library)
- 4/29 Senior Fun Day
- 5/1 Senior Prom
- 5/3 Senior IB Diploma Candidates ceremony (after school)
- 5/3 – 5/14 AP Testing, IB Testing (some late testing will occur)
- 5/5 Finals – per 3,5
- 5/6 Finals – per 4,6
- 5/7 Finals – per 1,2
- 5/7 per 3 Graduation walk through and instructions in West Auditorium
- 5/7-5/12** **Final Senior in Danger of Failing Notification (as above)**
- 5/13 Graduation, 2:00 p.m., Sullivan Arena

* Dates are subject to change

Order **official transcripts** online at www.asdk12.org

Click on “transcripts” in the right column and follow the prompts. When you receive notification that your request has been processed, please pick them up at the Registrar’s office. Graduating seniors be sure to mark “end of the semester” for your final transcript requests.

Seniors please bring in verification letters of college acceptances, offers of college scholarships, recognitions for college academic awards, other scholarship awards etc. to Mrs. Rutz, CRC Advisor asap (no later than 4/23). This information will be used for the Awards Program on April 27. Students will be receiving invitations for this program. Remember without your input, WHS cannot acknowledge and celebrate your academic feats and awards!

Students who are wishing to take **correspondence courses** need to complete the Credit by Choice forms and obtain the required signatures BEFORE they send for the course. See your counselor for more information.

Seniors who are taking BYU courses for graduation should have the Credit by Choice forms on file. These courses need to be completed by May 1, 2010. Check in with your counselor.

AP tests will be administered May 3 through May 14th. Students have already signed up with Mr. Conroy. Information as to where the testing will take place will be sent to students.

The annual **Honor Graduates’ Breakfast** is slated for Monday, April 19, 7:30 a.m. at the Millennium Hotel. Students will be receiving the invitation with all pertinent information and should RSVP by 4/8.



*Staff Services
and Attendance*

Staff Services

Attendance Notifications

Attendance probation notices are being sent home for those students who have accumulated eight absences (unexcused, excused, etc.) or more in one or all classes they are enrolled in for the second semester. This attendance notice/probation letter is a form letter with attendance information that parent/guardians should review with their students. The form letter will present information about possible withdrawal from a course or courses based upon situations regarding excessive non-attendance.

Any withdrawal notice with excessive absences from one or more courses is first reviewed in the attendance office and then screened through the counseling office. Withdrawing any student from one or more courses due to excessive absences is only processed if the ability to earn credit no longer exists.

Parent Conferences

Our parent/teacher conferences will be in full swing on Thursday, March 25, 2010. Please drop by to touch base with your students teachers. This is a great opportunity to check on attendance and connect with teachers as the fourth quarter is a critical transition time for students prior to their summer vacation.

Northwest Accreditation

West Anchorage High School conducted the accreditation study this school year in accordance with the required Northwest Accreditation process. This accreditation study is conducted every six years and is a requirement in maintaining our accreditation.

The Northwest Accreditation Visitation Team visited West Anchorage High School on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 and met with many of our program coordinators, staff and student representatives. The Visitation Team, after thorough review of our accreditation documentation and process this year, granted continued accreditation to West Anchorage High School for the next six years. ☺



A Note From Student Services

Patsy Shaha, Assistant Principal
Shaha_patsy@asdk12.org

The Student Services Staff and Security Team are dedicated to making West High School a safe and secure educational environment.

The School Board of the Anchorage School District has adapted policy and procedure regarding the use of street and prescription drugs, in order to assist in maintaining a strong and safe learning environment for our students. Please read below for further information regarding prescription drug abuse, and the ASD Policy.

If you wish to further discuss the policies or any concerns you might have regarding our students and safety, please feel free to call Mrs Shaha at 742-2568.

TEENS & PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

According to a report by the **OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL** the abuse of prescription (Rx) and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs to get high is a growing concern—particularly among teens—in the United States. The report states that more young people ages 12-17 abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana—more than cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine combined. Here are some interesting statistics.

- **1 in 5 teens has abused a Rx pain medication**
- **1 in 5 report abusing prescription stimulants and tranquilizers**
- **1 in 10 has abused cough medication**

The entire report can be downloaded free at
http://www.theantidrug.com/pdfs/prescription_report.pdf

ASD POLICY ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The actual or attempted sale, distribution, use, or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs or inhalants, drug paraphernalia, substances designed to or that look like illegal drugs or alcohol, or substance supported to be illegal drugs or alcohol, while the student is under the jurisdiction of the District is prohibited. Students who sell, attempt to sell, distribute or use these substances off school grounds and who then arrive at or return to school or school-sponsored activities will be subject to suspension and/or expulsion. The sale, trade, distribution or misuse of over-the-counter and prescription drugs or look-alikes is also prohibited.

Cumulative Nature of Violations: A violation of the District's policy on Drugs and Alcohol will constitute a prior offense that will carry over from year to year and will subject the student to greater discipline for a later violation.

Sanctions:

(1) First offense for use or possession:

- (a) Ten (10) days suspension from school.
- (b) Referral to the Drugs/Alcohol Suspension Program. Students may reduce their suspension by up to five (5) days by meeting specific criteria for the program.
- (c) Required parent/guardian and student conference with the school principal or designee prior to readmission to school.

(2) Each subsequent offense for use or possession:

- (a) A violation occurring within the span of three full school years after the year a previous violation occurs will result in a recommendation to the School Board for expulsion from the Anchorage School District.
- (b) A violation occurring more than three full school years after the year in which a prior offense occurred will be subject to progressive discipline, but not automatic recommendation for expulsion.
- (c) A school year is defined as July 1 to June 30.



Education for a Better World

Registration for next year is under way! There's still time to apply to be part of next year's IB program. Current 10th graders can apply for the diploma program by completing a simple application available in the IB office and counseling office. They will then work with Mr. Ruhlin and one of two IB counselors to put together their two-year IB plan. Current and incoming 9th graders can apply to be part of next year's Pre-IB program, which will provide them with some unique learning opportunities.

Extended Essays have been mailed to their evaluators around the world, and IB students will finish their internal assessments by the beginning of April. Then testing is right around the corner during the first 3 weeks of May. The IB testing calendar is on the IB link on the West webpage.

Our next informational meeting for parents and students interested in learning more about our IB and Pre-IB programs is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 22, from 7:00-8:00 in the Cove. Keep an eye on the West webpage calendar for confirmation of that meeting date.

For more information about West High's IB program, contact John Ruhlin (742-2610, ruhlin_john@asdk12.org) and visit the IB link on the West High website. For more information about IB in general, visit IB's website (<http://ibo.org>).

LIBRARY LAND

Library Land at Year's End

Once again, we are asking students and parents/guardians to take a moment to look for any library material that has taken up residence in your home during this school year. As in the past, we have a large number of unreturned books which we would love back on our shelves. *We do not* charge fines for overdue materials, but students are billed for unreturned/lost material. This can affect registration for classes this year and slow schedule activation in the fall. For **graduating seniors** unreturned library books and unpaid school fines mean no diploma at graduation.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Thanks

A big thank you goes out to West High's Alumni Association who gave the library \$5,200.00 for four new art display cases. Retired art instructor Rebecca Vorris was key in securing funds for this project. Our present art instructors—Mr. Stewart and Mr. Ortland—will soon be adorning our walls with new paintings and drawings, and filling these new cabinets with pottery, sculpture, and jewelry.

Thanks to Professor Tobi Widdicomb of UAA. Mr. Widdicomb donated \$ 1,200 worth of books (literature, history, and popular novels).

Donations

Speaking of donations, the library is happy to accept donations of new and gently read books. Whereas we will accept any book, we do review gifts to make sure they fit our needs and collection policy. Please contact me for a copy of our donation policy.

Questions

Contact Jim Curran, West Librarian, at 742-2632 (curran_jim@asdk12.org)





Scholastics Award Winners:

Lauren Hedge, Regional Gold Key, Portfolio (The only Gold Key Awarded in this Category)
Kristin Cheely, Regional Gold Key, Drawing
Case Mohr, Regional Silver Key, Mixed Media

There were 300 overall entries for the Alaska Regional Competition and awards were given to 30 students.

Youth Art Month is currently on display at the Anchorage Museum of Art. West has ten students in the district wide exhibition:

Kristin Cheely
Danielle Gerik
Nick Treinen
Anna Olzyatieva
Hillary Hagberg
Yamila Perdomo

Case Mohr
Nikki Deluna
Rodrigo Yanez
James Lawrence
Jenny Whiteman

New Hampshire Institute of Art's High School Drawing Exhibition:

Kristin Cheely's drawing submission was accepted into the exhibition, which opened March 20. She is the only student representing Alaska.

All State Art Competition:

Ms. Morell, Mr. Ortlund and Mr. Stewart are currently preparing to send student work to Homer for this year's competition. Go EAGLES!