



December 2010/January 2011

www.asdk12.org

Dear West High Community,



Once again time has flown by and the holiday season is upon us.

Being part of the education system is indeed a pleasure and I continue to be amazed at all the great things we do for kids within the public school system. Of course, the success of a school is measured in many ways and is dependent upon an excellent staff which we definitely have here at West Anchorage High School. A simple way to recognize a school employee for exceptional work is to go to the ASD website at www.asdk12.org and scroll down to the middle of the page to "Quyana, An Alaska Thank You." Then follow the directions given.

As the first semester draws to a close, I am pleased to report that our students are working hard in their classes, exhibiting wonderful school pride and participating in extra-curricular activities in record numbers. I would encourage all family members, peers, staff and community members to come out and support them in their extra-curricular activities.

Thanks to all of you who were able to join us for parent – teacher conferences in October. We had a strong turnout and, as always, it was good to see you in the building. A special thank you goes to our PTSA and parent volunteers who provided the outstanding luncheon during the break for the staff.

Second semester scheduling will be taking place between now and the end of the semester. Don't hesitate to contact your student's counselor if you have any questions about his/her second semester classes. Please take a few moments to review with your student the student handbook regarding positive behavior and graduation requirements. Your involvement in setting high expectations is key to their success.



Rick Stone
Principal

JROTC AK-033

We can't believe that this year is coming to an end and we will be starting the 2nd Semester real soon. As you can see we have been extremely busy.

The Beans Café Food Drive ended on the 18th of Nov. Delta Flight held the lead up until the last week when Alpha and Bravo started bringing in a ton of cans. On Nov 18th at noon, Alpha won with 333 cans and a Cadet/Can Ratio of 22.2. Bravo came in Second with 466 cans with a Cadet/Can Ratio of 18.64. ***Total cans 1,510!!!**

Our Color Guards last month performed well. We had one on Wednesday, November 10 and three on Thursday, November 11. Each Color Guard was performed and commanded by Cadets of the Corps. We also held a Special Veteran's Day Flag raising Ceremony at 7 am on the 12th. (See photo)

The Craft Bazaar on Thursday, November 18 went "Fantastic"! We had a couple cadets go down each period to help the vendors out.

AK-033 had their Annual "2010 Multi-Cultural Thanksgiving Feed" on November 23. Everything went smooth as planned. We had tons of food from all around the world. Because this "Feed" went so well, we will hold our Annual 2010 Christmas Feed on December 14 at lunch.

We have three Coat Checks coming up in December...the 4th, 6th and 16th.

Recently the cadets were taught how to handle and shoot air rifles. Each cadet, who brought in the paperwork and passed the safety test got the opportunity to shoot. It helped the cadets learn Gun Safety and improve their skills.

Our Annual Holiday Reception is coming on December 10th. We need as many cadets there that we can get, it is going to be a blast! It will be held at La Cabana on 4th Ave in Anchorage.

The APD Christmas party will be the next day on December 11th and it is a great opportunity for cadets in the Corps to meet and get to know some of the people who protect our city and state.

The end of the semester is coming up and we will be getting more cadets in the program. We may lose a few, but in the end the changes will mean better cooperation and team work. The new cadets will be fresh and ready to learn the ways of the Corps. We will have interesting things to do that everyone will have fun doing.

Our Rocketry Program will be kicking into gear after winter break. It will teach the cadets how to make and launch rockets. We have the older cadets helping and teaching the newer cadets.

For further information please call Major Dove or Chief Pickel at 742-2533. Have a Safe and Restful Holiday Season!



Cadets of AK-033 form up for the special Veteran's day Flag raising Ceremony at 7 am on the 11th of November.

Counseling Corner



First semester graduates' ceremony will be held Thursday, December 16, 2010, 2:15 p.m. West High School Library. Early grads please check in with your counselor and the registrar, for necessary forms to complete prior to the graduation.



Seniors be sure to see your counselor regarding college applications due in December and early January. Forms that need to be completed by your counselor for these dates should be given to the counselors in a timely manner.



Official transcript requests can be ordered at the official ASD website. Go to www.asdk12.org and click on the right hand menu, Transcripts, and follow the prompts.



Alternative Activity Day at West High

Last month, during the half day of Parent Teacher Conferences, the counseling department scheduled alternative activities for freshmen and seniors, while the sophomores and juniors participated in district testing. Throughout the morning freshmen were visited by staff members from King Career Center and Gail Rutz, the Career Resource Advisor at West. The Freshmen learned about the different classes they can take at KCC along with Information about programs for career exploration.

The senior class listened to guest speaker, Dr. Jerene Mortenson, whose son Greg wrote the book, "Three Cups of Tea." Dr. Mortenson spoke to the students about her travels and the struggles that students throughout the world have in getting an education. Seniors were also able to visit with several of West's business partners who were here to provide general information about personal finance, career, cultural and volunteer opportunities available to students in Anchorage. The morning session ended with Jostens handing out packets of order forms for graduation announcements and cap & gowns.

We want to thank our business partners, KCC and West High staff and students for their participation.



Happy Holidays
Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Happy Kwanza
Happy Diwali
From the
West High School Counseling Department



NHS members have been very busy volunteering and fundraising for Habitat for Humanity. Our volunteers staff the Restore on a daily basis. Since they started, sales have increased by 21% or a total of \$6,000 gain. Our state winning football team helped with a landscaping project at one of the new homes. We had volunteers helping with the 100 Women's house celebration. The Tile and holiday wreath sales event went well at conferences. We continue to sell coupons for wreath and or centerpieces. They are redeemable at Dimond Greenhouse and have been a big hit in the past. If you are interested in purchasing a wreath/centerpiece, please have your student stop into see Mrs. Friar in the library. They are \$28.00 each and checks should be made out to West NHS. We will sell coupons until Dec. 14th. 100% of all proceeds for any of our fundraisers will go to Habitat for Humanity.

We thank the West community for your continued support!

Advisor: Mrs. Friar

ASD Non Discrimination Statement:

It is the policy of the Anchorage School District to provide equal educational and employment opportunities, and to provide services and benefits to all students and employees without regard to race, color, religion, disability, national origin, gender, marital status, change in marital status, pregnancy, parenthood or other prohibitions. This policy is consistent with numerous laws, regulations, and executive orders enforced by various federal, state, and municipal agencies, including but not limited to Executive Order 11246, Title 41, part 60-1, 60-2, 60-3, Title VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and Section 504.

Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the School District's Equal Employment Opportunity Director, who also serves as the Title IX Coordinator, Boniface Education Center, 5530 E Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99504-3135, (907) 742-4132 or to any of the following external agencies: Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services.

Tina Johnson-Harris
Assistant Principal

Riflery and Wrestling are the two remaining fall sports that will be ending soon. Region IV Riflery competition will be December 3rd and 4th and Region IV Wrestling will be on December 3rd and 4th.

This winter we encourage you to get out and support girls and boys hockey. Game schedules can be found on the ASD website link

www.asdk12.org/activities/high/hockey.asp.

Basketball season will begin on November 29th. Students are encourage to turn in paperwork early to Mrs. Hart in the Activities Office.

What is required to participate in a sport?

- 1. Completed participation form**
- 2. Current physical not to expire during the season**
- 3. Acknowledgement Form of the Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug policy**
- 4. Academic GPA of 2.0 and completed 5 semester units of credit the previous semester; quarter eligibility is a 2.0 GPA**
- 5. All freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who are not on track to graduate and/or who have not passed all parts of the HSGQE must be enrolled in a minimum of five semester units of credit to participate. Seniors who are on track to graduate (minimum or 17.5 credits), and who have passed all parts of the HSGQE must be enrolled in a minimum of four semester units of credit.**
- 6. \$165.00 Activities Fee per sport**

Request for refunds may be submitted immediately after try-outs or within the first week of the sport. All requests must include a receipt.

NCAA Clearing House

For your son or daughter to be eligible to participate in athletics at NCAA institutions, there are high school requirements that must be met. Division I requires 16 core courses and Division II requires 14 core courses. These classes must be completed and are the only classes used to calculate the required grade point average for the Division. Be sure to have your student athlete meet with a counselor to ensure that NCAA eligibility requirements are met.

Support the Eagles!



**The West High Dance Department
Presents:
*The West Side of WhoVille!***



**A joyful Holiday Story that will bring the
child out in all of us!**

**Featuring Dance West dancers performing a
hullabaloo of Hip-Hop, Jazz, Ballet,
Lyrical, Break Dancing, and much more!**

Appropriate for all ages!

**Friday and Saturday December 10th
& 11th, 2010 7pm**

In the West High Auditorium

Tickets will be \$8 (at the door, or bought from
dance students)

**Special Saturday Matinee: December
10th 3pm**

Tickets \$5

For questions, contact Lori Bradford via email @
bradford_lori@asdk12.org

**West Anchorage High School's
2010-2011
Theatre Season!**

“The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe”

Feb 3-5

Sat Matinee

The classic tale from C. S. Lewis. Aslan and the forces of good struggle against the White Witch to save Narnia from perpetual winter.

An ALL AGES production

One Acts

March 17-19

The student directed one acts are short plays directed and in some cases written by the advanced acting students, performed by the beginning acting students, and tech work is done by the play production class. These shows are short and lots of fun. Intended for high school and older audiences.

William Shakespeare's “Midsummer Night's Dream”

April 14-16

Magic, Love and Comedy unite in the Bard's romp through the forests of Athens. Come join us for a magical evening!

An ALL AGES production (but perhaps over the heads of younger audiences)

S.T.A.G.E. “Studying Theatre and Getting Excited”

October 9 & January 22

Our high school theatre students lead classes and activities aimed at getting Elementary school students interested in theatre.

Session 1: 9:30 – 12:30 Session 2: 1:00 – 4:00

Half Day \$30.00 Whole Day \$50.00



*West High
Theatre*

S.T.A.G.E. “Studying Theatre and Getting Excited”

March 26

Our high school theatre students lead classes and activities aimed at getting Middle School school students interested in theatre.

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM \$50.00

Haunted House

October 30th

Perfect Halloween fun for elementary age kids and their parents. This event has games, activities, and scary fun all in one indoor, safe, and family friendly environment.

Saturday 1pm-9pm

Entry \$3.00 per student (Elementary Students) Chaperones Free.

All performances are Thurs - Friday at 7:00 pm. Saturday Matinees are at 2:00 pm ONLY on indicated shows.

ALL tickets are \$6.00 Students \$8.00 Adults Children under five free unless otherwise noted
Humanity by making a few purchases. Your donations will be tax deductible.

Curriculum News

The first semester of the 2010-11 school year is almost over. West has made great strides to keep families informed about student progress via the Zangle website. Parents and students now have passwords and can access information about grades, attendance and assignments. Families can check the Zangle website to view progress reports and report cards too. First semester final report card grades will be available for viewing on Zangle after January 3, 2011. We will no longer mail out progress reports, we will continue to mail out quarterly report cards. Next fall families will be able to register for school via the Zangle website. So if you do not have a Zangle password, please contact the school office to get one. If you do not have a computer to access the information, we will be happy to help you log on to a computer at the school. Soon we will have a computer station for parent use which will be centrally located in the school.

Second semester begins on January 3, 2011. Counselors will be meeting with students during the months of November and December to make sure all students have the correct schedule for the second semester. If a student fails a core subject that student will have the opportunity to either take the course again or make it up in summer school.

Work Keys Testing for Seniors

On January 27, 2011 we will offer the Work Keys test for any senior that chooses to participate. If you are a senior and would like to opportunity to take the Work Keys test, free of charge, see your counselor. Enclosed you will find a brochure about the test.



Caps for Chemo, a club devoted to knitting, crocheting, sewing and collecting chemo caps from the community, is holding its second annual Caps Drive. Students are asked to bring caps to their third hour class. The class with the most caps will receive a brunch party courtesy of Caps for Chemo. The drive ends Thursday, December 9th. Caps may be store bought, sewn (using fleece), knit or crocheted. All caps need to be made from cotton, bamboo, alpaca, soft wool, or fleece. All caps go to patients undergoing chemotherapy at Providence Cancer Center and are greatly appreciated.

Caps for Chemo is also selling pink swirl and West colors wristbands for \$2.00. They are available in Room 24. Lend a helping hand and buy a wristband!



First Semester End/Second Semester Start (Attendance)

I encourage students to maintain strong attendance through final exams week. Every day is valuable! In addition, when second semester begins, this is an excellent opportunity for students to start fresh with positive attendance behavior.

Again, we have been successful in keeping students enrolled with our existing monitoring process this first semester. Those students who are eventually withdrawn from one or more courses have had prior intervention from the attendance office and the academic counseling office.

Students/Driving/Safety

Students who drive to school are encouraged to drive safely and allow for additional time for travel as winter driving conditions require more diligence. This applies to all travel times (to, from, lunch, KCC, appointments, etc.) as well as driving safely on campus when arriving or departing.

New signs were installed this Fall about student permit parking times. If you are planning on driving during the second semester, make sure you have obtained the permit from the front office. This applies to all student drivers.

Summer vs. Winter

This next reminder is an annual one but very important. Parent/guardians, please take a few moments with your student(s) and check out what they are wearing to school during the winter months. Every now and then, we will see students dressed more in summer attire (sandals and no jacket) during the winter months.

This is a normal sign as many teenagers dress for fashion rather than practicality. However, if for any reason we were required to evacuate students to the outside area for a short period of time, proper attire would make that experience more positive.

In addition, many students go in different directions after school is out (to a friend's house, to work, to an activity, etc.) and parent/guardians don't get to see them for hours. We wish to make this transition a safer one.

Lock Down Emergencies

This past month, we did have to place West High School into an actual Lock Down status. The situation did not involve any of our students and was an external situation A.P.D. was actively working on. Our staff, students, and APD Officers are commended for their quick and effective response to this situation. The duration of the Lock Down was short and normal operations were established comfortably.

As a reminder for safety tips, during any Lock Down drill or emergency, student use of cell phones for calling or texting is discouraged. In a Lock Down, all classrooms and outside entrance/exits are locked immediately to prevent access by intruders. All classroom lights are turned off as well. All occupants are required to remove themselves from view and remain quiet.

Cell phones/I-Phones provide visual and auditory feedback to a possible intruder. In addition, any misinformation disseminated to a parent/guardian, other than from the main office/communications center, may complicate the situation. Also, no entrance would be allowed until the situation is deemed safe by school officials in conjunction with our local authorities.

International Baccalaureate



Education for a Better World

It's hard to believe that the first semester is already coming to a close. Students in our IB program continue to impress me with their enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work. We had a successful retreat at the end of September, and we look forward to kicking off a program-wide service project next semester.

Overall, thirty-seven students have registered to take anywhere from 2 to 12 of the 37 different exams we will administer in 15 different subject areas. The first two weeks of May will be busy! Students can still register for exams, though they will have to pay an \$89 late fee. The absolute final registration deadline is January 10.

Our Global Lunch series continues to attract dynamic speakers for an ever-growing audience of students and staff. The November 19th lunch crowd filled the Cove (over 75 students and 15 teachers!). We've had 4 lunches this first semester, and we look forward to welcoming an even larger number of interesting, diverse speakers during the second semester. Thanks again to the PTSA, whose generosity has allowed us to provide pizza. We'll continue to bring in speakers with international experiences to help our IB program live up to its motto: "Education for a Better World."

Beginning in January, 9th and 10th grade students interested in the IB program will help kick off West's Pre-IB program. They will take part in a variety of activities that will help prepare them for the challenges of participating in the IB diploma program as juniors.

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>).



DISCOVER SKI AND SNOWBORADING

Did you know that the Alyeska Resort Mountain Learning Center is offering all schools in the Anchorage District specially priced ski and snowboard tickets and/or lessons?

You can have your student participate in the DISCOVER program, for skiers and snowboarders ages 8 through high school. The dates for the West High group are Saturdays, January 8, 15, & 22 (Block 2). Pick up will be at Romig Middle School between 7:45am and 8:15am and students will be dropped off around 5:00pm at Romig. Email Dirksen_Alexander@asdk12.org for more information, or have your student come by Relo 12 (near the tennis courts) for a flyer. Registration deadline is December 26.



RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS

Please remember that riding the school bus is a PRIVILEGE not a right!

All students are expected to behave on the bus in a calm, quiet, safe manner and to abide by bus rules. Students who behave in an unruly and/or unsafe manner on the bus or at the bus stop are subject to school sanctions.

PLEASE DISCUSS WITH YOUR STUDENT THE IMPORTANCE OF ARRIVING TO CLASS ON TIME.

Please review the Tardy Policy below:

- 4th Tardy – 30 minute lunch detention
- 5th Tardy – 45 minute after school work detail
- 6th Tardy – 2 hour Tuesday School (2:10 – 4:00)
- 7th Tardy – ½ day work detail In School Suspension
- 8th Tardy and up – Referral to Disciplinary Principal

REMINDERS

- Cell phones/mp3 players are permitted before school, during lunch, and after school ONLY! Otherwise, the item will be confiscated.
- No headgear is to be worn in the building at any time including hats, bandanas, and hoodies.
- **If your student has an item that has been confiscated by a staff member, please plan to pick up the item in the Student Services office before the end of the semester, December 16. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity.**

