

New Prairie High School Newsletter

January 2009

New Prairie Theater Company

Auditions for roles in the spring musical *Grease* will be held after school the 19th through the 21st of January from 2:30-4:30 (School Time). This classic musical is going to be a blast to be a part of! Danny Zuko, leader of the gang "T-Birds" at Rydell High School falls in love with good girl Sandy Olsen over the course of one summer and becomes saddened when he believes her to be leaving for good. However, it turns out she is going to be attending Rydell High School and he quickly tries to win her over. The dates for the play are March 26th and 27th at 7 pm and March 28th at 5 pm, with a Gala event to follow.

Immediately following the production of *Grease*, the New Prairie Theatre Company will be beginning rehearsals for *Cut!* This play was written by Tasha Ladwig, a graduate of NPHS, and Ilkka Hamalainen, a foreign exchange student for the year 2006-2007. *Cut!* is on its way to publication and we have been granted temporary rights by the authors to present it at Footlight Players in Michigan City April 24 & 25 at 8 pm as well as here at the high school April 30 & May 1 at 7 pm. Hope to see you there!!

Course Selection for 2009-2010

Efforts are made to provide the best possible course selection each spring for the next entire academic year so that educational goals of students are realized; however, circumstances do change and a program chosen early in the second semester may require some adjustment in the spring. If a student finds that a change of next year's selections is necessary before the end of the school year the student should notify the guidance office immediately.

Weight room open to the public!

The new weight room at New Prairie High School is now open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from now until Spring Break. The cost is \$2.00 per visit.

Attendance Reminder

Regular attendance is necessary if a student is to succeed in school. Early identification of attendance problems is essential to assure that students will receive counseling and have every opportunity to solve the problem. It is the purpose of this regulation to stimulate both students and parents to assume the responsibility of maintaining good school attendance. Notification of a student's absence

from school is the parent's responsibility. If a student must be absent, it is the duty of the parent to call the high school office by 7:30 a.m. the day of the absence and state the reason for the absence. If prior contact is not possible, the parent or guardian must provide a written excuse on the day the student returns to school. If the absence of the student appears to be questionable or excessive, the school staff will work with the parents to improve their child's attendance. Excessive absences will be reported to the appropriate county agency and a legal alternative may be pursued. The school numbers are (219)778-2215 or (574)654-7271. E-mail addresses which may be used are: caclark@npusc.k12.in.us, sjones@npusc.k12.in.us, or sbraun@npusc.k12.in.us

Success on Algebra I Exam New State Requirement

Starting with this year's freshman class (Class of 2012), students are no longer required to pass the 10th grade ISTEP/GQE to be eligible to graduate. Instead, these students must pass "Core 40" End of Course Exams in Algebra I and English 10 to be eligible to graduate. All freshman students enrolled in Algebra I will have their opportunity to meet this requirement this May.

The math test that these students must pass is different from the math portion of the 10th grade ISTEP. Whereas the 10th grade ISTEP tests over a broad range of mathematical knowledge and reasoning (including algebra, geometry, and fundamental data representation), the End of Course Algebra I Exam is specific to (and more in depth toward) algebra skills and application of those skills.

The State Department of Education has required us to administer the "Core 40" End of Course Algebra I Exam for the past few years, but this year's freshman class is the first class required to pass it. Freshman students may have students in grades 10, 11, and 12 tell them that they don't have to take this exam seriously. These upperclassmen may assume that the rules that applied to them must surely apply to the freshmen as well. They may sincerely believe that they are passing along helpful advice. Please know that such advice would be dead wrong!

Freshman Algebra I students would be wise to give their teacher their full attention and focus as they prepare and review for the End of Course Exam in the upcoming months.

English Department

Two of our English faculty have student teachers this semester. Mr. Suttor is working with Ms. Lisa Cotto in English 9, and Mrs. Kramer is working with Ms. Denise Young in English 10. Both student teachers come to us from Indiana University South Bend. We welcome them both.

Mrs. Gensic's American Literature and Composition students are working on a research paper in which students investigate the cause of a current world problem. At the end of the quarter, students will work in groups to brainstorm and research possible practical solutions to the problem and ways to implement them in the form of a service learning project.

The yearbook staff is hard at work creating this year's book. If you haven't already turned in a senior portrait or senior quote, please do so as soon as possible. Yearbooks may be ordered at school during the weeks of February 16-20 and March 16-20 for \$50. They may also be ordered by mail, by phone at 888.298.5063 (toll free) or on the web at www.buyayearbook.com. Books are published for FALL DELIVERY. We usually expect them to be delivered in September.

Exit Projects are well underway in English Literature and Advanced Composition classes. Students have written their project proposals and have secured a project mentor. They will be busy researching, writing and developing their projects as second semester continues. Exit Boards will be held in May to judge student presentations. If you are interested in serving as a project mentor or a judge for Boards, please call NPHS with your contact information.

NPHS students can get help to succeed in English at weekly Extra English Assistance (EEA) sessions. English teachers are available to help students both before and after school each week. The schedule for EEA is posted around the school, in each English classroom and online at the NPHS website under the language arts link. If you have any questions about EEA or if you'd like a copy of the EEA schedule, please call or e-mail your child's English teacher.

Please remember to support our students by encouraging them to read and talk about books. Mr. Groendyke, our amazing librarian, holds "Cocoa Café" in the NPHS library twice a month for students, faculty, staff and community to discuss books they have read and enjoyed. The NPHS English Department encourages attendance. Books and chocolate are a winning combination!

"College Recruiting 101" February 17, 2009

New Prairie High School invites you and your family to hear NCSA Educational Speaker **Charlie Adams**. Charlie is the former WSBT-TV Sports Anchor and is now an Educational Speaker for

National Collegiate Scouting Association of Chicago. He helps to educate families on how to navigate the recruiting trail. Charlie will make you aware of the athletic and academic money available to high school student athletes. Some items he will cover:

- how to find the right college fit for success
- the importance of character and keeping good grades
- Understanding whether your student-athlete is really being recruited
- and many more important aspects facing students and parents considering college sports

Mark your calendar now to attend this assembly with your family in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m. The session will help you establish athletic and academic goals, setting realistic expectations and seek opportunities at all college levels. It's never too early to start planning!

A note from athletics

New Prairie Parents are very important people! That is why at the beginning of each sport season we hold mandatory Parent and Student Athlete meetings to help keep you informed. *Only 3* meetings per school year, fall, winter and spring! Your attendance is so helpful and important. Meet in the auditorium with Athletic Director Brian Williamson as he reviews the Athletic & Activities Policy Handbook. We then divide up according to sport so each coach can share their team rules and expectations. Coaches hand out the necessary participation forms to be completed and returned to them at the conclusion of the meeting. Parent packet forms and the IHSAA Participation Physical must be on file in the athletic office before any student is eligible to participate. It really is a big help to get this all done at one time before first practice! Thank you so much for your help in making this happen. Meeting dates are posted on the www.highschoolsports.net website on the calendar. We also send the meeting announcements to the Herald Argus and the South Bend Tribune. Spring Sports Parent/Athlete meeting is set for Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. We hope to see all Spring Sports Participants there with their parents. Thank you to all who support New Prairie Cougars!

Twenty-first Century Scholars update

New Prairie Twenty-first Century Scholar students need to contact the South Bend office to update any changes to an address or phone number.

Dates to remember

Feb. 4th Financial Aide night 6:00 p.m.
Feb. 24, Mar. 18, May 7 Early Release days
April 6 – 10 Spring Break