DHS PARENT NEWSLETTER

November-February 2010-2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Last week, I visited several classrooms and spoke to students about the importance of personalizing their education. Specifically, I want every student to connect what they do in the classroom to their future career plan and if they do not see the relevance in what they are doing to ask their teachers to help them make this connection. If students can do this on a regular basis, they will be successful both at Dixon High School and in the future. I firmly believe that our entire staff cares about all of our students and will do their best to educate them. We believe that what we do here is important and that your child can succeed.

In an attempt to ensure that success, our entire teaching staff has been meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:25 p.m. – 2:55 p.m. to discuss how we can improve our teaching practices and improve student achievement. The acronym PLC stands for "Professional Learning Community" and is a practice where teachers look at student achievement data and work together to decide how best to educate each child. After reviewing our PSAE data, one of our goals is to improve our students' writing skills. I encourage all parents to talk to their children to ask what they have been asked to write about in their classes. With your help and the efforts of the students and teachers, we will improve a vital skill, writing, for all of our students.

I would like to take this time to congratulate our fall athletic teams for their successes that they achieved in our first year of the NIB 12 conference. As of October 24, 2010, Dixon High School student-athletes were conference champions in girls' tennis, girls' cross country, and boys' golf while the boys' soccer and boys' cross country teams earned second place finishes. In the state tournament series, the boys' golf, boys' cross country, and girls' cross country teams were regional champs with the latter two still competing. On an individual level, Amanda Kent and Jennifer Guenther earned a berth at state in girls tennis doubles while Mitchell Homb was this year's class 2A state golf champion! I would like to congratulate all of these athletes and their parents for a job well done and thank you all for representing Dixon High School in such a positive manner. I look forward to continued success in the winter.

Sincerely,
Dr. Michael L. Grady
Dixon High School Principal

This newsletter is available online @
http://www.dixonschools.org

Dates to Remember

11.05/06 Fall Play – Dracula 7:00 pm
11.07 Dracula 2:00 pm

11.11 Veteran's Day – No School

11.24-26 Thanksgiving Break – No School

12.12 Holiday Concert – 2:00 Band; 4:00 Choral
Bake Sale/Silent Auction 12-6:00 pm
12.20 1st Semester Finals (Periods 1-4)

12.21 1st Semester Finals (Periods 5-7)

12.21 Winter Semi-Formal Dance-DHS cafeteria

12.22-1.4 Winter Vacation – NO SCHOOL
1.5 School Resumes

1.14 End of First Semester

1.17 M.L. King's Birthday, No School

1.27 Student A.M. attendance only

2.13 Mid Winter Concert 2:00 pm

2.18 Student A.M. attendance only

2.21 President's Day, No School

2.22 National Honor Society Induction - Auditorium 6:00pm
2.24 Spring Sports meeting DHS gym 6:30 pm

Market Day Pick-ups 11.12/12/10/1.21/2.18
4:30 p.m.Cafeteria

Parent Advisory Dates 11.1/12.6/1.10/2.7 Library 6:30 pm

Home Logic has been replaced with the new Parent Portal.

Over the summer, the District's student management system was replaced with a newer system and a different parent access program. Letters were sent to parents with user names and passwords. These user names and passwords are set by the software system for security purposes.

If you did not receive your letter or need help accessing your information, please go to the Help Desk, which is found as a sub menu under the "Parents" link on our website, and fill out a request for help with the Parent Portal.

Dianne Frye
District Coordinator
Dixon Public School

REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards will only be issued at the end of each semester, in mid January and at the end of the school year. Progress reports will be given to students to bring home midway through each semester. Please use the Parent Portal to access your students' grades. The grades online are current. If you do not have access to the internet to use Parent Portal you may contact the school at 815.284.7723 and we will print current grades for you. All parents received a letter with your user name and password for use with Parent Portal. If you would like access to Parent Portal there is a help center at http://www.dixonschools.org

From The Athletic Office

Spring Sports will be beginning soon. IHSA and Dixon High School requires that a student athlete passed 5 classes the previous semester (Fall 2010) and currently be enrolled in 5 credited classes. In addition to the academic requirements, a current physical examination, parent permission, and sport participation fee is required before beginning practice. If you have any questions please call the Athletic Department at 284-2237.

Spring Sport parent/athlete meeting is Thursday, February 24 at 6:30 p.m.

WDPS

Want to listen to the basketball games? Now you can, log onto the internet to hear the Home BOYS and GIRLS varsity basketball games... Go to the Dixon schools website at www.dixonschools.org and click on the link to listen live.

Parents check your child's ID. Make sure they have internet access approved. This is the only way your child can utilize the internet at school. Call the office if your child needs approval.

IMEA

Congratulations to the music students that auditioned and will be participating at the IMEA Festival in November. Band students are Joey Hammitt and Ellie Drezen. Choir students are Maribeth Johnson, Emily Clemens, Peter Balser and Michael Barth. Jazz Choir is Ben Thornton.

LOCKERS

All DHS students are assigned their own lockers**. Students should keep their lockers locked at all times.** This includes PE lockers too! If any student has trouble with their lockers they need to report it to the main office immediately.

From The Counseling Office

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Students who need to change their schedules for next semester should make an appointment with their school counselor as soon as possible. Schedules will not be changed to switch teachers or lunch hours. The last day to make changes will be Friday, Jan. 21st.

Parents applying for financial aid need to complete their tax returns as soon as possible after January 1st.

FINANCIAL AID SEMINAR

Thursday, January 27, 2011
6:30 p.m.
Dixon High School Cafeteria

Deb Stiefel, Director of Financial Aid at SVCC will provide a general financial aid overview. In addition, methods of searching for private scholarships and Internet websites will be discussed.

All seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend. Parents of underclassmen are also welcome.

REGISTRATION FOR 2011-12

Registration for the 2011-2012 school years will begin in mid-February. Counselors will give students course listings needed for graduation and a copy of their most recent transcript. Juniors on 2/11/11, sophomores on 2/18/11, and Freshman of 2/25/11. RMS 8th grade students will register in the DHS cafeteria March 2 and 3rd. Students will be asked to bring this material home to review their course selections for the following year with their parents. Course descriptions and the course selection worksheet will be accessible on-line at the DHS Counseling website. A verification of student course selections will be sent home for parent approval.

DHS COUNSELING WEB SITE

Go to
www.dixonschools.org
for links to the curriculum guide, four-year plan, course selection, registration information, financial aid, career planning, and other related topics.

Plan test scores & data were given to sophomores and juniors in November. Reviewing the Plan Test can be a valuable resource to prepare for the ACT.

THE ACT TEST

ALL JUNIORS will be taking a combination ACT/Prairie State Test (PSAE) on April 27th & 28th. Since almost all Midwest colleges require the ACT for admission, this is an opportunity to take it for free.

Seniors who want to raise their scores from last spring may want to retake the test on one of the following dates. For questions please contact a counselor at 284-9511.

Test Dates	Registration Deadlines
February 12, 2011	January 7, 2011
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011

Prepare for the ACT by taking practice tests at **www.act.org**, and **www.number2.com** . See your counselor to access SVCC online math prep.

Bake Sale & Silent Auction
Sunday, December 12
DHS Cafeteria

The holiday bake sale and silent auction will be held on Sunday, December 12th, from noon until 6:00 p.m. The class officers are asking for baked good donations. Proceeds from the bake sale will be used by class officers to fund activities at DHS and in the community of Dixon. The silent auction will have many baskets and gift certificates available. The proceeds from the silent auction will directly benefit a school improvement item at DHS. The more donations, the more we can give back to the school.

Please help bake goods for the bake sale. Donations cards were distributed to all students. The baked goods can be dropped off at the school to Mr. Boll on Friday, December 10th or brought to the cafeteria on Sunday, December 12th beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Come enjoy the holiday band concert at 2:00 p.m. and chorus concert at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 12th, and then stop by the cafeteria to enjoy the bake sale and silent auction. Happy Holidays!

Winter Semi-Formal Dance

Tuesday, December 21
DHS Cafeteria
8:00-11:00 p.m.

The class officers are hosting a semi-formal dance on Tuesday, December 21, from 8:00-11:00 in the cafeteria. Last year was a huge success with over 300 people attending. Let's make this another great dance!

Finals will be over, holiday break is starting, what a great way to celebrate the season with your friends. Tickets will be $7 for a single ticket or $10 for a couple. Tickets will be sold in front of the main office and in the cafeteria beginning two weeks before the dance.

If you are bringing an out of town guest, there is a new form to complete that can be picked up in the office, from Mr. Boll, or online at our website. It is the student's responsibility to have the form completed and turned into DeeDee Cibu in the main office no later than Thursday, December 16.

Remember not to go out and buy new clothes for the dance. Girls can wear a dress from a previous dance or borrow a dress from a friend. Guys can wear khakis or dress pants and a nice shirt. Come to the winter semi-formal on Tuesday, December 21. It will be a great time!
(Students must be passing 5 classes **3 weeks** prior to the dance.)

YEARBOOKS

Purchase 2011 yearbooks now!! Buy one as a gift and, upon request, we will provide a card you can give to the recipient this holiday season. Yearbooks are currently $50. Contact Mrs. Loescher.
Old yearbooks make a great gift and may be purchased for $20. Not all years are available, so contact Mrs. Loescher for information about availability and to make a purchase.

Yearbook

Interested in an ad in the 2011 yearbook for your senior? Information will be sent home soon. Ads are due Friday, December 3rd. Ads are placed on a first come, first serve basis. Contact Michelle Bally, yearbook advisor to place your ad or you can email her at mbally@dixonschools.org. or call 815.284.7723 for more information.

Prom 2011 Guidelines

This year the participants of the 2011 DHS prom will be subject to the same rules as last year. Specifically, full-time students must be passing five classes in order to attend prom; if a student is taking fewer than five, that student must be passing all of them by April 1, 2011 in order to attend. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Grady at 815.284.7723.

DIXON PRIDE TEAM

The Dixon Pride Team has been busy this 2010-2011 school year so far. As we approach the end of the 1st semester, we have accomplished a lot but we still have a lot of work to do.

First, we have started a Dixon Pride Club which has been busy with painting the football field for the Homecoming game and assisting the Booster Club with putting up the game flags for home Soccer and Football games.

The School Store has been growing and has had some outstanding apparel and supplies for students and staff. The team really wants to thank Mrs. Guenther for her hard work keeping the store going. Thank You! (If you are looking for a present, please contact Mrs. Guenther for items that can be purchased, at 815.284.7723.)

This fall we will be promoting the fall play, "Dracula". We know this will be an outstanding performance by our DHS students! We want everyone to attend and support our hard working students and staff on the production. We will conduct a raffle for Dixon Pride items and will pick several winners.

The Dixon Pride Team has had a lot of donations from several community businesses and individuals. We want to thank them all for all of their assistance in helping us to continue our mission at DHS.

You may have noticed that the Dixon Pride Squad Car has been around the DHS neighborhood. It has made appearances at parades, festivals, and several athletic events this fall. The team wants to thank the Squad Committee for getting the squad to those events.

We have several ideas that are in the planning stage. We are in production of a few expectation videos to help promote positive behavior. Sgt Duke is planning to have a winter pep rally in November. We will continue to present t-shirts, wristband, and lanyards to our outstanding students who present themselves in a positive manner as representatives of Dixon High School.

We are continuing our mission to take a positive route to get the student body, staff, parents, and even our community to take positive ownership in DHS. We hope they will respect, take pride in, and support school through academic, athletic, fine arts and everyday activities.

Interested in joining a tradition?

DIXON WRESTLING DUKES

See the office for information

PARENT NEWSLETTER

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