

PARSONS VIKING NEWSLETTER

VITAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL

December/January

Volume 2

No. 3

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports were mailed to parents the week of November 13. Please contact the instructor or the guidance office if you have any questions.

SAT TEST

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) will be given in the PHS library on Saturday, January 27 at 8:00 a.m. Juniors and seniors interested in attending out of state colleges should consider taking the test. The registration deadline is Wednesday, December 20th.

BLUE/GOLD GAMES

The annual Blue/Gold Intersquad Basketball games will be played Tuesday, November 28. The game is sponsored by the Athletic Booster Club. Ninth grade games will begin at 5:00 p.m. The JV and Varsity girls' teams will play at 6:15 followed by the JV and Varsity boys' games.

AUTOMATED CALLING SERVICE

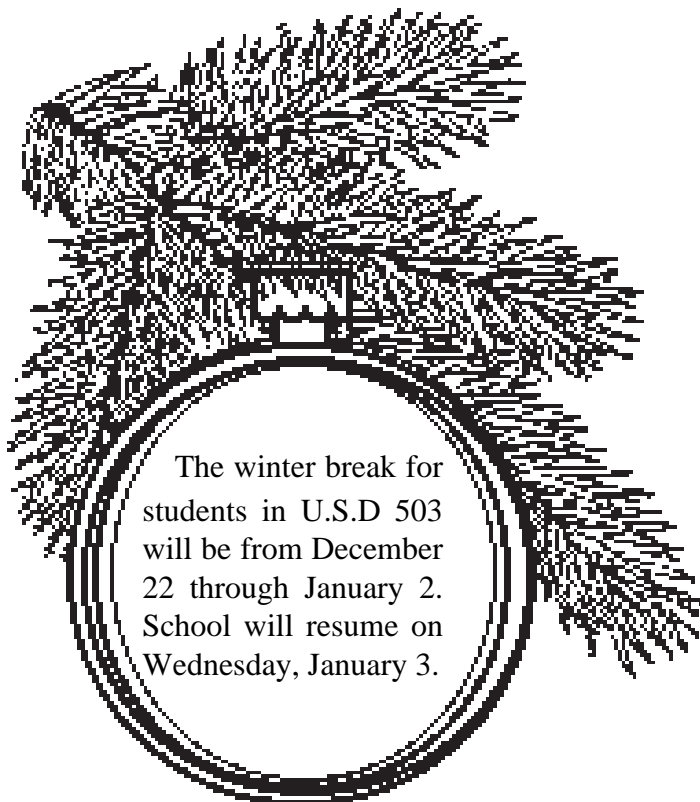
The district has purchased an automated calling service. Initially, we will be utilizing this service for the following type of information:

1. College visit updates for seniors
2. ACT testing information
3. College application, scholarship & loan information
4. School cancellations
5. School emergency-such as evacuation
6. Parent/teacher conference reminder

If you have suggestions about other situations you would like to see included, please contact Mr. Anderson at 421-3660 x102.

IMPORTANT DATES

Blue/Gold Basketball game, November 28
7:00 p.m. Christmas Parade, December 7
Vocal Concert, December 12
Final exams, December 19-Hours 1, 7
Final exams, December 20-Hours 2,4
Final exams, December 21-Hours 3,5,6
School dismissed at 1:30 on December 20
School dismissed at 1:30 on December 21
Winter break, December 22-January 2
Grade cards given to students, January 4
Project Prom meeting, January 8
No School, January 15
SAT test, January 27
Parent/teacher conferences, March 6 and 8



The winter break for students in U.S.D 503 will be from December 22 through January 2. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3.



VOCAL CONCERT

On Tuesday, December 12th, at 7:00 p.m., the Parsons High School Vocal program will hold its annual Christmas concert at the Parsons Municipal Auditorium. This program will include Christmas, as well as non-Christmas music, and show-choir performances. All vocal groups who will be performing include: Concert Choir, Freshman Ensemble, Sweet Melodies, and Music Company. Admission is free.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

Federal law requires that all young men register with the Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Now, 17 year old men can submit their registration information early on the Internet (www.sss.gov). Selective Service registration is required to be eligible for a federal student loan, job training, most federal jobs, and U.S. citizenship.



U.S.D. 503 will not have classes on Monday, January 15.



The regional debate tournament will be held on January 12th & 13th. The location has not been established at this time. The state debate tournament will be held on January 19th and 20th at Stillwell-Blue Valley High School.

WINTER VACATIONS

Parents who are planning a winter vacation, please notify the office in advance of the student's absence. We will consider vacations excusable as long as the student's work is made up in advance and the student's academic success is not in jeopardy. Otherwise, the absence will be considered unexcused.



In January, the "School Report Card" will be issued. This process is mandated by law and every school in Kansas will have a report card. The high school version will show information on such items as graduation rate, drop out rate, attendance rate, violent acts, state assessment results and how students perform in advanced math and science classes. Individual school results will be compared against state averages. The school report card for Parsons High School will point out some areas we are doing well in as well as those we need to improve in. The "Report Card"

is tied to the QPA process and is designed to help a school and community decide where improvement efforts should be focused.

Please call the high school if you have any questions or comments.



CLASS OF 2007

Seniors had a meeting with Josten's at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 2nd, in the cafeteria to discuss announcements and caps and gowns for graduation. Josten's took cap and gown and announcement orders on Friday, November 10th, in the lobby during both lunches. The office has a few extra graduation packets if your student didn't make it to the meeting.

FIRST SEMESTER WILL END DECEMBER 21ST. GRADE CARDS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 4TH. SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD.

PROJECT PROM 2007

The theme chosen for this years Project Prom is "ESPN". The plans are well underway for another exciting after prom party.

Our next Project Prom meeting will be on January 8th at 6:00 p.m. in Room 116. If you have any questions, please call Kim Beachner at 421-2602 or Sharon Roberts at 421-8664. All parents who would like to help are invited to the planning meeting.

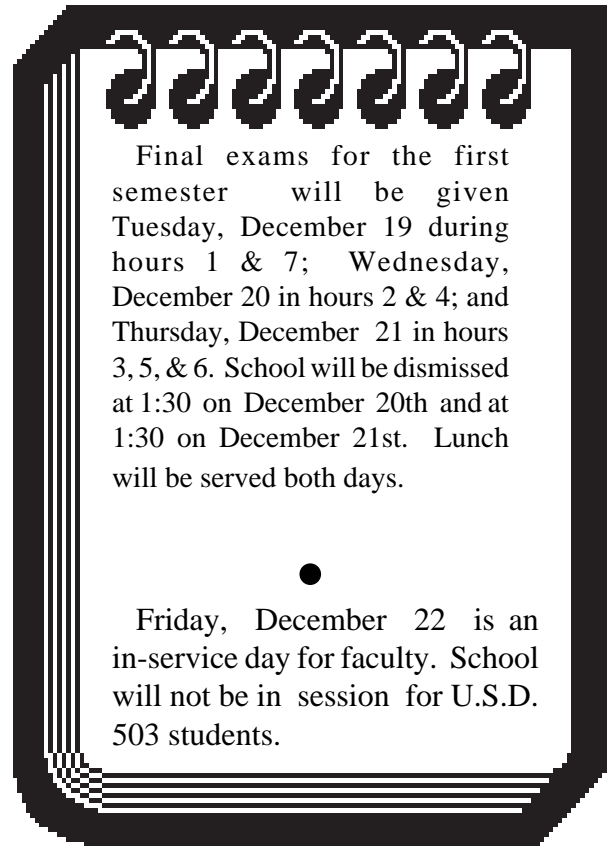
Thank you for your support!

Project Prom Committee

Kansas Parent Information Resource Center

Parents now have a resource to help them understand the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal education legislation and how it impacts their children and their children's schools. The federally funded Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) is a partnership between eight regional and statewide parent advocacy, parent education, and school-based organizations. A major goal of the KPIRC is to support parents in helping their children meet the Kansas Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) standards. The KPIRC will assist parents in understanding the new legislation, inform them of their rights under the legislation, and enable parent input and voice in school policies and practices that shape their children's Title I and other educational programs covered under NCLB. The KPIRC will share resources and work with schools to assist them in communicating more effectively with parents, and provide resources, strategies, and training to parent groups to help them assist their children's learning.

Their web site, www.kpirc.org features many parent and education resources and links. For more information or answers to questions you may have about the No Child Left Behind legislation or the KPIRC, call 866-711-6711 or e-mail nkraft@kpirc.org.



Final exams for the first semester will be given Tuesday, December 19 during hours 1 & 7; Wednesday, December 20 in hours 2 & 4; and Thursday, December 21 in hours 3, 5, & 6. School will be dismissed at 1:30 on December 20th and at 1:30 on December 21st. Lunch will be served both days.

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Friday, December 22 is an in-service day for faculty. School will not be in session for U.S.D. 503 students.



*Thank
You!*

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who so willingly gave of their time and energy. Also, a special thank you to Save-A-Lot, parents, juniors, and everyone else who helped with concessions. We couldn't have done it without you!

We are grateful for your personal and visible support of the Class of 2008.

In Appreciation,

The Class of 2008
Brenda Schibi-Sponsor
Lori LaForge-Assistant Sponsor



K.M.E.A. DISTRICT II CLINIC

Parsons High School Orchestra members participated in the KMEA District II clinic and concert on November 4th at Prairie View High School. Guest orchestra clinician was Scott Nelson. Parsons students who auditioned and were selected for District Honor Orchestra and Band are as follows:

Hannah Walker, Allison Brewer, Tashanda Jackson, Tiffany Marquardt, and Corletha Turner for Orchestra; and Taylor Rea for Band

Congratulations to the following vocalists who won a position in the KMEA District Honors Festival Choir. They will perform December 2nd at Harrison Auditorium in Altamont at 7:00 p.m.

Jessica Breedlove, Allison Brewer, Morgan LaForge, Chelsea Marquardt, Jessica Phillips, Maggie Goedeke, Ginny Gray, Katie Lero, Hillary Swanwick, Elisa Winchell, Aaron Burke, Aaron Hoffman, Robbie Queen, Austin Clift, and Nick Palmer

All band, orchestra, and vocal students who made tryouts will participate in the concert. The convention is a full day of rehearsal for the combined talents of students from all over eastern Kansas. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. and there will be a \$2.00 admission charge.



BALLOONS R US

Does your son or daughter have a birthday approaching? Would you like to be able to send them balloons at school? You can place your order with a simple phone call.

Mrs. Posch's first hour Entrepreneurship class is selling balloons for all occasions. We have special occasion balloons for \$3.00 and latex balloons for \$1.00. You can have candy or candles attached. The candy comes in small and medium bags for \$.50 and \$1.00.

Call 421-3660 x 221 between 8:00-8:30 a.m. to place your order. Stop by school anytime during the day to pay for your purchase. Thank you for supporting our Entrepreneurship Class!

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS REGARDING LUNCH CARDS

Q. I want to loan my meal card to a friend so they can eat.

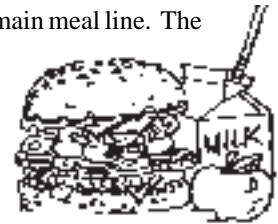
A. Meal cards may not be loaned out under any circumstances. They are the responsibility of the account holder.

Q. I get reduced priced meals, so I want to bring \$.40 each day for lunch.

A. We prefer students pay for their meals by the week or month. Having your card out and ready gets everyone through the line faster. Accepting \$.40 from a student every day points them out as being on reduced price meals and we are required to keep this information confidential.

Q. I forgot my meal card, can I eat?

A. Yes, but only through the main meal line. The cashiers can look up your account number. We encourage you to keep your meal card on the card storage rack after you eat. That way the card is there the next day for you to use.



Q. I can't find my meal card, what do I do?

A. Same as above. If you haven't found the card in a day or two, Mrs. Marlow will make you a new card.

Q. I forgot the check my parents gave me for my meals. I'm out of money on my account. May I eat?

A. Yes, from the regular meal line. Wait for the cashier to give you a payment reminder. Parents will be notified by mail when the student's account reaches a minus \$7.50. A disciplinary referral is sent to the administration when the account balance reaches a minus \$15.00. Students are expected to bring their meal balances up to date before asking to charge again.

Q. My child is being charged full price for meals, but we receive food stamps and they told me we get free meals.

A. The cafeteria needs a copy of the SRS letter at the time of enrollment. Meal benefits begin only when the application is processed.

Q. My child said they didn't get to eat lunch because they forgot their meal card.

A. Students are not allowed to purchase a la carte items if they do not have sufficient funds on their card or cash. If they owe money on their meal account, they cannot purchase a la carte items.

You can give us a call at 423-8815 and we will be happy to print your child's account history. This will show whether they brought the money to put on the account and if they are eating the regular meal or a la carte items. Our accounting system allows us to block your child from purchasing a la carte items if you choose.



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

As parent/teacher conferences are coming up on March 6th and 8th, please be aware of the following information:

Most teachers have 100 or more students in their classes. It is not possible for the teachers to have a conference with the parents of all of their students at that time. Each teacher will send out invitations to 15-25 selected parents. If you wish to see a teacher and did not receive an invitation, please feel free to do so.

Because of the large number of conferences each teacher may hold, conferences **MUST** be limited to **10 MINUTES**. Please do not exceed the **10 MINUTE** limit as you will be using another parent's time.

The purpose of the conference is to find out how you can assist the teacher in the education of your student.

Conferences are to focus on the student. If you wish to discuss classroom rules, teaching methods, etc., please call the teacher and schedule a meeting at another time.



The Early Bird Gets the Worm

Attention Parents of Seniors: Financial Aid forms require information from your 2006 federal tax return. It is helpful to have tax returns completed and financial aid applications submitted as early as possible after January 1, 2007.

COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

January 14-Joe Burgstaller-2:00 p.m.

May 1-The Four Freshmen-7:00 p.m.

February 15-The Great Kaplan-7:00 p.m.

All of the Community Concerts are held at the Municipal Auditorium. For more information, call Ginny Wommack at 421-3395 or Gary Pollmiller at 421-0487.

VALENTINE DELIVERIES

The high school will not be able to accept Valentine deliveries for students this year. Please plan to have the deliveries sent to their home.

Parsons District Schools
P. O. Box 1056
Parsons, Kansas 67357

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