



Prior Lake High School

Parent Newsletter

February 2018

A POSITIVE PLACE TO LEARN

From the Principal

by John Bezek

We are at the half-way point of the school year which is always a milestone and a natural time to pause and take stock of how things are progressing. Personally, being in my first year at Prior Lake, at this point I am feeling like a Laker instead of someone that is trying to figure things out. I have enjoyed going to events and getting to know your students and for them to get the opportunity to know me as well. We have a great thing going here at Prior Lake High School and I believe it is my role to continue to build on the rich tradition of success.

This halfway point is also time of change especially for our Freshman. They have become an active part of the PLHS, they get the routines now; they are “finding their people”. We stress that we need them to be involved, our success is tied to their success. They are on that four-year journey to build their legacy at Prior Lake High School and we want them to be aware of all the opportunities out there for them.

On the other end of their Journey at PLHS is our Senior class, we only have about four months left with them (OMG, I have a senior daughter). As they are beginning their transition this second half of the year, I want to thank them for adding to the tradition of success here at PLHS and I want them to think about how they want to close out their journey. We want them to remain close-knit as a class, to reach out and include all, to thank those who may have helped them along the way. When we are in the moment we don’t always realize or take advantage of opportunities, we hope we can get them to slow down a bit enjoy the remaining moments and leave with the feeling that they made the most of their time at PLHS.

We have a lot of to look forward to the second half of the school year. Let’s continue to make Prior Lake High School “A Positive Place to Learn”.

IN THIS ISSUE

Students earn Art Awards

Two PLHS students win Scholastic Art Awards

Page 2

Nurse’s Note

Does your student have Influenza?

Page 3

Attendance Procedures

Page 3

MNCAPS Information

Meeting *Interested in MNCAPS? Come to the meeting and get your questions answered!*

Page 4

Upcoming Test Dates

Page 4

Synergy/SPAN Meeting

Page 5

Parent Advisory Council

Parents and the school community share goals concerning students at Prior Lake High School.

Page 5

National Honor Society

Recent events involving NHS

Page 6

Guidance News

2018-19 Class Registration

Page 6

DID YOU KNOW?

PLHS School Store is open every day!

Before School:

7:45 — 8:00

6th Hour:

2:02 — 3:00

After School:

3:00 — 3:15

952-226-8613

Attendance Line
Phone Number

952-226-8601

Parking Lot Reminders

Speed limit for the high school parking lot is 10 miles per hour!

Main lot requires parking permit, must be displayed on the rearview mirror daily

Softball "daily" lot requires payment day before to park
(example: pay Monday to park Tuesday)

Laker Café is open all day!

PLHS Students get in FREE to all winter sport HOME events. *(except Boys Hockey)*
Just show your PLHS Student ID

Students win Scholastic Art Awards for Minnesota Region



Congratulations to Thressa Schultz (11th grade) and Josette Tellin (10th grade) who won Scholastic Art Awards. Thressa Schultz won a Gold Key for her painting she did for the school play (Christmas Carol) "The Past Remembered". Josette Tellin won an Honorable Mention for her painting Grandpa Love.

There were over 3800 submissions this year. Of the submissions there were 371 Gold Key Awards, 363 Silver Key Awards, 735 Honorable Mention Awards.

Congratulations Thressa and Josette!



Nurse's Note

Influenza



As you may already know, Minnesota is seeing cases of influenza across the state, including in our region.

Here is some information about [influenza in school](#). You can also read more here: [flu facts](#)

The best way to prevent the spread of influenza is to keep our hands clean, cover sneezes and coughs, and receive yearly flu vaccines. It is not too late to receive a flu vaccine! Please be in touch with your primary care provider if you are concerned about flu symptoms in yourself.

If your child has influenza or influenza-like-symptoms (ILI), please refrain from sending them to school. **Symptoms include fever > 100.0 F, cough and sore throat.** Also, please state your child's symptoms on the attendance line when excusing them from school. This helps us to track and report Influenza and ILI symptoms.

Thank you for your help in keeping PLHS healthy! Please contact me with any questions. **Julie Dusatko, Licensed School Nurse, RN (952) 226-8682**
jdusatko@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us

Attendance Procedures

Call the Attendance line – **952-226-8601**

If your child will be absent from school due to illness, vacation, or appointments, etc.

If you need to take your child out of school for an appointment during the school day (call at least **30 minutes before** your pickup time)

If you forgot to call when your child was absent from school

You may also send us an email at:

hsattendance@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us

You do not need to come into the school to pick-up your child. They will receive a pass to leave the building from the Attendance Secretary, they will sign themselves out of the building (at the desk located by the student entrance) and meet you at the car. All students **MUST** exit from the student entrance on the east side of the building.

Absence due to Appointments

Students who miss all or parts of a school day due to a dental, medical or other appointment must provide written note from the dental/medical office where they received treatment.

Absences Due to Family Vacations 3 or more days

Students need to pick up the "Parental Requests for Extended Absence" form in the attendance office and have it signed by each of their teachers and their parent(s).

College Visits

Juniors are given one college day and Seniors are given two. They are excused absences but do count towards the student's total missed attendance days per quarter. Verification of attendance at a post-secondary school is required upon the return of the student to PLHS.

MNCAPS Information Meeting

MNCAPS is a partnership of education, industry and community, immersing all students in profession-based learning experiences. The program offers high school and college credits, all while partnering with industry companies and organizations to enhance the learning experience. If you have a student entering 11th or 12th grade during the 2018-2019 school year, please attend to learn about this transformational learning experience.

Location: PLHS Lecture Hall Time: 6:30-7:30 PM Date: Tuesday, February 6th



Upcoming Testing Dates at PLHS

April is a busy month for school wide testing at PLHS. **Tuesday, April 3rd** and **Monday, April 9th** are special testing days for all 10th and 11th grade students (See below). We will not be holding regular school hours at PLHS on these two days, but rather special testing hours. Due to the full testing schedule and school resources that must be applied, 9th and 12th grade students will not report to school on April 3rd and April 9th. However, teachers will prepare assignments to be completed at home, and all students (9-12) will be expected to complete these assignments. Academic expectations, including assignments and due dates, will be communicated to students by individual teachers prior to April 3rd and April 9th. More information about assessments, schedules and transportation will be forthcoming.

Tuesday, April 3rd	
Grade	Test
10 th	MCA Reading
11 th	ACT

Monday, April 9th	
Grade	Test
11 th	MCA Math
10 th Biology Students	MCA Science

Synergy/SAGE Parent Action Network

SPAN is the Synergy/SAGE Parent Action Network. We are also known as the Prior Lake-Savage Chapter of the MN Council for the Gifted and Talented (MCGT). Our mission is to support and advocate for academically advanced students, their parents, and their educators.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 7 pm in the WestWood Elementary Media Center (5370 WestWood Dr. SE; Prior Lake, MN 55372), featuring an encore showing of *2e Twice Exceptional* with discussion to follow. Film is 54 minutes in length. If you have a student who is high ability and is on the spectrum, has a learning disability, has ADD/ADHD, etc. This film is a must-see.

Also, we are planning to have a couple of coffee meetings toward the end of January where anyone can stop by to talk with SPAN Board members who have "been there" about any questions/concerns you have related to your child. Middle school and high school scheduling will be coming up around that time frame, and you are welcome to come to talk with SPAN Board members about scheduling questions.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Future Meeting Dates

2017-2018 School Year

Wednesday, February 28nd

Wednesday, March 28th

Wednesday, April 25th

Wednesday, May 23rd



Parents and the school community share goals regarding the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of students attending Prior Lake High School.

With those goals in mind, it is imperative that parents and the school, work cooperatively to meet the needs of our students. A key component to this cooperative arrangement is communication between parents and the school. PAC is a gathering between parents and administration to have conversations regarding initiatives, procedures, or happenings at PLHS.

Meetings will be held once a month (except December): *The meetings will be held at PLHS in room 222 at 4:15 PM. (see future meeting dates on the left)*

Interested in joining?

If you are interested in being a part of the PAC, please email Assistant Principal, Ms. Heather Fitzloff at:

hfitzloff@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us

National Honor Society

This month junior Tommy Hesch organized volunteers to run the PLHS concessions booth at various school events this month to support our school's athletics as well as our organization.

On December 18th, senior Megan Perera organized a group of volunteers to go to Feed My Starving Children and the group packed over 18,000 meals and fed 49 children for a year.

Seniors Serena Pfeiffer, Carly Gifferson, Claire Houle, Gianna Bonello-Freund, and juniors Melissa Pfeiffer, and Grace Mueller ran a fundraiser partnered with Eileen's Colossal Cookies for HopeKids, a charity that supports children in local hospitals. The chairs organized volunteers to sell cookie packages to hospitalized children during the school day as well as outside of school hours at basketball games and Eileen's Colossal Cookies in Savage.

Coming up in February, NHS is hosting a Teens for Jeans fundraiser from 1/29-2/9, a Red Cross Blood Drive on 2/16, and the annual Man Pageant on 2/23. In addition, members will be involved in a variety of other event such as Kindness Week and Valentine's letters to soldiers.

If you have any questions, please contact Maria Lecceardone-Brown mleccardone@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us (Newsletter information provided by Historian Megan Giese)



Guidance News

Registration: On January 25th Guidance Counselors held meetings for each grade level with information for registration and distributed registration sheets. The presentations can be found on the Guidance website but students who missed the meeting are encouraged to meet with their Guidance Counselor to review important details. Counselors will be visiting classrooms Feb 6th to 8th to officially register students for classes.



Class Registration