
Princeton High School Winter Newsletter

December 2009

Superintendent's Message

Rarely a day passes at PRS that we do not have great reason for celebration. But this was an extraordinary Fall! Our PHS Boys Soccer team under the leadership of Wayne Sutcliffe and Carlos Salazar not only won the Group III state championship but was ranked 15th in the nation by ESPN. In fact, *every* PHS fall sports team made it to the playoff rounds in this remarkable season. But this went much further than win/loss records as the school and community spirit was as exciting as the play on the fields, courts and courses.

We congratulate Priscilla Russel for being honored as the national world languages supervisor of the year for her leadership and noted contributions at all levels: local, state, regional and national! Our congratulations also go to Eileen Sanchez, special education supervisor, for being honored as member of the year by CEDS (Council for Educational Diagnostic Services), a professional organization in which Eileen has been a strong leader for the past decade.

From holiday songs proudly sung by our four and five year olds to meaningful skits presented by our PHS students for all middle school pupils, from Turkey Trots to math competitions, from new learning gardens to integration of new technologies, our school community has enjoyed a fabulous Fall. Thanks to all who made this happen!

New Governor and Commissioner/New Charter Application

We are only beginning to get a handle on what the next months of changes in the governor's and commissioner of education's office will mean for the state public school system and for PRS. There is no doubt that the state's several billion dollars of debt will mean major changes in terms of resource allocation at the state level and local levels. Other legislative issues to watch carefully will be positions on charter schools, philosophy about early childhood education and possible elimination of burdensome, if not costly, state mandates. Every piece of legislation will matter to us, that is certain.

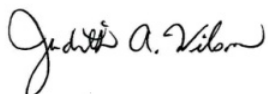
Currently, there is yet another application that has been filed for a new charter school within our community. PRS, West Windsor-Plainsboro and South Brunswick students have been identified as the target population for a new dual language (Chinese) charter school to start in September 2010. The district is strongly opposed to this charter application and our opposition has been filed with all key state officials. The issue of charters is certainly on the forefront of our nation's and our state's educational debates. My position and that of our Board is clear: There is a need for charters when existing public schools are failing their students and families. Those thresholds should be clearly defined and funds should be both appropriated to save students from abysmal or bleak circumstances. But to dilute and divert public funds from high performing districts in order to splinter students into small and often segregated schools is not what we support. It also flies in the face of the state initiatives to regionalize and consolidate small districts in order to gain efficiencies and effectiveness. More news on this will come in the months ahead.

Professional Learning Communities

All New Jersey educators are required to formally organize their learning and professional planning for student achievement within a framework of small professional learning communities. Our state guidelines call for the election of school based faculty members to lead this work as planners at the school and district levels. In the next weeks, peer leaders will be elected so that we can then move forward with what has great capacity to be a means toward new levels of learning for adults and students within PRS.

Our work is ever-changing, ever-challenging and at its core always important and beautiful. Thanks for all that everyone does to enrich our students' lives!

Best wishes for the Holidays to you and yours,



Judy Wilson
Superintendent of Schools

The 9th grade class enjoyed a Club Fair on Wednesday September 9th. Over 40 clubs were in attendance to give information about participation to the students. The students enjoyed snacks and entertainment by the Little Tiger Cheerleaders and the school mascot.



The Special Olympics New Jersey Cycling event was held at Middlesex County College Oct. 2009.

The Class of 1959 enjoyed a tour of our new facilities on October 10, 2009. Student leaders guided the Alumni through the new halls, classrooms, gym and auditorium. The Alumni really enjoyed the return visit.

October 12th- 17th was Homecoming Week at Princeton High School. Students participated in themed spirit days and attended a pep rally on the 16th. The week concluded with a Tigers football game and homecoming dance on Saturday night.

Students participated in homeroom activities to help support anti-violence in schools in honor of Student Violence Awareness Week. Topics included cyber-bullying, statistics on violence in schools and ideas on promoting random acts of kindness.

Spectacle Theater performed The American Clock by Arthur Miller. Performances were sold out on Friday and Saturday night.

The High School ran a special 4 week HIP HOP workshop with Tom McKie. The program ran Nov 20, and Dec 4, 11 and 18 from 3:15-4:45. Tom McKie has entertained audiences professionally since the early 1990's. He currently teaches at Rutgers University, Princeton Dance and Theater Studio and at various other dance studios in New Jersey and New York. His choreography has been seen on MTV, Showtime at the Apollo, Walt Disney World and the Queen Latifah show

The PHS Model United Nations club had an outstanding weekend at the Princeton Model United Nations Conference. Eighty-eight of our students participated and

the thirty-one received special recognition for their display of knowledge and diplomatic skill.

On December 4th 13 students participated in the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium (DVMSAC) in Philadelphia

December 11th The 3rd Annual All City Dodge ball Tournament will take at Princeton High School. The event is sponsored by Corner House.

December 22nd The Choir will hold the annual winter concert.

January 30th The PTO sponsored Cotillion will take place at the Westin in the Forestal Village. The event is for 10th-12th grade students.

This fall the sports teams had one of its most successful seasons in years. All of our teams qualified for the state tournament this year for the first time in recent memory. Football, field hockey, girls tennis, girls cross country and girls soccer all were division champions. The boys and girls cross country teams both came in second in Central Jersey and fourth in the state in Group III. The boys soccer team won the county championship for the third consecutive year, won the Central Jersey Sectional Championship for the second time in four years and won the Group 3 Boys Soccer State Title.

In addition, Princeton Regional Schools honored Ms. Joyce Jones, hall of fame coach and teacher at Princeton High School for her distinguished years of service to our students through the years at the Homecoming game.

The friends of Princeton Athletics also honored such former Princeton greats: Dean Pearson '30, William McQuade '66, Lawrence Parker '71, Andy Foltiny '73, Grace Ms Ewen-Kimbrough '74, Morgan Mohrman '77, Terrance Phox '83, Dorothy "Bouie" Lockwood '86, Kirk Webber '95, Joe Diefenbach, Carol Parsons, 1926 football team, 1995 boys soccer team and Bob James '62 at it's fifth annual Hall of Fame Dinner.

