



Counselor's Newsletter

PCHS Guidance Department

Roxie Palmer & Eric Kirkpatrick

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Current 8th Grade

- **Your time in Junior High is almost up!!** Counselors from the high school will be stopping by the 8th grade classrooms starting next week. The schedule is as follows:

April 6th- St. Bruno's
April 7th- District #50
April 8th- Tamaroa
April 9th- District #204

****Junior High parents** should be on the lookout for your student bringing home a worksheet that will help them work out a class schedule. Once the classes are approved by the parent/guardian they should be returned to their respective junior high school and the high school will be by to collect them and enter them into our system. If you have any question please feel free to contact the guidance office at 357-5013.

SENIORS

****AWARDS NIGHT will be Friday, May 8th at 6:30 p.m. in Thomas Gymnasium. Students will be notified if they will be part of the program.**

- **Graduation will be May 17th in Thomas Gymnasium at 2:00 p.m.**
- **Baccalaureate will be held May 10th at the First Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Although many of the local scholarship deadlines have passed there are several that are due within the next month. Keep looking and stop by guidance to check out the latest opportunities!!**
- Students planning to attend Rend Lake College in the fall of '09 must take the ASSET test. If you scored a 21 in English AND a 22 in Math on the ACT you DON'T have to take the ASSET test. The ASSET must be completed prior to registration for RLC classes in the fall of '09. Please call Heather or Linda at RLC to schedule the test, 357-3742.
- Students should be completing their RESUMES to attach to all scholarship applications. This prevents students from writing out the information on every application. Their personal essays are also very important as well as recommendations.
- Job Shadowing can also be set up in the Guidance office. Job Shadowing is important. It allows students to get a glimpse of what goes on during a typical day for a particular career. Job Shadowing days count as a college day. (2 per year)

JUNIORS

- **ACT testing is about to begin.** PCHS will give the test April 22-23 along with the PSAE. No test packet needs to be filled out in advance. The guidance department will fill out the packets with the students as a group. This particular test date is the only determinant for Illinois State Scholars however; we recommend that juniors sample the test prior to the April 22nd test.

- A national ACT is also available on June 13th, deadline: May 8th, 2009. Stop by guidance for a packet. Once you have picked up your packet, fill out ONLY the front and the back pages of the registration folder and use the booklet inside the packet for code numbers of colleges and test sites. PCHS code is: 143-480.

FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES

- **If your student is struggling in a specific class we would like to remind you that teachers are available beginning at 7:45 each morning. Also, NHS offers tutoring at 7:45 every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning in Ms. White's room (14).**
- **Make-up English** Any student that has failed English needs to make arrangements to make up that credit at Rend Lake College over the summer. For more information you can contact the college directly at 357-3742.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

Many scholarships are available through PCHS- <http://www.pchspanthers.com/academics/scholarships.htm>. However, from time to time other scholarship opportunities come available.

Seniors: The Wyatt D. Eisenhower Memorial Scholarship application is now available in the guidance office. Deadline is May 1st.

SENIORS: Visit www.dar.org for a list of scholarships. Email Margaret Watson at wordsmith.watson@gmail.com to request applications. "DAR Scholarship" should be your subject line; in the text include your name, email, phone #, high school, GPA and scholarships of interest.

Seniors: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) worksheet and application is now available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. All Seniors planning on higher education MUST complete this electronic application for financial assistance. To file electronically, students and their parents must first apply for a PIN to electronically sign the FAFSA. Apply for your PIN at www.pin.ed.gov. You can use your PIN to review your processed FAFSA information and your Student Aid Report (SAR), correct your FAFSA information, print a copy of your SAR, electronically sign loan promissory notes, reapply for financial aid, and view information about federal loans and grants, etc. Your PIN will be e-mailed to you within one to five days. After your PIN numbers are received, an electronic FAFSA can be completed at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Worksheets for completing the online FAFSA are also available in Guidance. Parents are receiving their Student Aid Report (SAR) within two days at this time.

SENIORS: Undergraduate scholarships for children of the U. S. Navy Submarine Force are available online at www.dolphinscholarship.org. The annual grant amount is \$3,400.

Rend Lake College High Achiever scholarship- In order to qualify students must have an ACT composite score of 27 or higher. This scholarship includes all tuition, fees and books. Summers are also included. ****Seniors only have one more ACT test date left to qualify. It is June 13th. Deadline to apply is May 8th.**

Essay contests for grades 9-12. Topics, deadlines and rewards vary as there are several different contests. Visit www.scholarshipexperts.com for more information.

SENIORS: Merit-based scholarship program for college-bound seniors interested in the army. Visit www.armyrotc.com to apply.

ILLINOIS COLLEGES:

Northern Illinois University HUSKIE advantage is a tuition gift aid program for accepted students who are eligible to receive the Illinois MAP Grant and Federal Pell Grant. You must file the FAFSA by May 1 to show eligibility. Check out the website @ www.huskieadvantage.niu.edu

Western Illinois University has received approval for a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree and the four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Check the website, www.wiu.edu for more information.

Quincy University (Quincy, Illinois) will be hosting one more of its Discovery Days this year. It will be held March 28th. To register go to: <http://www.quincy.edu/Admissions/DiscoveryDays/>

University of Illinois-Springfield- will be offering 2 more Preview Days. Preview Days are on the following Saturdays: March 7th, and April 18th. For more information go to <http://www.uis.edu/admissions/preview.html>

Eastern Illinois University-Charleston, invites you to attend Open Houses on April 18th, or July 17th. For additional information go to <http://www.eiu.edu/~admissns/openhs.php>

OUT OF STATE COLLEGES:

Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) - SEMO offers individual tours Monday-Saturday. They also offer an open house program called, The Show Me Days which will be held on March 28th.

UPCOMING TESTS:

ACT (American College Testing Program). Registration forms are available in the PCHS Guidance Office. The ACT is the most frequently used test by Illinois colleges for admission and is even required in many cases. For juniors the next available test will be the April 22nd test given at PCHS. There will be no cost for this test. For seniors who would like to take the ACT again, the next test date is June 13th. The registration deadline to avoid a late fee is May 8th. Pinckneyville's school code is 143-480.

