



In a Falcon Flash

September, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back to school for the 2011-12 school year.

This year is full of hope and promise for the Prairie High School students and our community. We are excited and prepared for another great year despite the financial circumstances surrounding us. It is Prairie's goal to have a great year, not only for the class of 2012 but for all students.

Please take the time to read and take note of the many items in this newsletter; it contains information that you will need to plan your schedules. The highlights of change in the newsletter include: changes to STAT, the POW conference for 9th grade and new parents, the School Improvement Plan process for this year, and the changes in school start times and state cut, furlough half-days.

We will keep you updated on accreditation, STAT, and possible schedule changes through the e-newsletter and posting on the PHS website. Please take a few minutes to read these communications throughout the year, so you are aware of the changes your student and you will experience during this year with the BGSD and PHS.

Thank you,
Jason Perrins, Principal



Upcoming Events

September 7
First Day of School
8:00 am Freshman
10:00 All Students

September 8

Picture Day

September 12

STAT Schedule

Begins

STAT Training -

Jr & Srs

September 13

STAT Training -

Soph & Fresh

September 13

POW!

Parent Orientation

Workshop

6:00-8:30 p.m.

PHS Commons

September 23

Early Release

&

Homecoming Game

September 23

Start Time Change for Schools in Battle Ground

At a July school board meeting, the board voted to move back start times 30 minutes for all schools in the BGSD. The school board took into account that numerous studies have concluded that American teenagers need more sleep to become more successful learners. Also, the safety of our students driving to school on dark winter mornings was a determining factor in the change.

Prairie's start time is 8:00 am.

Student instructional time will be from 8:00 to 2:30.

STAT and lunch will be 10:45-11:45.

STAT Makes Changes for the 2011-2012 Year

Each year we learn more and more from students about what works best for them. Because of our experience with STAT over the last three years, a few adjustments are being made by the School Improvement Team:

- STAT is four days a week.
- Teachers will not be available on Friday to meet with students.
- Clubs will meet Tuesday through Thursday.
- F students must attend STAT everyday in the classes they are failing.
- Same day detention for F students not attending STAT.
- Parents will immediately receive a phone call if a student is assigned same day detention.
- For safety purposes, during the STAT hour there are limited places on campus for students to "hang out".
- All Students will be trained on the changes to STAT Monday and Tuesday of next week.
- Off Campus Privileges for Jrs and Srs:
 1. must attend STAT once during the previous week.
 2. must have all C's or better.

POW!

Parent Orientation Workshop

On Tuesday, September 13, PHS will be holding its first orientation workshop for 9th grade parents and new to PHS parents. The workshop begins at 6:00 p.m. in the PHS Commons, and ends at 8:30 p.m.

If you are a parent of a new or 9th grade student please make sure you attend the entire event. Topics include parenting a high school student, graduation requirements, attendance and discipline, and understanding the teenage brain.

Prairie High School

Invites You

to

POW!

Parent Orientation Workshop!



Tuesday
September 13th

6:00 pm
PHS Commons

Handbooks Distributed on Thursday

Each year we are required to distribute the student handbook to students, and take a few minutes to answer questions they might have about BGSD and PHS rules and policies.

Students will receive their handbooks on Thursday, Sept 8th. Please take the time to secure a copy of the handbook and keep for possible reference. The handbook contains answers to many questions parents might have and it just might save you a phone call.

LOCKERS

Lockers are limited and will be sold the week of September 12-16 on a first come first serve basis. The cost of a locker is \$10 for the year.

If you have a medical reason for needing a locker, please submit your Dr.'s note to the Attendance Office on the first day of school.

Parking Permits

If you are planning to park on campus, you must purchase a parking permit by September 23.

Permits are \$50 for the year for students who attend PHS for five or more periods. Students who attend PHS for four or less periods are charged \$10 per period.

Please pay in the ASB Office; then, bring your receipt to the attendance office for your permit.

School Improvement Team

Continues Work on Accreditation

Every six years, high schools who select to be accredited institutions must journey through a self-analysis process commonly known as a "self-study." The process requires us to meet specific requirements like counselor to student ratios. It also requires us to evaluate our school in many areas as they relate to student achievement.

Last year was the first year of the self-study process; we collected information on a variety of aspects of school improvement. During last winter and spring, the Prairie staff completed a series of surveys; parents and students were also asked to participate in our self-study process with a survey posted online. We will be sending the survey to parents again. Please take a few minutes to give us your input; it is highly valuable. We will also be surveying more students as their voices are also important to the team. The input provided by your student and you will allow us to gather information to help make targeted improvements at PHS and work through the process toward renewed accreditation.

We currently have a School Improvement Team (SIT) responsible for leading the accreditation process. The team is made up of teachers, classified staff, administration, and parents. The SIT meets often and will continue to meet as we journey through our self-study. We have parents who serve on the team, and would welcome new participants. If you would like to join, please contact Principal, Jason Perrins.

Senior Portrait Specifications for 2011-12

PHS Yearbook

Please **adhere** to the following specifications when taking/submitting senior portraits for Yearbook publication:

1. Traditional head/shoulders ONLY. Full body or shots in which subject is lying down **will not be accepted**.
2. Head size must be no larger or smaller than 1 1/4" from top of head to bottom of chin on traditional 2x3 wallet size. Other sizes **will not be accepted**.
3. No props.
4. Traditional outdoor setting or studio backdrops **ONLY**.
5. Formal/traditional photographs **ONLY**. No snapshot/candid/cell phone/other media device pictures accepted.
6. Photo must adhere to BGSD dress code criteria.
7. Color **ONLY** - No B&W, sepia, or any other combination.
8. Digital (300 dpi) photo submission encouraged whether on CD or via e-mail. **ALL** e-mail submissions verified with return message stating photo received, approved, and filed.

Photo must be submitted to PHS Yearbook on or before Friday, November 18, 2011 at 1:00 pm. **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS** accepted.

The Yearbook staff reserves the right to refuse acceptance/use of photos that do not meet any or all of the requirements. If the school ID photo is available, it will be used instead. Students without a senior or ID photo will be represented by name only.

Deliver, mail, or e-mail picture (so that it arrives **NO LATER THAN** 1:00 pm on 11/18/11) to:

Prairie High School Yearbook
11500 NE 117th Ave.
P.O. Box 200
Battle Ground, WA 98604
e-mail: zika.leah@bgds.k12.wa.us

Please direct any questions/concerns to Leah Zika, Yearbook Adviser at 360-885-5033 or zika.leah@bgds.k12.wa.us.

PHS ATHLETICS



* AN ENDANGERED SPECIES *

Please help protect our high school's sports programs by attending the annual

PHS Booster Auction

Saturday, October 8, 2011 at 5:30pm

Hilton Vancouver Hotel

Dinner, Silent & Live Auctions, Raffles

\$32 per person (HURRY! The price goes up after September 23rd!)

Tickets available online at www.prairieboosters.org

Bring Your Best Game!

- Play Heads & Tails to win a \$200 gas card
- Enter the stuffed with fabulous stuff **Designer Purse Raffle**
- Go for a bottle of liquid happiness in the **Mystery Wine Pull**
- Pull a card in the **Luck of the Draw Raffle** to win an iPad 2

Can't attend the auction?

You can still donate to the cause at the **Prairie Booster website**.

You can also enter the **Designer Purse Raffle**. **Need not be present to win!**

See website for details.

Questions? Contact Stephanie Lindstrom, Auction Chair at 571-0318.