



S.H.S. highlights

Funded by the PTO
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/springfield/>

PTO NEWS

Greetings and Happy New Year from the PTO

We are looking forward to a busy semester at the School with a number of special events planned for the students. On January 27th, the PTO is hosting the annual Honor Roll Breakfast. This is always a fun event if only to see how many Mel-O-Cream Long Johns hundreds of hungry high school students can eat! As in past years, we will not only provide food but a number of prizes ranging from gift certificates to iPods. The prizes are funded entirely out of donations from parents so please consider making a contribution (simply send a check to SHS PTO with Honor Roll Breakfast in the memo line and either drop it off in the PTO mailbox in the main office or mail it to SHS-PTO, Springfield High School, 101 So. Lewis, Springfield, IL 62704). The PTO and the students will thank you. As always, we could also use volunteers to help manage the chaos. If you would like to help, please email Marguerite Simon at simonmarg@aol.com.

Other upcoming events include the National Honor Society Induction Reception, and Senior Recognition Night. Additionally, one of our newer activities is the Brain Food Project. During the two-day Prairie State Achievement Examination in March, which all Juniors take, the PTO provides healthy snacks to keep their brains functioning in high gear. Like the Honor Roll Breakfast, it is frantic and fun and, most importantly, deeply appreciated by the students. With all these events we could use lots of help, from volunteering at the event to baking for it or simply contributing financially to underwrite the event. Whatever way you choose to help, we will be grateful.

While the students get lots of the PTO's attention in the Spring, we never forget the teachers. We have just given the Kids in Need Program \$340 from the proceeds of the PTO vending machine and will give Spring proceeds to

many of the academic departments. Additionally, we hope to award the remaining funds in our Teacher Grant program. Finally, we look forward to hosting the annual end-of-the-schoolyear teacher/staff appreciation breakfast.

Any questions or comments about the PTO – please do not hesitate to contact me at patreyh@gmail.com. From the PTO – a wish for a healthy and happy 2010. Go Senators!

Pat Reyhan, PTO President

BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

Thank you, once again, to all of our new and returning Booster members. Even though the school year is half over, you can still join the Booster Club and help support all of our students and their extracurricular activities. Your membership and volunteerism helps keep High Pride alive at SHS! Membership information and forms can be found on our website at www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/springfield/booster. For more information contact Becky Schlouch at schlouch@aol.com or 787-7277

Concession Volunteers

Wanting to get more involved and meet other Senator Parents and supporters? We're always looking for volunteers to help sell concessions at our home events. Please contact David Parker if you're interested in volunteering and he will add you to the contact list. David's phone is 725-1249 and his email address is dparker@mmlpltd.com. Thanks in advance for your consideration and support!

Beat Back the Winter Blues night - Friday, February 12, 2010

Put on your tropical attire and come on out to our annual Beat Back the Winters Blues night at the Boy's basketball game on February 12th. Prizes will be awarded to the girl and boy student sporting the best costume! This is always a fun night for students and parents. Shake those winter blues and come join the fun!

The Third Annual Red & Black Senator Gala- February 27, 2010

Mark your calendars now to attend our THIRD annual Red & Black Senator Gala!! We will be returning to the Prairie Capitol Convention Center on Saturday, February 27, 2010 for an evening of good food, unique auction items, wonderful entertainment and Senator Camaraderie!! Invitations have been sent to all SHS

parents. We are trying to reach as many alumni and friends as possible. If you know of someone who does NOT have an SHS student or who did NOT previously attend but is interested in attending, please call Maria Robinson at 787-3661 with their name and address. We will add them to our mailing list.

Anyone interested in making a donation of merchandise or services to the auction itself, or who would like to place an ad in the Gala program, should also contact Maria at 787-3661. Gala information and ad forms can be found on our website.

We are looking forward to another great evening. With your help and support of this event, we can continue to fund a larger portion of the annual requests for our extracurricular teams, clubs and organizations. Hope to see you all there!

Booster Trivia Night - Friday, March 12th. Check the website for further updates. This event may be rescheduled.

A huge "Thank You" to all of you who helped with Fall/Winter concessions and events. We couldn't have done it without you. Looking forward to working with you for our Spring events.

SPIRIT & PRIDE IS ALIVE AT SHS!!! WE LOVE OUR SENATORS!!!

Teaching and Learning at SHS Christine Stahly, Principal

Springfield High School has expanded its instructional focus to improve both teaching and learning. Our new focus is CRITICAL THINKING. Teachers have been working on the use of higher-level questions, essential questions that frame lessons, providing effective and focused feedback to students, and helping students revise their work to show mastery.

Our approach is a standards-based approach where teachers develop their lessons with the end-goal in mind. The question that is asked when planning instruction is: What do we want students to know and be able to do as a result of this learning? The assessment is developed that shows students have mastered the standard. Then teachers develop lessons that will guide learning toward that end goal.

Special Notice to the Parents of Special Needs Students

In the spring of each year, any student who is eligible for special education services is scheduled for an annual

review to discuss current academic performance, progress toward goals, and future program plans. You will be receiving an invitation by mail in the near future informing you of the date and time of your student's Individualize Education Program (IEP) meeting. They will be scheduled from February through May.

If you have had a recent change of address, please contact Mrs. Shannon Fehrholz at Springfield High School at 525-3109 ext. 185. Special Education and Student Support is located in Room 169.

GUIDANCE NEWS

Registration for 2010-2011

Preview Night was held January 20. At that time Assistant Principals and teachers shared course requirements, expectations for various levels of instruction, and course sequences.

Assistant Principals have begun visiting English classes to initiate the registration process. Students should bring home the registration forms for parent approval and a parent signature. Mrs. Lamsargis will meet with incoming freshmen. Mr. Schurman will meet with current freshmen. Mr. Williams will meet with current sophomores. Mr. Lawson and Mr. Taylor will meet with current juniors. Each Assistant Principal will then enter schedule requests and develop schedules for students in their own academies -- Hawk Academy (A-E), Mr. Williams; Eagle Academy (F-K), Mrs. Lamsargis; Phoenix Academy (L-R), Mr. Schurman; and Raven Academy (S-Z), Mr. Taylor.

Questions should be directed to the student's Assistant Principal at 525-3106.

Prairie State Achievement Exams

The two-day statewide test will be administered to all **juniors** on April 28th and 29th. Students will receive preparation for the exam in English and U.S. History classes. Please mark your calendar if you have a junior. This exam is extremely important. Any student who misses the exam will be required to make up the exam in May.

AP Registrations

AP exams will be administered during the first two weeks of May. Students may register for the test in March in the Guidance office.

Questions concerning AP exams should be directed to Mr. Lawson in the Guidance Office at 525-3106.

ACT and SAT Exam Dates

College-bound juniors and seniors should take either the ACT or SAT I college entrance tests. All juniors will take the ACT on the first day of the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE), April 28th. If your junior student wishes to take the exam on a national test date, or if your senior wishes to retake it, these are the remaining test dates and registration deadlines.

<u>ACT</u>	<u>ACT Registration Deadline</u>
February 6, 2010	already passed
April 6, 2010	March 5, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010

*All are national test dates, Saturday mornings, with the exception of the PSAE

<u>SAT</u>	<u>SAT Registration Deadline</u>
January 23, 2010	Deadline passed
March 13, 2010	February 4, 2010
May 1, 2010	March 25, 2010
June 5, 2010	April 29, 2010

Registration packets may be picked up in the guidance office, or you may register online at act.org. Preparing for the college entrance exams may be done in a variety of ways.

The ACT.org and Collegeboard.com web sites have test preparation links. Juniors have been given user names and passwords in English classes. See Mrs. Stahly if your student does not have a password.

During the months prior to the PSAE, junior core teachers will do planned test preparation activities each week. These same passwords can be used at home on the ACT site.

SAVE THE DATE

FAFSA Workshop on Feb. 3 at 6:00 in the Carnegie Room N and CAP Center, Lincoln Library. Another FASA workshop is on Feb. 9, 6:30-8:30 in the Commons. Bring your W-2's and 2008 or 2009 tax return. Experts will help with filling out the FASA. If you need additional help in filing the FAFSA, be sure to attend one of these meetings.

GIRLS INTERESTED IN ENGINEERING

Northwestern University is sponsoring the 39th annual Career Day for Girls on Feb. 27. Reservations are required and must be received by Feb. 12. See Mrs. Povse for application and details.

College Campus Tours

Visiting a college campus might be the first step in deciding that a student wants to continue his/her education. We want 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students to have the opportunity to tour a college campus and to

listen to admissions staff discuss requirements for entrance.

The following college campus tours have been arranged for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Feb. 18 – MacMurray & Illinois College, Jacksonville
Feb. 25 – Illinois State University, Normal
March 4 – Western Illinois University, Macomb
March 16, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

These trips will be by school bus. Most will leave at 8:30 am and return before the end of the regular school day. Many schools are providing a free lunch. Permission slips for the trips are available from Mrs. Povse in the Guidance office.

Additional trips will be planned. Mrs. Povse is accepting suggestions for additional schools.

<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/springfield/>

Visit the SHS web site to keep up with the latest school information. Test dates, test prep links, scholarship information, dates for visiting college representatives, financial aid and many more guidance topics can be found there.

Teachers' email addresses may also be found on the web site. Email is a great communication tool for teachers and parents. You can email the teacher with a question or concern and the teacher can respond quickly and succinctly. Neither party needs to spend a great deal of time and the information can be shared. There's never a busy signal or an answering machine!

MAILING OF THE SENATOR

Family subscribers to The Senator should have received all back issues by mail by the end of January. The first mailing is delayed each year because of the timetable for billing and processing of student fees at the district level.

Attendance Reminder

The Assistant Principals are responsible for tracking your child's daily attendance. You have 48 hours to call the Student Services Office, 525-3111, to clear the absence. If you do not call, your child is subject to progressive consequences including detention, Saturday detention, and in-house suspension. Please call in a timely manner.

Important Information for College-Bound Seniors

Any **scholarship** information that comes into the Guidance Office is posted on the daily announcements and on the scholarship link on the school web site. Students are responsible for contacting Mr. Lawson or Mrs. Povse, Post Secondary Coach if they want more information and/or an application. Some scholarships available at individual colleges and universities do not come to the school. Seniors should contact the Financial

Aid Offices of those schools they are most interested in to find out what is available.

Financial Aid – Before beginning a FAFSA the student and parent(s) must apply for a PIN number. Go to www.pin.ed.gov to apply. It is very important to complete the FAFSA in order to receive any type of financial aid. This should be done as soon as the family's income taxes are finished. Some schools have priority deadlines so it is best to have the taxes done ASAP and then immediately get the FAFSA completed on line. If you have difficulty completing the form, there are some resources for help. Mr. Lawson or Mrs. Povse can direct you toward these resources.

It is very important that seniors maintain grades at a high level during second semester and do not try to reduce their schedules to have an EASY last semester. Students will have to have a final transcript sent after graduation to the college or university of the student's choice. Those schools can still deny a student if they see that the student's credentials decreased during the last semester.

Attention Junior Parents:

On January 26 at 10:17 am, all juniors will attend a presentation called "Making Your College Search Count". This presentation is being presented free of charge by "Making It Count". Parents are invited to attend. It will be held in the SHS Auditorium.

Attention Senior Parents:

Seniors are requested to indicate schools to which they have been accepted and their final choice on the bulletin board outside Mr. Lawson's office. It is fun to see where all our students go. At the same time or at a later date, the students must bring to us an addressed and stamped envelope with the student's name written on the inside flap so that we can send the final transcript after graduation. This is an absolute necessity. Most schools require that they receive this before a student can begin classes. We do not send a final transcript unless this envelope is brought to us, indicating the request for the transcript to be sent.

The Guidance Office personnel have sent over 500 transcripts since August for the Class of 2010. Almost all of these have been sent with college or scholarship applications. We are proud that so many of our students are seeking post-secondary education. We appreciate that students have adhered to deadlines and have been timely in getting their applications in so that we have had sufficient time to meet deadlines. Please continue to do so during this last semester.

Freshmen EXPLORE and Sophomore PLAN Test Results are Back

The EXPLORE and PLAN Test results will be distributed to all ninth and tenth graders. These tests are used to guide course selection, determine weight of classes, guide in the development of interventions in math and English, and provide much guidance in career choice or college major. These tests are the same as ACT with the exception of a few questions. They are a good indication of how well students are progressing on the College Readiness Standards that will help them be successful in post-secondary education. A guide to understanding the test results will be sent home with students. Parents are encouraged to go over the results carefully with the student. Parents with any questions or concerns should call Mr. Lawson in the Guidance Office at 525-3106.

St. Jude Rally – Week of February 8

A committed group of students have pledged to raise funds for St. Jude Hospital. Students who register will participate in a letter-sending campaign on Feb.11 during fifth hour.. Springfield High School and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital are working together to fight against childhood cancer.

IMPORTANT PHONE #'S AT A GLANCE AT SHS

MAIN OFFICE-525-3100

Athletics, parking, accounts payable, Principal
Mrs. Stahly, Mr. Dorr

GUIDANCE OFFICE 525-3106

Transcripts, scholarship info, health & shot records
Mr. Taylarr, Mr. Schurman, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Lamsargis
Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Povse, Mrs. Fehrholz, Mrs. Jacobs

ATTENDANCE OFFICE 525-3111

Discipline Office; report absences, early dismissals,
send message to your student.
Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Greco

STUDENT SUPPORT 525-3109

Special Education, Social Work, PBIS Support,
Truancy, Nurse
Mrs. Fehrholz, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Yoggerst, Mrs. Womack, Mrs. Buecker