Over the winter break, the St. Charles North High School Drill Team headed to Memphis to perform during half time at the Liberty Bowl on the 31st of December. The 23 varsity and junior varsity dancers were one of nine selected teams from around the country who were invited to perform at the Liberty Bowl. Coach Nancy Prentiss received the invite last spring. The team was excited and honored for the opportunity to perform.

The girls had a busy but exciting trip planned which included attending a rodeo; a Chicago Bulls-Memphis Grizzlies game; and two full days of practice with famed professional choreographer, Dee Caspary, who worked with the girls on technique and the routine. The team also marched in the Liberty Bowl Parade on Beale Street before their big performance in front of thousands in the stands. This was the largest crowd the girls have danced for to date.

The girls practice six days a week and come from a long history of winning a state championship in at least one category for well over a decade now. The girls work very hard at their sport, whether in practice or at competitions. They serve throughout their community with Kick-A-Thon, the Living Well Resource Center, and Rollins Girls Club in Aurora, along with their usual commitment to dancing at the North football and basketball games. The Drill Teams recently presented a check to both the American Cancer Society and Living Well Cancer Resource Center for $50,000 each, totaling $100,000, raised for this year’s Kick-a-thon. The amount raised for the 20 year Kick-a-thon event has surpassed $778,000.00.
This Pen of the Principal is structured a bit differently, as I wish to highlight a few items that reflect feedback from our school community and a focus for ongoing work with the staff. While some is intended to be informative, other items, such as those related to the parking lot, are intended to result in action as we work together to provide a safe environment for all.

Parking Lot Safety
As an area of concern voiced by students, staff, and parents, I would like to remind all drivers of the traffic flow pattern in the SCN parking lot. The first three lanes in the parking lot are dedicated to southbound traffic to provide an outlet from the Red Gate Road entrance, facilitate drop offs, and minimize congestion in the lanes. Driving perpendicular to these lanes is not appropriate as it creates a dangerous situation for other drivers and pedestrians. Finally, I ask that you respect the pedestrian walkway starting at the sidewalk by the circle drive and running through the center of the lot. While this area is marked, cars have frequently been driving down the walkway, head-on, into pedestrians.

St. Charles North Survey
The number of respondents to this year’s D303/St. Charles North High School survey has increased. Along with that increase was an increase in the ratings for each of the factors rated by parents (Parent-Teacher Relationships, Academics, Student-Teacher Relationships, and Environment). Our students completed their component to the survey in December. An increase in each of the factors (School Belonging, Learning, and Safety) they rated was reflected. In addition to analyzing the scores for these factors, we are reviewing each individual item and the associated comments as we work to improve all aspects of St. Charles North High School. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey as it guides our practices and goal setting decisions.

Grading
Over the next few months, the SCN staff will be having conversations regarding grading practices. This will include shared learning about grading systems, best practices, and resources. We will be working with St. Charles East, Haines, Thompson, and Wredling as we discuss philosophy and continuity for our students. I look forward to sharing our progress at the monthly PTO meetings and through Pen of the Principal articles.

I am extremely proud of the continued success our students are demonstrating in and out of the classroom, some of which is included in this publication, and I look forward to our ongoing work as we partner to support all students as they prepare for their futures.

Mrs. Audra Christenson
Principal
From the Desk of the Social Workers

Statistics from stopbullying.gov state that children are the targets of bullying about once every three to six minutes from the beginning of Kindergarten to the end of first grade. Imagine the impact this can have by the time students get to the high school level. The most recent trends of bullying include cyberbullying and girls who bully each other within their friend groups. Cyberbullying is a form of mistreatment characterized by repeated exposure to physical and/or emotional aggression delivered through social networking such as Twitter, Instagram, Blogs, Vlogs, and text messaging. Relational aggression is when girls bully each other within their friend group and is done to overpower others or to gain social status. Both types of bullying are difficult to detect because often teens are embarrassed to bring this up with their parents, and the person who is doing the bullying could well be someone the student calls a “friend”. If your teen comes home and tells you that they are being bullied, validate any hurt your child expresses. Determine the FACTS of what actually happened. It is important to teach students the difference between teasing or rude comments and bullying behavior.

Five Tips To Help Prevent Bullying:

1. **Talk with and listen to your student everyday** – Ask questions about their day, including experiences on the way to and from school, in classrooms, and unstructured time. Ask about their peers and friends. Students who feel comfortable having these conversations with their parents are more likely to tell you when they are being bullied.

2. **Spend time at school, and get involved when possible** – Schools welcome parent volunteers to coordinate club activity, sporting events, and dances. Encourage children to interact with other peers outside of their friend groups.

3. **Be a good example** – When you get angry at waiters, drivers, or others, model effective communication techniques. “Anytime you speak to another person in a mean or abusive way, you’re teaching your child that bullying is okay”. (education.com)

4. **Create healthy anti-bullying habits** – Coach your students about what not to do (push, tease, and be mean to others) as well as what to do (be kind, empathize, and take turns). Also, coach your child about what to do if someone is mean to him/her (get an adult, tell the bully to stop, walk away, ignore, or find support with your friends).

5. **Make sure your child understands bullying** – Explicitly explain what it is and that it’s not normal or tolerable for them to bully, be bullied, or stand by and watch others being bullied.

If you feel that you need some support guiding your student through a bullying situation, there is help through the school. You can contact your student’s dean, guidance counselor, or social worker. Below is the contact information for the social workers at St. Charles North High School:

Jen Morken 331-228-6337
Sue Prigge 331-228-6363
Stephanie Stavropoulos 331-228-6396
News from the Nurse

Each year the State of Illinois reviews immunization requirements to determine if school aged children are adequately protected from communicable diseases. At times additional doses of a required immunization are added to the State requirements due to the number of “break-through” cases identified in the U.S.

One new requirement for the fall of 2014 is that all students, K – 12, must have received two doses of each of the following immunizations: measles, mumps, and rubella. Generally, these immunizations are given together as the MMR in the U.S.; however, students who have lived abroad during their life may not have received two doses of each immunization. I will be reviewing your child’s immunization records, and I will contact you by mail if your child will need another MMR immunization prior to school starting in the fall of 2014.

Another new requirement for those of you that have a child who will be entering 9th grade, 6th grade, or kindergarten this fall is that they will need two doses of the Varicella (chicken pox) immunization or a documented history that they have had chicken pox.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding your child’s immunization status.

Happy and healthy 2014 to you and your family.

Amy Boynton - School Nurse
331-228-6216
Amy.Boynton@d303.org
AP Environmental Science Gets Creative

Students in Mrs. McPeak’s AP Environmental Science class put their knowledge to use this season by participating in the first annual wreath building contest. They were tasked with creatively designing a wreath that represented an environmental theme from first semester. Classroom wreaths reflected such environmental themes as invasive species, ocean pollution, biomes, recycling, and by-catch (catching non-target species). Students were judged by fellow teachers based on their level of creativity and environmentally appropriate theme. In a close finish, seniors Jonathan Elliott, Craig Heitzler, and Jack Sonin were awarded first place.

Upstate Eight Student Art Awards

Congratulations to our talented student artists who earned many of the awards given out at the Upstate Art Competition in December. St. Charles North High School was very well represented in this art competition which was held at the Norris Cultural Arts Center on the East High School campus.
SCN Art Alum News

We are proud to announce that many of our students pursue studies & careers in art after graduating. Here are some of our North Star graduate stats:

Brielle Malinowki - Illinois Institute of Art, Photography, Internship with Focus Magazine
Connor Speck - Graphic Design & Theater, Illinois Wesleyan
Matt Lynch - Film, Columbia College Hollywood
Erica Chase - Northern Illinois University, Graphic Communications
Kaitlyn Veto - The University of Wisconsin, Art
Ariel Turjanski - The University of Michigan, Art
Calvin Bauer - Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Illustration

Registration for 2014-2015

During the month of February, all students will meet individually with their counselors in a highly focused ten-minute session to answer questions and confirm course requests previously entered into Home Access Center. Course verification letters and forms will be mailed home February 25 for students and parents to review and make any necessary changes. These course request forms must be returned by March 19 if changes are needed.

Please feel free to contact your child’s guidance counselor at any time during this process for further information or to answer any questions.

The last chance to change course requests is March 19.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Financial Aid Night was cancelled in January due to the cold weather. It was rescheduled and held in the auditorium on February 4 at 7:00 pm. This annual event is meant to assist families in preparing for college costs. Our speaker this year was Ruth Pusich, Financial Director at Elmhurst College. This presentation was open to all parents and students since it’s never too early or too late to learn and plan. One item Ms. Pusich mentioned in this meeting was the importance of families of seniors filing their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application as soon as possible following January 1. For more information, go to http://fafsa.ed.gov.
Seniors

Any students applying to colleges via the Common Application who are still being considered for admission will be required to submit a mid-year report and a semester transcript. Students applying to colleges and NOT using the Common Application do not need to submit a mid-year report and semester transcript unless specifically requested by the college or university. To request a mid-year report:

1. Log in to Naviance Family Connection and Request a Transcript.
2. Complete a Transcript Request Form, available in the Guidance Office or on the SCN website under “Student Services”, indicating the record be sent “after 7th semester” and submit this form to your counselor. Counselors will then submit the mid-year report and transcript electronically to the respective college. If you have any questions, see your counselor.

If your family is looking for more information about financial aid, check out one of the following web resources or make an appointment with your son/daughter’s counselor:

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission: http://collegeillinois.org
Naviance Family Connection: http://connection.naviance.com/scnorth
Free Application for Federal Student Aid: http://fafsa.ed.gov

On Wednesday, January 29 during the tutorial period all seniors attended the Senior Exit Planning Meeting. Here they received information on end of the year events including graduation and other senior activities. Guidance counselors explained the importance of finishing strong and staying on target academically. A representative from Herff-Jones distributed packets containing information about graduation announcements and senior gear.

Juniors

Beginning in March, counselors will be meeting with juniors individually to discuss their post high school plans. Parents will be invited to join the conversation. Please note that all meetings will take place during the school day.

During the week of February 3, juniors were individually called out of class to meet with their counselors in a highly focused ten-minute session to answer questions and confirm course requests. On February 25 course verification letters and forms will be mailed home for students and parents to review and make any necessary changes. If any changes are necessary, these forms must be returned by March 19, otherwise no action will be needed.

During our tutorial on February 12, a representative from Fox Valley Career Center spoke with students and answered questions about their course offerings for next year in areas such as computer technology, cosmetology, fire science, horticulture, law enforcement, and welding.
Sophomores

During the week of February 10, sophomores were individually called out of class to meet with their counselors in a highly focused ten-minute session to answer questions and confirm course requests. On February 25 course verification letters and forms will be mailed home for students and parents to review and make any necessary changes. If any changes are necessary, these forms must be returned by March 19, otherwise no action will be needed.

During our tutorial on February 12, a representative from Fox Valley Career Center spoke with students and answered questions about their course offerings for next year in areas such as computer technology, cosmetology, fire science, horticulture, law enforcement, and welding.

Freshmen

During the week of February 18, freshmen will be individually called out of class to meet with their counselors in a highly focused ten-minute session to answer questions and confirm course requests. The schedule for these meetings will be on posters throughout the building. Students are to show up at their scheduled time. Passes will not be issued. On February 25 course verification letters and forms will be mailed home for students and parents to review and make any necessary changes. If any changes are necessary, these forms must be returned by March 19, otherwise no action will be needed.

FREE MONEY!!

Wouldn’t it be great if it were that easy? In our Guidance Office, we have a scholarship file that has many local scholarships for which seniors may apply. We will have numerous medical and teaching scholarships as well as the St. Charles North PTO, Greater STC Education Foundation, Harris Bank, Kiwanis, and many others. For most applications, you will need to write an essay and have two letters of recommendation. The current list is available on our school website under “Student Services” as well as in the Guidance Office. Last year, the senior class received over $5 million worth of college and local scholarships, and this year’s seniors can do the same or better!!
STUDENT COUNCIL SILENT AUCTION

The 10th annual Silent Auction will be held on March 27, 2014, at St. Charles North High School. This event raises funds for the Sophomore Class (Class of 2016) at St. Charles North High School for their Prom in the spring of 2014. This auction is open to the public and advertised throughout the area. Please consider making a donation, and stop by to visit with our students to see some wonderful items up for bid! The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will conclude at 6:45 p.m.

If you would like to contribute a donation, please send it to the address listed below, or call and we will arrange a pick-up. In order to organize marketing and logistics, we need all donation information by Wednesday, March 19.

Thank you for considering our organization during this busy time of year. If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact the advisor listed below. We appreciate your time and efforts to help make our silent auction a success!

Class of 2016 Advisor:
Ms. Jenny Morken
jennifer.morken@d303.org
331-228-6337

Key Club Collects Donations for Over 100 Children’s Holiday Wishes

This year Key Club at St. Charles North High School has been a part of many volunteering opportunities in our community. As the years go on, more students are getting involved in this club and volunteering their time to do good for others.

One of our many accomplishments this year was collecting gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree Tags for children during the holidays. Angel Tree Tags, sponsored by the Salvation Army of the Tri-cities, helps to provide toys and necessary clothing for children in our area. As a community, we fulfilled over 100 children’s gift wishes. Key Club members, staff, and individual classes at North High School sponsored a child to make their Christmas wishes come true.

The Key Club at St. Charles North takes advantage of every volunteer opportunity that is handed to us. We have students who are eager to do whatever they can just to make a difference and put a smile on someone’s face. As the years go on, we will continue being involved in as many volunteer programs as possible, and we will happily do whatever it takes for the help our community.

Key Club Members: (Back Row L to R) Bella Fordyce, Abby Gust, Kira Nutter, Savannah Hagen, and Evelyn Kurtz. (Front Row L to R) Sarah Luna, Sarah Oshana, and Emma Spellman.
A 2010 United States Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School

IMPORTANT DATES
(Sometimes dates/times change....check school website often @ north.d303.org)

Feb 15 - North Star Olympics, 12:00 – 4:00 pm
Feb 17 - Presidents' Day (Schools Closed)
Feb 19 - Late Start Schedule
Feb 19 - SCN Variety Show, 7:30 pm, AUD
Feb 20 - Winter Recognition Assembly
Feb 20 - Wind Ensemble & HMS Band Concert, 7:30 pm, AUD
Feb 22 - Dance, 8:00 – 11:00 pm, NHS
Feb 25 - Winter Orchestra Concert, 7:30 pm, AUD
Feb 26 - Tutorial Schedule
Feb 26 - Peer Tutoring, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, 100s Pod
Feb 27 - Symphonic & Concert Band Concert, 7:30 pm, AUD
Feb 28 - Teachers Institute Day – No School for Students
Mar 3 - PTO Mtg., 7:00 pm, LRC
Mar 5 - Late Start Schedule
Mar 5 - Peer Tutoring, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, 100s Pod
Mar 6 - Empty Bowls, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, AUD Foyer
Mar 6 - Choir Concert, 7:30 pm, AUD
Mar 10 - Spanish Nat'l Honor Society Induction Ceremony, 6:30 pm, AUD
Mar 10 - Board of Education Mtg., 7:00 pm, Fox Ridge Elementary
Mar 11 - Big Band Concert, 7:30 pm, AUD
Mar 12 - Tutorial Schedule
Mar 12 - Peer Tutoring, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, 100s Pod
Mar 13 - Breakfast w/the Stars, 6:45 am, LRC
Mar 13 - Jazz Workshop & HMS Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 pm, AUD
Mar 18 - Chamber Orchestra & HMS Orchestra Concert, 7:30 pm, AUD
Mar 19 - Late Start Schedule
Mar 19 - Unsung Heroes Presentation, 7:15 am, AUD
Mar 19 - Peer Tutoring, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, 100s Pod
Mar 21 - End of 3rd Quarter
Mar 22 - NY Voices Jazz Festival
Mar 26 - Tutorial Schedule
Mar 26 - Peer Tutoring, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, 100s Pod
Mar 27 - Silent Auction, 5:00 – 6:30 pm, AUD Foyer
Mar 27 - Mr. SCN, 7:00 pm, AUD
Mar 27 - French Nat'l Honor Society Induction Ceremony, 6:30 pm, Rm 302
Mar 28 - Last Day of School before Spring Break
Mar 29 thru Apr 6 - Spring Break
Apr 7 - School Resume
Apr 7 - PTO Mtg., 7:00 pm, LRC
Apr 9 - Late Start Schedule
Apr 9 - Non-Test Portion of PSAE Test
Apr 9 - Peer Tutoring, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, 100s Pod
Apr 10 - Breakfast w/the Stars, 6:45 am, LRC
Apr 10 - Non-Test Portion of PSAE Test
Apr 14 - Board of Education Mtg., 7:00 pm, Admin. Bldg.
Apr 16 - Tutorial Schedule
Apr 16 - Peer Tutoring, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, 100s Pod