



FEBRUARY 2012 UPDATE



COLT NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Principal



ED MENDELSSOHN
PRINCIPAL

It's official! In an email from Superintendent Nancy Golden, sent to both Springfield High School and Thurston High School, the District Office rendered it's greatly anticipated decision on next year's schedule. ("District Leadership has taken the input produced through the site based processes and the High School Leadership

Team and has made the decision to move forward with a A/B Block Hybrid schedule for the 2012-13 school year.") I appreciate this decision. It supports the conclusions and recommendations made by each high school committee and that of the joint committee comprised of members from each high school and district office. While the top five reasons cited by the district are slightly different than the ones used by our own committee, they reflect a focus on instruction and what happens inside the classroom, as well as the efficiencies of our organization. In a time when many decisions are driven by the economic conditions alone, I am proud of our districts' commitment to keep quality instruction and a positive culture at the heart of their decision making process.

Recognizing there is no perfect schedule, Dr. Golden outlined the values we considered as a District and as our belief in the A/B Block Hybrid's ability to support these values. (*"We believe the A/B Block Hybrid schedule presents the greatest potential with regards to positively impacting student outcomes and supporting all students graduating - prepared for a bright and successful future... Specifically, the A/B Block Hybrid best supports:*

(A) Better equipping and supporting all 9th and 10th grade students with the intent to prepare all students for the rigors of enhanced dual enrollment opportunities (AP, College Now, etc.) in the 11th and 12th grade. Specific efforts linked to better equipping and supporting students include teaming at the 9th and 10th grade levels with intentional intervention supports for students who struggle and for students who need to be accelerated.

(B) Improving our collective instructional practice to include: Increasing the level of rigor across our entire system, providing more individualized and personalized instruction, and increasing the level of engagement for all students utilizing strategies supported by emerging research.

(C) Maintaining comprehensive programs that support well-rounded students, maximizes opportunities for students, supports elective programming.

(D) Further development and expansion of dual enrollment (AP and College Now) efforts and opportunities with our local partners (UO and LCC)

Continued on Page 5, "Principal"

Clubs & Contests

The Career and Tech. Ed. students in the **SkillsUSA club** will be participating in the SkillsUSA State Skills Competition on April 20th and 21st in Milwaukee, Oregon at the Sabin Schellenberg Skill Center. Students can chose and compete in a variety of contests. See www.skillsusa.com for a full list of contest descriptions.

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers, high school students and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. It was formerly known as VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

The Career and Technology Education Dept. at Thurston will be taking students to the Linn Benton Community College to compete in:

Arc Welding
Mig Welding
Tig Welding
Oxy-Acetylene Welding
All-Around competition
Milling
Machining
Autocad Drafting- 2D
Inventor (CAD)- 3D
Arch. Drafting- Residential floor plan

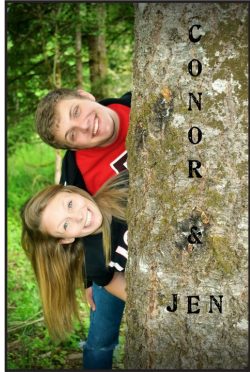
Students compete against other high school students throughout the state and can win prizes and gain valuable experience. The competition is March 1st, 2012.

The Project/Leadership Drafting students are entered in the NAWIC CAD Design Competition. Students are designing a full set of plans for a Teen Center. It is to be designed for teens by teens. The plans include a floor plan, two exterior elevations, building and wall section, electrical plan, site plan and two optional drawings (perspective, interior elevations, landscape plan or roof framing plan). Also a 400-500 word design narrative essay explaining features chosen. The contest has strict criteria the students must follow while still allowing for creativity. The plans are judged by local engineers and deadline for submission is usually the first week in April.

The THS Drafting Dept. will be participating in the 2012 CH2MHill Oregon High School Model Bridge Building Competition to be held in the Electrical Engineering Building on the OSU campus on Feb. 25th, 2012.

The object of the contest is to see who can design, build and test the most efficient bridge within the specifications.

Updates From the Associated Student Body



We would like to thank the students and their families that contributed to our Tree of Joy fundraiser! We brightened the holiday season for over 25 children from the community, and we couldn't have

done it without your gracious donations. Now that the holidays are over, we've got a lot of great activities coming up here at Thurston including, Polar Plunge, Mr. THS, the One Act Festival. On February 4th at Maurie Jacobs Park in Eugene, hundreds of people will plunge into the frigid Willamette River in support of the Special Olympics of Oregon. This year a group of passionate THS students will also be participating in the "Polar Plunge". For more information, visit www.plungeoregon.com/eugene.html.

Our Thurston Theatre Department is at it again! On February 9-11th and 16-18th

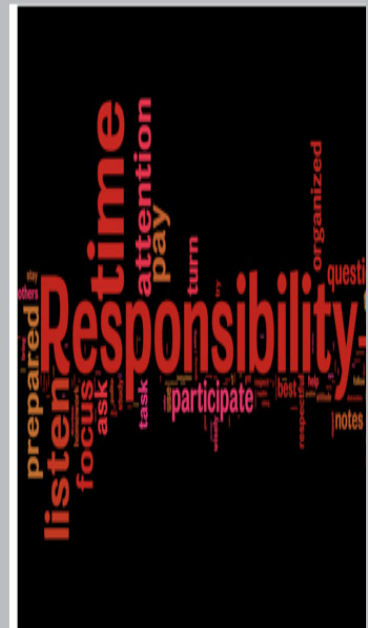
join us for the highly anticipated One-Act Festival which consists of a multitude of student-directed plays. Doors will open at 7pm, with the show beginning at 7:30PM.

The annual Mr. THS Pageant, which raises funds for the Children's Miracle Network, has begun. Ten senior boys will be selected to participate as contestants and announced at a grand pep assembly on Friday, February 10th. The pageant will be April 21st, featuring the boys' talents, dancing, and touching anecdotes of how our pageant has helped save hundreds of lives. New this year, on Valentines Day, the program will host a "Parents Night Out" This supervised childcare will be at the high school and include an evening of engaging activities from 6-9 pm and give parents an opportunity to support the Mr. THS cause and enjoy a quiet evening out. For more information on this event and the Mr. THS Pageant, please contact sarah.meston@springfield.k12.or.us. We appreciate your support of the largest student-directed fundraiser in the nation!

Jennifer Dunphy & Connor Gagner

A Glance at Freshmen Team

Personal initiative is a big part of the successful transition from middle to high school. At the beginning of second trimester, freshmen teachers and students discussed what it means for students to take responsibility in their classrooms. We collected their responses and generated a word cloud to get a visual sense of what stood out to students when they focused on taking responsibility. In the word cloud, the larger the word, the more frequently it was used to describe what it means to take responsibility in the classroom. Take a look.



the turtle said, "Not in my shell!"
Get it.

Library Fines

The library is on task to send out student statements informing you of outstanding library/text fines. Fines could consist of: Overdue fines, book damages, and/or lost books. This reminder will ONLY consist of library/text fines, not the overall fines. Students can request copies of their statements anytime in the front office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>FEBRUARY</h1>						
What's Coming Up:						
2/1	Auditions for Spring Musical 5:00PM					
2/2	Groundhog Day - Check for the shadow					
2/2	Auditions for Spring Musical 5:00PM					
2/9	One Act Festival - Auditorium 7:30PM					
2/10	Colt Friday w/Activity - Pep Assembly					
2/10	One Act Festival - Auditorium 7:30PM					
2/11	One Act Festival - Auditorium 7:30PM					
2/16	One Act Festival - Auditorium 7:30PM					
2/17	One Act Festival - Auditorium 7:30PM					
2/17	Colt Friday - 2nd Session Clubs Meet					
2/18	One Act Festival - Auditorium 7:30PM					
2/20	President's Day - No School					
3/2	Colt Friday					
3/8	Dinner & a Show - Band & Orchestra - 6:00PM - 9:00PM					
3/9	Colt Friday					
3/10	Mr. THS (tentative)					
3/10	SAT Day					

College/Career Center

The OSAC Scholarship Early Bird Deadline (Feb. 16th) is fast approaching...please encourage your students to submit their applications sooner than later. Students should complete their applications at :www.OregonStudentAid.gov

You can now follow OSAC updates via Twitter, even if you don't have a Twitter account. Just use your cell phone to send the text message: "Follow OSAC" to 40404 and you will start receiving tweets from OSAC. Standard text messaging rates apply.

Lane Community College will be hosting the annual Lane Preview Night event on February 22, 2012 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Learn about all the exciting things happening at Lane. Attend breakout sessions, explore exciting careers, meet faculty, have fun and win cool prizes!

Interested in Criminal Justice Careers? **Western Oregon University** will host a Criminal Justice Career Day on their campus on Wednesday, March 7th. It is for high school and college students interested in learning about the educational and employment opportunities in the field of criminal justice. Registration for individual students is at www.wou.edu/student/admissions/visit_campus.php. If you have questions, please call WOU Office of Admissions at 1-877-877-1593.

Scholarship Workshops:

It is time to start applying for LCC Foundation Scholarships and Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC) scholarships for the 2012-2013. Lane Community College is hosting free workshops to help with either of these scholarship applications. Call 541-463-5164 or email brysonj@lanec.edu to sign up. Workshops will be in Building 19, Room 241 on the Lane campus. Dates are:

Fri. Jan 27 1:00-2:20 (go early, parking is difficult mid-day)
Wed. Feb 1 3:30-4:50
Wed. Feb 15 3:30-4:50
Thurs. Feb 23 3:30-4:50
Wed. March 2 3:30-4:50

College search tool for mentors, parents, and students to use to help narrow down their college choices go to: <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Reference articles about college student debt can be a good motivator for students to work on finding and applying for scholarships go to: <http://community.statesmanjournal.com/blogs/watch/2011/11/06/weight-of-debt-grows-for-grads/>



Counseling Corner

Naviance Update: Last newsletter we shared with you about a new tool for post-high school planning the Counseling Department would be introducing to students this year. We are happy to report we have successfully logged on 97% of all of our students to Naviance. The counselors spent various days in the library and OAKS lab working with students in front of computers to help students log on, get familiar with the website and begin working on their assigned tasks for the year. This week, we will be doing a make up session for any new students or students who were absent on the day we had wanted to work with them. Each grade was given a list of tasks designed to help meet the Career Related Learning Experience Graduation Requirements and to also help students start planning for the future. Students are expected to continue working on Naviance throughout the school year.

9th and 10th Grade Naviance Parent Night: Now it is time for parents to log on to Naviance and see what their children have been working on. 9th and 10th grade parents will have a Parent Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 6:30pm in the library to get acquainted with Naviance Family Connection. We will have a short presentation, then you will receive your log in information for your child. We will have computers there ready for you to use so you can see what your child has been working on and what things they will be working on in the future. Juniors parents will get their log in information at Junior Night in April. Senior parents were mailed a log in code in the fall.

School-Wide ACT Testing Coming Up: Just a quick reminder, Thurston High School will again be giving the ACT battery tests on April 24th during the school day. Freshmen will take the Explore test. Sophomores will expand on what they did last year with the Plan test. Junior will take the actual ACT college-admittance exam. Students can start preparing now by going on the ACT website (act.org) and looking at the "Question of the Day." ACT also has a free app called "ACT Student" which has practice questions and test strategies. Students will sign up for the tests at school. More information will be mailed home as we get closer to the testing day. If you have any questions, please contact **Amy Stranieri, School Counselor and ACT Test Coordinator at 541-744-5024.**

Who's Who
Go to thscoltspage.com
to get contact
information for all staff.

Welcome to THS Student and Health Services!

Student services oversees school climate and campus safety, while providing parents, students, staff support and information.

Introducing the Staff

Lesa Haley: Asst. Principal & Head of Student Services
Jared Taylor: Dean of Students
Noland Peebles: Campus Monitor
Officer Vetter: School Resource Officer/Springfield Police

Support Staff:

Brenda James: Administrative Secretary
MaryAnn Hall: Attendance Secretary & Data Entry

Health Center:

Sue Bailey: School Nurse
Lisa Minium: Health Aid & Asst. Clerical Attendance



LESA HALEY
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Hours: 7:30-4pm
Phone: (541)744-5048
Email: lesa.haley@springfield.k12.or.us
jared.taylor@springfield.k12.or.us

Parking Continued:

The current fine is \$10 for each violation.

Ticket 1= \$10 fine

Ticket 2= \$10 fine, may lose parking privilege on campus 1 week

Ticket 3= \$10 fine, may lose parking privilege on campus rest of year

Ticket 4 =\$10 fine, may lose parking privilege for remaining time at THS.

*Students who receive more than 5 tickets, in addition to being fined, may also face additional school consequences up to and including suspension.

Parking Reminders:

As the winter weather arrives we sometimes act in a hurry. It is easy to forget how our actions in the parking lot may affect others, including their safety. Please help student services and our student body by reviewing and following the THS parking rules below. Our goal is to maintain a safe and secure parking lot for students, staff, and visiting community members. Everyone who drives on Thurston's campus has a role to play in ensuring a safe and secure campus. Consequently, the use and parking of motor vehicles on campus is a privilege, not a right.

Regulations:

1. Register all vehicles and pay the yearly \$25 fee
2. Park in his/her assigned parking space
3. Maintain a safe and defensive attitude about driving/parking on campus.
4. Student parking permits must be in clear view from the front drivers side window when automobiles are parked on campus.

Vehicles in violation of any parking rules and regulations may be towed. The owner of the vehicle is responsible for all expenses resulting from the towing and storage of a vehicle. Parking Rules are as follows:

- Unsafe driving
- No visible parking sticker displayed
- Vehicle not registered with the school
- (\$25.00 Registration Fee), parked in an incorrect assigned parking space, parked in a visitor space
- Underclass student parked in the Senior lot
- Parking in a staff/Reserved parking space
- Blocking entrance to building or driveway
- Improperly parked, blocking access
- Parked in a handicap zone
- Parked in a "No parking" zone, parked in a yellow zone
- Parked on grass/sidewalk/curb; driving over grass/sidewalk/curb

Attendance Hotline

(541) 744-5027

Did you know that it is now as easy as calling our attendance hotline, any time of day, to excuse your student? Yes, this line is available, 24 hours a day! Please remember to call to excuse your student within the required 48 hours of the absence per our policy

Student Help

For the first time ever Thurston High School has a Math Resource Center. It has been a great success!

These students are receiving help on homework, making up tests, completing tests, taking re-tests and getting quick tutorials on lessons. All students are welcome.

Hours are:

Both lunches periods in room 113 this trimester.

Continued.....

Weather Closure Info

The District office has released the following updated information for parents regarding weather closures. In the event of a weather forecast predicting possible snow or ice, designated staff take to the roads between 4:00 and 6:00 a.m. to assess travel conditions on the bus routes. They also take radar maps and forecasts into account, and will determine by 6:30 a.m. at the latest whether schools will be closed, on delay, or operating as usual.

In the event of a weather closure, all after-school activities are cancelled, including athletic games, practices, and building rentals. If the weather causes a delayed start, morning kindergartens are canceled.

The district uses the FlashAlert service as the primary means of getting information out to the public as quickly as possible. To use this online service, visit the district website at www.sps.lane.edu/weather and click on the FlashAlert link. (You can also access this page by clicking on "Weather" under Hot Topics on the home page.) You may register on the FlashAlert site to receive text or email alerts directly.

You can also tune into the local TV stations (KEZI-TV 9, KVAL-TV 13, and KMTR-TV 16) and local radio stations.

If you don't hear any information about Springfield Public Schools, you can assume that the schools are operating on their normal schedules. If conditions warrant it, families who live at certain higher elevations may need to bring their child(ren) to a lower elevation to catch the bus. The district has developed snow routes that may be used if hazardous road conditions exist. If buses will be running snow routes it will be clearly communicated on the website as well as through local media. Snow routes will be posted on the District's website at www.sps.lane.edu/busroutes.

Principal: Continued from Page 1

(E) A fifth value that was identified by the Board is the desire to have both comprehensive high schools on a similar schedule. This value supports both the desire to further expand dual enrollment opportunities and to support maintaining our comprehensive programs. This value also recognizes the level of programming that has been cut over the past four years.")

We know this change will cause some to feel nervous and generate many questions. We want to be sensitive this anxiety and responsive. That is why during the week of forecasting, February 20th – 24th we will be meeting with freshmen, sophomores and juniors to explain next year's schedule. We will show them examples of what their schedule might look like, explain why we believe this is a good decision and answer any questions. We are also planning on hosting multiple information nights to provide the same services for parents and interested community members.

I have said this before and believe it to be true, if you have the right intention and are not afraid of the hard work required to see it through, the right outcome will occur. I have complete confidence in our community's intentions for our children and there is no questioning how hard we are willing to work.

Multi-Cultural Club

The Multicultural Club is sponsoring Gabriella Todd, a 1 year old community member who has Craniosynostosis. This condition causes her skull to fuse not allowing for proper growth of her brain. The birth defect affects 1 in 2000 children and without surgical treatment can lead to vision or hearing loss and brain damage.

Papas Pizza will support the clubs efforts by hosting a donation night on February 13th. 50% of the value of the food purchased will go to the cause. Patrons will need to announce their intent to contribute to the Gabriella Todd Medical Fund or present a flyer. Flyers can be obtained from Thurston High School. Mark your calendars! In addition, the club will also be selling chicken and pork tamales during the months of February and April. Please contact Lori Stock for more information at 744-5155 or email at lori.stock@springfield.k12.or.us.

Health Room

Parents reminded to check children's immunization records before exclusion day. Exclusion day is Wednesday, Feb. 15.

The new year is here and the Oregon Immunization Program wants to remind parents now is the time to make sure kids' vaccination records are complete. State law requires that all children in public and private schools, preschools, Head Start and certified child care facilities have up-to-date immunizations, or have a religious or medical exemption.

Parents or guardians will receive a letter in late January or early February if their child's immunization record shows he or she has not received the required vaccinations. Children will not be able to attend school or child care starting February 15, 2012, if their records on file show missing immunizations.

"We want to make sure children can go to school in a safe, healthy environment free from vaccine-preventable diseases," said Stacy de Assis Matthews, immunization school law coordinator in the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division. This year, parents should take note of some important information. Tdap vaccine requirement: Tdap vaccine is required for seventh- through 10th-graders. Tdap is a tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) booster. Whooping cough is a serious health concern in Oregon with about 300 cases recorded in 2011. Hepatitis A vaccine requirement: The hepatitis A vaccine, which protects against a communicable viral infection, is a two-dose series now required for children 18 months through third grade. Parents seeking immunizations for their children should contact their health care provider or local health department, or call Oregon SafeNet at 1-800-SAFENET or 1-800-723-3638. No one can be turned away from a local health department because of the inability to pay for required vaccines. Additional information on school immunizations can be found on the Oregon Public Health website at <http://1.usa.gov/OregonSchool>.

Circuits, Servos, and Screws: It Can Only Mean Robotics

By Madison Wilson

Gears whirr and circuits spark as the Thurston High School Robotics teams prepare for this year's challenge. There are two teams that are part of the THS Robotics program: A girls' team and a boys' team. Both teams have optimistic outlooks for this year's competition. When asked what he wants to accomplish this year, team captain Chris Wilson said, "I would like to place high and go on to state, hopefully." The boy's team has high expectations and will no doubt achieve them.

Robotics started in 2008 with Chris Wilson and Kyle Kohl as the first pioneering members who were freshmen at the time. Soon after, Jacob Maxwell, then a senior, and Jonathan Anderson, a junior, joined, officially forming the boy's team. The girl's team started up the next year with sophomores Mikayla Mehl and Ashley Greenacre, and junior Lindsey Hood. This year there are three mentors keeping the robotics program running at Thurston: Norman Eigner, Bob Green, and Polly Kohl. Eigner and Green have mentored the teams since the program began, and Mrs. Kohl officially joined them this year. Each of them plays a massive role in keeping the teams on track and organized.

The structure of the class has morphed into a more business-oriented structure this year. The teams have been instructed to treat Eigner and Green as clients for whom they are building the robot for. To add to the new structure, there are weekly progress meetings to keep them on track.

"It'll help us prepare for business life and public speaking," sophomore Kyia Wright said. "It

will also help with communication and problem solving skills."

There are many ways robotics helps the students. The most prominent way is students can get scholarships through FTC (First Tech Challenge), the organization that holds the competitions. Also, it helps students wanting to go into engineering as a career by presenting real-world challenges to them and testing them to see if they can come up with a solution. All members are assigned roles as part of the team. "My role is lead designer, which means I have to lead the designing process and help come up with the final design," senior Justine Zeni said.

Then of course, what are they working towards? The competition. Every year the FTC challenge is in February. There are many different locations in which the teams compete. This year Thurston's two teams will travel to the Evergreen Air & Space Museum in McMinnville and to Oregon State University to compete. All sorts of teams come out of the woodwork to compete and even join forces all for the goal of making their hard work pay off.

