



Elmwood Park High School



November 2011

James Jennings, Principal
Jim Edwards, Assistant Principal

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Last year's changes to our academic lab are having a positive impact on students' grades. As part of our PBIS initiative, students who have a "C" or better in all of their classes are entitled to go to a privilege area during academic lab. These areas include the gym, cafeteria, auditorium, and the outside east lawn. This policy provides a positive incentive to earn good grades while at the same time lowers the academic lab class size numbers to increase the individual instruction time for students who are struggling academically. Parents can assist the school by logging on to their child's PowerSchool account to track grades, missing assignments and attendance. I am confident that by working together we will continue to see our students improve their academic performance. Please contact the school office at 583-6479 if you need your login information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- Nov 1 Booster Club Meeting 7 pm-LGI
- Nov 3 Fall Sports Awards 7 pm-gym
- Nov 8 8th gr Curriculum Night 6 pm-cafe
- Nov 11 No School for Students
- Nov 18-20 Fall Play **'Much Ado About Nothing** Fri/Sat 7 pm; Sun 2 pm
- Nov 17 Parent Conferences 3:30-7 pm
- Nov 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday No School
- Dec 6 Booster Club Meeting 7 pm-LGI
- Dec 9 Senior Cap/Gown orders
- Dec 14 Winter Band Concert 7 pm-aud
- Dec 20 Winter Choral Concert 7 pm-aud
- Dec 21-22 Final Exams, Early Release 11:30
- Dec 23-Jan 8 Winter Break
- Jan 9 School Resumes, beginning of second semester

LONG RANGE PLANNING FORUMS TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER

In an effort to solicit public input about the creation of a new long range plan for the District, parents and community members are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming public forums being held by the District. The next forum will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at 7 p.m. in the Elmwood Park High School library. Input will be requested on district finances, facilities and operations, curriculum and instruction, and technology. Each meeting will begin with a short overview of the district and the previous Educational Landscape Plan, followed by group work to identify areas needing attention over the upcoming years. We hope you will consider attending!

EPHS 8th GRADE CURRICULUM NIGHT

Elmwood Park High School will be hosting Elmwood Park High School Curriculum Night; an Eighth-Grade Open House for parents and students on Tuesday, November 8. Curriculum Night will begin at 6:00 pm with a social gathering in the gymnasium which will afford you the opportunity to speak directly with the coaches and sponsors of our sports, activities, and clubs. The program will continue in the high school auditorium at 6:30 pm with a brief overview of EPHS and the opportunities available for our students. Following the principal's presentation, building tours will be arranged. Each tour will consist of nine curricular stations, that will provide an in-depth look at curriculum for specific academic areas. There will also be time allotted to ask any questions you may have. Please join us on November 8 to gather the information necessary to make your high school years as successful as possible. Elmwood Park High School is committed to improving education and achieving excellence in all areas.

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY CONTEST, VOTE FOR EPHS CLASSMATE!

High school students in the 12 counties served by the Illinois Tollway participated in a contest by submitting entries from one of three transportation-related themes, including Distracted Driving, "Green" Transportation and Tollway of the Future. Thirty high school students from across Northern Illinois have been selected as semi-finalists in a student art contest sponsored by the Illinois Tollway, Blick Art Materials and U.S. Equities to select the cover artwork for the 2012 Illinois Tollway

Map. **Dominika Rog has been chosen to continue as a semi-finalist in the upcoming voting. Entries were also submitted by Daniel Orr and Diana Mazurok.**

Artwork from the 30 semi-finalists will be exhibited at the seven Tollway Oases on a display where customers can view the artwork. Artwork created by the grand prize winner will be featured on the cover of the Tollway's 2012 map.

PARENT CONFERENCES NOVEMBER 17

Second term parent conferences will be held on Thursday, November 17 from 3:30—7:00 pm. Please feel free to stop in any time between 3:30 and 7 pm. Appointments are not necessary. Also remember that all staff may be contacted via email by their lastnameinitial@epcusd401.org

FALL PLAY

Much Ado is a modernized adaptation of William Shakespeare's comedy, ***Much Ado About Nothing***. Set in a 1960's office, the EPHS version of this classic breaks down the language barrier for modern audiences and appeals to fans of the retro style of the 60's. Appropriate for all audiences, ***Much Ado*** premieres Friday and Saturday, November 18, 19 at 7:00 pm; Sunday November 20 at 2:00 pm.

DECA

Congratulations to senior Dan Bednarczyk, who was elected Illinois DECA Vice-President on October 5 after achieving the highest score on the qualification test and impressing business leaders as part of the screening. He was then elected by delegates from each state DECA chapter.

Dan will be part of the State Action Team directing the communication and activities of DECA chapters across the state and during the State Career Development Conference in March. As part of that program of work, the State Action Team instituted a communication program called I-Connect which enables leaders from all the DECA chapters to connect with the officers to promote entrepreneurship and marketing education, and to develop business partnerships and a charitable partnership with the Epilepsy Foundation. This unique leadership opportunity allows Dan to network with business leaders, collaborate with marketing and entrepreneurship students across the state and develop his own leadership and organizational skills.

BAND AND CHOIR AWARD

Congratulations to the following students who were selected for District 1 Illinois Music Educators' Association Band and Choir:

Lauren Prosser, Choir

Jessica Kouloumbas, Band

These students were selected from more than 2,000 auditionees from Chicago-area high school music programs. Great job!

KEY CLUB

Key Club raised \$3,000 for Kiwanis Peanut Days. Key Club members also worked on the Civic Center Haunted House on Friday to get ready for Halloween.

WINTER SPORTS

Winter sport sign up has begun! Girls' basketball and cheerleading sign up began on October 17 and boys' basketball and wrestling sign up began on October 31 . Practice for girls' basketball began on October 31 , while boys' basketball and wrestling begins today, November 7 . Athletes will need to be up to date with school fees, and with proper clearance from the district office, if necessary. Students must have a current physical, Insurance and permission form, concussion form along with the \$55.00 sport fee. All forms and money should be brought to the athletic office. Any questions, please contact the athletic department at 708-583-5468.

HEALTH NOTE

The virus season is upon us. We all need to do some simple things to help keep healthy such as:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough, sneeze or yawn. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Wash your hands before eating. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Stay home if you are sick *until at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever (100 degrees F or 37.8 degrees C) or signs of a fever (without the use of a fever-reducing medicine).*

ELMWOOD PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY ON-GOING BOOK SALE

Last year, the Friends of the Library group has installed a bookcase for year-round selling of books in the Korbel Room (just behind the computer area) and have priced the books for sale at a very nominal price. They have children books, fiction, non-fiction, how-to, movies, dvd's, and talking books. A coin box has been provided for those who select books. Funds will aid in library programs; over the last six years \$13,000 has been donated to the public library.

LEYDEN FOOD PANTRY

Leyden Township and EPHS Key Club will be collecting food items for needy families in our township. Feel free to drop off non-perishable items in the principal's office and help local families in need. We are also collecting new, unwrapped toys for needy children in Leyden Township at this time.

STUDENT CAFETERIA PAYMENT SYSTEM

EPCUSD 401 has once again implemented a computerized payment system for lunches and parents now have the opportunity to prepay lunch accounts. You may send a check made payable to Elmwood Park High School to the cafeteria with your student, mail it to the school, or contact Mrs. McCarthy in the bookstore if you wish to put lunch money on your credit card. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover will be accepted. For more information regarding credit card payments, please contact Mrs. McCarthy at (708) 583-5842.

SENIOR COLLEGE VISITS

Senior students interested in visiting colleges are allowed to do so during school hours provided that they fill out a permission form and are granted approval beforehand. We encourage students to visit colleges as an important part of their college search process. Attending open houses and on campus tours can help students and parents evaluate which schools will be a good fit for their needs. Be sure to stop in the guidance office to get an advanced absence form before going on your college visit.

ATTENDANCE

Parents, please be sure to call the attendance line 583-6400 or 452-7272 ext 7134 by 9:00 am on the day of your child's absence. Calls received after 9:00 am will be considered unexcused.

TRUANCY ORDINANCE \$25 — \$750 FINE

The town of River Grove has passed a truancy ordinance which states that students who are unexcused absent from school will be ticketed by the River Grove Police Department and will be required to show up in court with their parents. This applies to all students at EPHS. Students can be fined \$25-\$750 per offense. If you have any questions please see your dean, Mr. Edwards or Mr. Jennings.

GRADUATION

EPHS Graduation will take place on Friday, May 18, 2012, at 7 pm in the high school gymnasium.

