



# ALLEMAN NEWSLETTER

October 2009

## *From the Principal's Desk*

### **REPORT CARDS ARE COMING (OCTOBER 20th)**

Parents who have not yet attended a report card night at Alleman are usually eager to know how the evening works. It works like this .....

Report cards are available in the Morris Gym Lobby. Teachers are seated at tables in the Morris and Casey Gyms. Parents may visit the teachers of their choice and there are no set appointment times. Pre-lettered teacher name cards and locator sheets will help you find the teachers. Counselors and administrators are also present and available to assist you.

We appreciate your graciousness and patience at report card days, since some lines of parents may be longer than others. (The first evening of fall semester report card day is always the busiest.) Our teachers want to answer all of your questions, but they do not always have the time to discuss every student's progress in as much detail as some parents want or need to hear. We ask our teachers to keep things moving along and we count on parents to be aware of other parents waiting behind them. If you feel that you need or want more time and attention from a teacher, ask that teacher to meet with you again at a mutually convenient time. If you prefer, you may make arrangements over the phone using voice mail.

### **REPORT CARD DAY—ONE CHANGE**

Please remember that both afternoon and evening parent/teacher conferences will be on one day only this year. October 20th is the day. Afternoon session 1:00-3:00 p.m. Evening session 6:00-8:30 p.m. Dismissal for students on Oct. 20th & 21st will be 11:45. **There will be classes all day on Friday, October 23rd.**

### **1ST QUARTER REPORT CARD CLARIFICATION ABOUT CLASS RANK & GPA**

**Current GPA** is accurate on the first quarter report card. However, class rank and cumulative GPA are not computed until the end of the semester. Those information boxes are only updated at the conclusion of a semester class.

### **FIRST SEMESTER EXAMS JUST BE THERE!!!**

All students are expected to be in school on time and prepared to take final exams on December 17th, 18th, 21st, and 22nd. We ask that parents respect those exam days and plan to begin any holiday family travel only after noon on the 22nd. With this information in mind and with some advance planning, it is rare that there would be any conflicts with finals. If a legitimate conflict does occur, and may have an impact on exams, parents must write a letter of explanation for the school ahead of time since only the principal may approve alternate arrangements for finals. If a student receives administrative approval for an alternate arrangement, the student will be given an official form signed by the principal and this form must be given to the teacher by the student. Only after the teacher has the signed form in hand can he/she discuss an alternative date.

### **LOS EXÁMENES FINALES**

Es una expectativa que todos los estudiantes estén en escuela a tiempo y preparados para tomar los exámenes finales el 17, 18, 21 y 22 de diciembre. Pedimos que los padres respeten esos días de exámenes y que empiecen las vacaciones con familia después de las 12:00 de la tarde el 22 de diciembre. Es importante que los padres tengan esta información en cuenta cuando están planeando para los días de fiesta. Es raro que conflictos ocurran cuando los padres tomen en cuenta los días de exámenes. Sin embargo, si hay un conflicto legítimo, los padres deben de escribir una carta explicando la situación a la escuela en avance. Solamente el director de la escuela puede aprobar los arreglos alternativos para los exámenes finales. Si un estudiante recibe aprobación administrativa para un arreglo alternativo el estudiante será dado un documento oficial y este documento debe de ser enseñado a cada maestro por el estudiante. Después de enseñarle el documento al maestro el estudiante puede arreglar una cita alternativa para tomar el examen final.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

We no longer mail progress reports home. Quarter report cards will be mailed home. Information on how to logon to Parent Connect to check this information was sent home with your student in early September. If you need another copy of this information please call the office at 786-7793. We will be happy to print your student's progress report and send it home with him/her if you would like. Again, please call the office to make this request.

### *News from around the School*

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY'S SENIOR CITIZENS' DINNER

National Honor Society members and their parents are reminded that they will be hosting the annual Senior Citizen's dinner on October 21st. Doors open at 5:00 P.M. and dinner will be served at 5:30 P.M. in the cafeteria. All members of N.H.S. must participate by performing one hour of service and furnishing 2 home-cooked dishes for the dinner. Due to the amount of food left over in the past few years, we ask that each covered dish you bring serve only 8 people. It would also be very helpful if you would send your food in disposable containers, eliminating the need to wash and return serving dishes.

In addition, parent volunteers are needed to help serve the dinner. If you can help, please contact Mrs. Miner or Mr. Boudro, N.H.S. sponsors, at 786-7793 or by e-mail at [rminer@allemanhighschool.org](mailto:rminer@allemanhighschool.org) or [jboudro@allemanhighschool.org](mailto:jboudro@allemanhighschool.org).

### *News from the Booster Club*

If you have not yet joined the Booster Club and have a son/daughter participating in sports, please do so. Memberships are \$20.00 and can be sent into the school office at any time.

October 25th, 2009 is our Annual Pancake Breakfast in the school cafeteria from 8:30 to 12:00 noon. Good food and company, so please join us.

October's Booster Club meeting will be held October 14th, 2009.

### *News from the Drama Department*

## ALLEMAN PRESENTS... "THE WIZARD OF OZ"

Alleman will present "The Wizard of Oz" on October 22nd and 24th at 7:00 P.M. and October 25th at 4:00 PM in the Dr. Tracey Spaeth Performing Arts Center. This is the 70th Anniversary of the movie, so we are proud to present such a time-honored family-friendly show.

This year's show features a cast of 30 high school students, as well as 13 partner school students who are playing Munchkins and flying monkeys. Lead roles are being played by seniors Derek Bettis as Professor Marvel/the Wizard, Alex Wendell as Miss Gultch/Wicked Witch, J.T. Scarpinato as the Scarecrow and Brandon Banaszek as the Lion, juniors Elisabeth Gonzalez as Dorothy and Ellee Murphey as Auntie Em/Glinda, and sophomores Patrick Ewald as the Tinman and Max VanHoe as Uncle Henry/Guard.

The show is being directed by Tom Swegle, Alleman French III and IV teacher, and choreographed by Linda McGraw. Student assistant director is senior Morgan Campbell. The music director is Cindy Ramos-Parmley and accompanist is Andrea Gonzalez. Costumes are being designed by Buffy McLaughlin. There are also 12 students who make up the backstage crew.

Admission to the show is \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and \$4 for students. In a change from last year, the Sunday matinee will be at 4:00 PM. Doors will open one hour before curtain for each performance.

***From The Development Office***

Please support Alleman High School throughout the year in one of the following fundraising activities:

- *2010 Pioneer Calendar Sale* – Parents, please help us! Every student is asked to sell 5 calendars. All students benefit from this fundraiser, as it allows Alleman to keep our tuition at a reasonable rate, and give each student \$1275 towards tuition. Otherwise, tuition would be \$4575.
- *Annual Holiday Luncheon* – November 16 at The Abbey Station – Seating is limited to the first 250 paid reservations. This event sells out quickly so please get your reservations in early.
- *All Souls Memorial* – Remember your loved ones at all daily Alleman masses during the month of November. Mass is daily at 7:25 a.m. in the Alleman Chapel.
- *Year-End Appeal* – If you are in a position to help, our year-end appeal will focus on a new entrance for security purposes at the high school. It is a necessity for the safety of our students. Also, we would like to enlarge our student parking lot so that the students will not need to park on the street near the school.
- *Dream House 2010* - Only 3500 shares sold, with a 1 in 140 chance of winning a prize! This grand prize is a **Quarter of a Million** dollars! Don't forget the first Earlybird Drawing on October 15 for \$1500. Get your share in early!
- *Cookie Orders* – Remember your son or daughter on birthdays or any happy occasion with a 12" decorated cookie. Place your orders through the Development Office. Cost \$10.00.
- *2010 Heritage Ball* – Mark your calendars and plan to attend March 27, 2010 at the I-Wireless Center. It will be an evening of much enjoyment.

Thank you for all you do for Alleman High School. Together, we can ensure that our students receive a *“higher level of education,”* and are well prepared for whatever college they attend.

God Bless,  
Fr. Mirabelli

## **ATTENTION PARENTS OF SENIOR STUDENTS COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Applying to colleges is becoming more and more competitive. Therefore, early application to the colleges of your student's choice is extremely important. Many of the Illinois State Universities have early priority deadlines after which names will be placed on a wait list. For example, the University of Illinois – Urbana and Illinois State University have an October 30<sup>th</sup> priority deadline. Almost 90% of the incoming freshman class spots are filled typically by early application deadline, leaving only 10% open for students on the wait list. Students interested in attending these institutions should not miss this deadline. ALL college applications, letters of recommendation, requests for transcripts and any other material to be included with transcripts must be into the **Counseling Office no later than October 20**. This is to ensure that mailing will take place prior to those priority deadlines. Applications to other universities should be sent before we leave for Christmas break. Since the process takes time for us to complete, we cannot guarantee that the mailing of such requests will be complete on time if the request is received only one or two days before deadlines. Most colleges and universities will accept applications online. **Please read all the directions carefully – making sure you do everything that is needed.** *(some applications also have a form for the Counselor to fill out – make sure you print that out and bring it to your Counselor when you request the transcripts.)* No matter how your student decides to apply to a college/university, a transcript will have to be sent from Alleman. All requests for transcripts must be made through the student's counselor and the transcript will be mailed from Alleman. These requests will be honored on a first come first serve basis. We will make every effort to get them out in a timely fashion, however, please allow 3 to 4 days for processing. Remember that an application is not complete until the college/university receives an official transcript directly from Alleman. If you have any questions about the college application process, please contact anyone in the Counseling Office.

## **ACT SCORES**

Some of the colleges are requesting that they receive the ACT scores directly from ACT. Alleman receives an official sticker with the student's scores on them and that sticker is placed on their transcripts. For some colleges this may be sufficient, however, a few colleges, including University of Illinois starting next year (2010), are requesting that ACT send scores directly to them. If your student did not write-in the College/University that he/she is applying to on the ACT form when they took the test, you might have to contact ACT to send your son/daughter's individual scores to them. Before sending a transcript, please make sure you find out if the College will accept the ACT sticker that is on their transcripts or if you need to contact ACT to send a copy of the official scores directly to the College/University.

## **INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE**

For any information about the Alleman Counseling Department, please visit our website at [www.allemanhighschool.org](http://www.allemanhighschool.org). Click on "Academics", then "Counseling" and finally "Counseling Website". Go to the sitemap on the left hand side and see information about the Counseling Department and how to reach your student's Counselor. You will also be able to check out when College Representatives will be visiting with students at Alleman; keep updated on College Scholarships that Alleman has received as well as resources for the students use and what students need to do to go on College Visits.

*Note: New for next year (2010), the University of Illinois will need to have ACT tests scores from ACT by the October 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, or applicants will be denied.*

## **ATTENTION PARENTS OF SOPHOMORE STUDENTS REGARDING PLAN TESTING**

This year the PLAN Assessment (an ACT product) will be given to all sophomores on November 6, 2009. This will take place during the regular school day. The PLAN is the second standardized assessment given to students at Alleman. (the first was the EXPLORE given to incoming freshmen.) The PLAN assessment is important not only because it gives information on student growth but because it is also a practice ACT. Part of this assessment is a shortened version of the ACT. The students get to experience the kind of questions they will be seeing on the ACT when they take it as a junior. The PLAN also gives a very accurate prediction of what the individual student's ACT Composite Score range will be when they take the ACT as a junior. The other portion of the assessment is a Career Interest inventory which can aid you and your student in planning for the future. Please make every effort to see that you student is in attendance on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Deacon Granet will be talking to the sophomores a few weeks before the PLAN is taken and information will be given to the students to bring home and share with their parents/guardians. If you have any questions about the PLAN, please contact Deacon Granet either by phone or e-mail

## **PSAT TEST**

The PSAT test will be given on Saturday, October 17, 2009 – 8:00 am – 11:00 am in the Alleman Cafeteria. The top half of the junior class and the top 20 of the sophomore class will be invited to attend, however any Sophomore or Junior is welcome to sign-up. The PSAT will estimate how well the student will do on the SAT, provide practice for the SAT and is the first step to nomination as a National Merit Scholar. Even if the student takes the PSAT as a sophomore, they must take it again as a junior in order to be considered for the National Merit Scholar Program. The students may register in the Counseling Department by October 6<sup>th</sup>, and the cost is \$15.00.

**Please note the deadline to sign up for the test is October 6<sup>th</sup>. Money must be turned in at that time and the student will receive a Study Booklet for the test!**

## **SIGMA ALPHA DELTA**

Our pledge campaign has been a big success and we now have over 150 members. Our first event was a tailgate at Augie fields, and our next event will be "Gaming Unplugged" with our host, Mr. Boudro, on Friday, October 16 from 6:00 – 9:00 in the Alleman High School Cafeteria. It is a \$2.00 donation for all attendees that will in turn be donated to the Student Hunger Drive. The \$2.00 donation will be counted toward each attendee's 1<sup>st</sup> period challenge. There will be games, Subway sandwiches, chips, pop, desserts and chances to win prizes. Come join the fun without alcohol, drugs and degrading. Ms. Gau will even be in attendance --- so match your wits against Ms. Gau and benefit the Food Drive at the same time.

Anyone interested in joining Sigma can pick up a pledge form from Counseling. Dues are \$10.00 and are to be paid at time of sign-up. In turn you will receive, through November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 Younkers coupon books valued at \$5.00 a piece to sell or redeem at Younkers on Saturday, November 14.

***So JOIN TODAY and have fun above the influence!***

NOTE: Be sure to mark your calendars for November 2 – Sigma will host a meeting for all members in the AHS Cafeteria right after school.

### ***Help still needed***

Still need parents to help solicit donations for the Heritage Ball silent auction. A letter detailing all of the specifics was included in last month's newsletter. It is a great way to earn all ten of your volunteer service hours. If you are willing to help, please complete the form below and turn in to the Main Office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am willing to help solicit gifts for the Heritage Ball silent auction.

### ***Information from Yearbook Staff***

#### ***SENIOR PICTURES***

All senior pictures for yearbook must be taken at Westin Photo Studio. Please call 762-3326 for an appointment. Senior pictures for the yearbook are due to Sister M. Ruth by December 18, 2009. A reminder to senior students that the proper dress code for these pictures is as follows:

Gentlemen: Formal wear  
You must wear a tie—No sweater  
No earrings  
Appropriate hair cut

Ladies: Formal wear  
No sweaters—Shoulders covered  
No low cut front on dress  
Earrings—max. 2 in each ear

#### ***PRINTER CARTRIDGES AND CELL PHONES***

Wondering what to do with those empty printer cartridges and old cell phones? Well, let us help you by helping us! The Yearbook staff is once again collecting empty printer cartridges, cell phones and cell phone batteries. Please send them or bring them to the Main Office. Thanks so much for your help.

#### ***SENIOR PARENTS***

If you would like to include a baby picture with a short message to your graduating senior to be published in this year's Year Book, here is the offer. Please submit an inexpensive photo (no larger than 4x6) with a personal message and \$50.00. You may pay with check or cash. Checks should be made payable to Alleman Yearbook.

Please submit all to Sister Ruth through the Main Office. Deadline for this offer is January 8, 2010.

Sister M. Ruth

## *News from the Library*

As part of the library budget, Alleman provides students with subscriptions to several research databases. Each student was given a library brochure in English class with the website URL's and the access passwords. Listed below is a copy of that information for your use at home. Please remember that these subscriptions are for Alleman student use only and should not be provided to other people for use as it would be a violation of our agreement with the providers. Links to each of the databases can be found on the Alleman Library webpage.

### **Ebsco**

a student research center  
<http://search.epnet.com>  
User id: ahs  
Password: pioneers

### **FirstSearch**

topic/keyword research database  
full-text magazine articles can be found at WilsonSelect Plus  
<http://newfirstsearch.oclc.org>  
Authorization: 100109800  
Password: wxyy!mxss

### **Britannica Online**

an online encyclopedia  
[www.school.eb.com](http://www.school.eb.com)  
Username: ahs  
Password: britannica

### **Discovering Collection**

research database  
contains essays, criticisms, biographies, timelines, primary documents and more  
<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/rock71720>  
Password: pioneers

### **Opposing Viewpoints**

pro/con essays on current controversial topics  
<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/rock71720>  
Password: pioneers

### **PrairieCat online catalog**

electronic card catalog for AHS and surrounding libraries  
<http://catalog.prairiecat.info>

### **The Quad-City Times e-edition**

an electronic edition of the daily newspaper  
click on e-edition in toolbar  
<http://qctimes.com>

## *News from the Nurse's Office*

### **FLU SEASON**

Anyone who watches television or reads the newspaper must know that flu season is here. Now there is even more concern because of the appearance of H1N1 (or swine flu) on the scene. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health the single best way to protect against seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year when the yearly vaccinations become available. In addition to the seasonal flu vaccine, this year there is an H1N1 flu vaccine with shipments expected to start in mid-October and be distributed according to risk factors. In general, anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting the flu should get vaccinated.

Besides vaccinations, everyone should practice good hygiene. Remember the 3 C's **Clean** - wash your hands frequently and thoroughly to prevent the spread of germs. **Cover** - your cough and sneeze with a tissue or sleeve, not your hand. And **Contain** - contain your germs. **Stay home if you are sick** for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. Your fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Symptoms of H1N1 are similar to the seasonal flu. They include fever and chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, fatigue, headache and body aches and sometimes nausea and vomiting or diarrhea.

You can find additional information about the flu at these web sites: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), [www.Ready.illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.illinois.gov) or [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu).