Bobcat Bulletin

Western Dubuque High School

www.wdhs.w-dubuque.k12.ia.us

December / January

2011-2012 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Parent-teacher conferences were held in early November and we had about 70% of the parents attend. Teachers enjoy meeting the parents and feel these conferences are important as they open the lines of communication between the parents and the teachers. As always, it is most effective if parents contact teachers directly with questions or concerns. If parents were unable to attend conferences, they can still contact teachers via e-mail or by leaving a phone message.

In late January, the registration process begins for the 2012-2013 school year. We will have several activities to help students identify the classes they should take next year including class meetings, discussions in Bobcat groups, and a career & college fair on January 26th for current sophomores and juniors. Please watch the announcements on our website and discuss these activities with your child.

Western Dubuque High School will be piloting a Saturday School project starting in December. At WDHS we have two main goals: students will meet academic expectations, and students will act in a responsible manner. When one of these expectations doesn't occur, Saturday School may be used as a result. Students may come voluntarily for academic help as well. More information is listed below.

On behalf of everyone at WDHS, we wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

Mr. Hoeger

Dave Hoeger
Principal

John Hlubek
Assistant Principal
/Athletic Director

Saturday School

Students can be assigned Saturday School for academic concerns, attendance issues, missed detentions and severe discipline issues. Saturday School will run from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The following guidelines are to be adhered to: Students must enter the front door of the high school by 8:00 a.m. At 8:00 a.m. the doors will be locked. Students are expected to be working at all times. Students must bring their books and other materials needed to complete their assignments. Food, snacks and beverages will not be allowed.

If the student has completed classroom assignments before the conclusion of Saturday School, he or she will be expected to make productive use of the remaining time. Students will not be allowed to possess or use radios, CD players, IPODS, video games, cards, electronic pagers, cellular phones, etc., during Saturday School time.

If a student who is scheduled for Saturday School fails to show up on their scheduled Saturday, they will be suspended from school until the student and parent/guardian meet with the building administrator to discuss the situation.

Thank You to the Dubuque Racing Association (DRA)

Western Dubuque High School would like to thank the Dubuque DRA for their generous donation of $10,054. This donation helped us purchase 30 netbook computers along with a netbook mobile cart.

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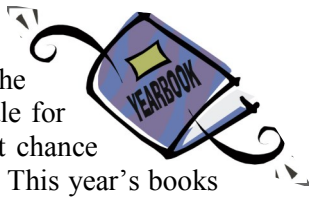
Yearbook Information

By Ben Ressler, Yearbook Advisor

ATTENTION SENIORS: Senior portraits are due to Mr. Ressler by December 16th. Contact your photographer and have them email a copy to Mr. Ressler (ben.ressler@w-dubuque.k12.ia.us) ASAP. If you are unable to get a hold of your photographer you can bring in a wallet of your portrait as a last resort.



BOOKS FOR SALE: The 2012 Yearbooks are on sale for **$50.** February is your last chance to order a 2012 Yearbook. This year's books have increased by 16 pages which means more coverage! Photos in this year's book are unbelievably clear because of our new Canon Digital Rebel Cameras. Get your HD Yearbook today! Bring a $50 check to Alice in the activities office to reserve yours.

Special Olympics

By Laurie Fallon, Special Olympics Coach

Special Olympics has some exciting activities going on. Special Ed teacher and Special Olympic head coach Laurie Fallon and assistant coach, Tom Andrews have been busy with Western Dubuque high school's 5 athletes. These athletes are Brennen Koopmann, Jeff Leibold, Lee Greenwood, Shelby Heiderscheit and Brandon Klein. They will be involved in a variety of activities including competitive bowling, downhill skiing, cross country skiing, snowshoes racing, and track and field, unified cheerleading competition, powerlifting and unified bocce ball competition. These are just a few of the activities being offered at WD. The state of Iowa Special Olympics organization has up to 25 options of activities that these athletes can choose to participate in. The athletes compete at local, area, and state competition with athletes from all around the state of Iowa. Western Dubuque High School in Epworth is so excited to cheer on these athletes whose motto is, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Go WD Special Olympic Athletes!

Why Address Cyberbully?

How much of a problem is bullying?

According to recent CBS News "48 Hours" report, both bullying and cyberbullying are common problems in all of our schools across the nation. One of the biggest problems with bullying is that kids don't want to report it. With the explosion of technology, it's only getting worse. As noted in the "Bullying: Words Can Kill"* episode, only 25 percent of teens who are cyberbullied ever tell an adult. Another study found that 80% of middle school students reported engaging in some form of bullying others during the past 30 days; with 15% doing so frequently.

Isn't bullying just part of growing up?

Perhaps this attitude is why bullying is still common in American schools. There is a lot of research that shows that being a victim of a bully can affect students' self-esteem and how they approach school. Victims of bullying also are more likely than other students to report that they do not want to go to school because of fear of being bullied. Some children who are bullied decide, in turn, to bully others.

The good news is that much can be done to stop bullying in our schools. Western Dubuque Community School District has chosen to be proactive in addressing this issue through the creation of a SAFE (Students Advocating for Everyone) Committee. The committee focus is to raise awareness with students, staff, and parents and build skills to ensure all students are safe.

Watch for additional information from the SAFE Committee about bullying and cyberbullying coming throughout the year.

National Honor Society

By Justin Smith, NHS Advisor

Western Dubuque High School National Honor Society is currently sponsoring a food drive for the benefit of the Epworth and Dyersville Food pantries. Cash donations along with non-perishable food items will be collected at the high school from November 8 through December 8. Currently, over 500 pounds of food has been collected.

Other upcoming NHS events will include Salvation Army bell ringing, Kennedy Mall Holiday gift wrapping, Holiday candy cane messages, and Stone Hill Retirement home visit. This year's membership includes forty seniors and forty-one juniors.

Pick One!

By John Hlubek, Assistant Principal & Activities Director

The activities department has had another successful fall. Congratulations to Mark Digmann and the girl's cross country team making it to state. Also congratulations to Brian Kuhle and the football team making it to the state playoffs. Thank you to all my fall helpers making the season go smooth.

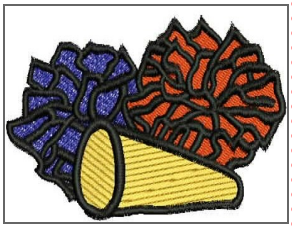
We are now ready for the winter activities. If you have not been out for a fall sport or club, it is time to "pick one". Get involved in Western Dubuque High School. We have girl's basketball, boy's basketball, wrestling, girl's and boy's bowling, choir, band, speech, dance, cheerleading plus all of our club activities such as; math club, book club, FBLA, environmental club, art club, FFA, yearbook and even chess club just to name a few.

There are over 800 students in our building who need to "pick one" (or more) activities to get involved in. Your four years of high school will go by quickly, so make the most of it.

If students or parents want to see a winter schedule, they are located on the web at www.wamacconference.org then by clicking on Western Dubuque, highlight the sport schedule you want then click on view.

WDHS Winter Cheerleaders Announced

By Jessica Bogosian, Cheerleading Advisor



The Western Dubuque High School Winter Cheerleaders are excited and ready for a great season of WDHS winter sports! The following girls will be part of the winter cheerleading squad this year: Shelby Dausener, Kelsey Steffensmeier, Marilu Gomez, Jenna Prier, Cadalina Heiderschiet, Racheal Howard, Molly Becker, Trisha Block, Kaetlyn Little, Joana Siquera, Kelly Thomas, Athena Dorr and Sabrina Vonderhaar.

The girls will be cheering for girls and boys varsity basketball and wrestling. Squad members work hard during the season to encourage the winter sports teams to do their best and they promote a positive attitude about WDHS in all areas of athletics and academics.

WDHS Vocal Music Department Presents:

A Cathedral Concert

Sunday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.

Basilica of St. Francis Xavier, Dyersville

The Cathedral Concert is presented by the Aristocat and 5th Avenue Show Choirs and the WDHS Concert Choir. These groups will be performing a wide variety of holiday music in this beautiful setting. Cost to get in is $4 for adults and $3 for students, but admission is free for anyone bringing non-perishable food items for a donation. Donations will be split among the local food pantries.

WD SHOW CHOIR

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Performing Group(s)
January 21	Davenport North "The Big Dance"	Aristocats & 5th Avenue
February 4	Mt. Pleasant HS "Music in Motion"	Aristocats & 5th Avenue
February 25	Western Dubuque "Main Event"	Aristocats & 5th Avenue
March 3	Arlington Heights, IL "Chicagoland"	5th Avenue
March 10	Sloan, IA "Westwood Jubilation"	Aristocats & 5th Avenue
March 17	Manchester, IA "West Delaware Invite"	Aristocats & 5th Avenue

FFA Receives McElroy Grant - Fruit Orders Are Due - Other News

By Matt Lansing, FFA Advisor

The Agricultural Education Department is implementing state of the art technology in the Agronomy courses as they purchase new GPS and Precision Agricultural Equipment with funds provided by Federal Perkins dollars and a grant from McElroy Grant via Keystone AEA.

Five new handheld Rugged PCs have been purchased so that students have an opportunity to map fields, grid soil sample, collect yield data, collect crop data, and other issues that might be found in production agriculture. These little handhelds are only the size of a large cell phone, but have unlimited applications in the agriculture industry. Students will be able to do anything from mapping fields with GPS, to keep production records on cows with these handy little units. Precision is key to maximize production in any industry, Agriculture has been a little slow to catch on but when shown how it affects profitability many decided to pursue new technologies to get them where they are needed.

Students are looking forward to this project and being able to pursue new technologies in agriculture and I feel this a great way to keep students pursuing agricultural careers in the future.

West Dubuque FFA is also conducting its annual fruit sale. If you have missed out on our first order you can still get the great products and just in time for the holidays. We have a second fruit order coming in on December 22nd, if you are interested, please contact a FFA member or Mr. Lansing at 876-3442 x3044 before December 9th.

West Dubuque FFA members will be preparing for the 2012 Northeast District FFA Conference on March 10, 2011. Members will be preparing for Sub-Districts, Districts and State FFA Contests. If you would like assist in preparing FFA Teams in the following areas please let Mr. Lansing know: FFA Creed Speaking, Public Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Job Interview, Parliamentary Procedures, Conduct of Meetings, Ag Sales, Radio Broadcasting, Experience the Action, Secretary's Book, Reporters Book, Treasurer's Book, Farm Business Management, Agriculture CSI, Agriculture Issues & Perception, Greenhand Test, Chapter Tests, and much more. Please contact us to make an impact in a student's life by assisting them in their preparation of their events. You can make a difference.

matt.lansing@w-dubuque.k12.ia.us or westdubuqueffa1962@gmail.com or call 563-876-3442 x3044.

Student Council Activities

By Abby Kluesner, Student Council Treasurer

November was another busy month for the Student Council! To start the month off, a group of Student Council members attended the Iowa State Student Council Conference held in Ames on October 31st. We brought home an Honors Council Award, which is the second highest title a student council can receive!

During parent/teacher conferences, the Student Council worked and helped serve the teachers those nights. The Student Council were also busy selling stars for the Make a Wish Foundation. They sold stars to students which then students wrote their name on the stars and the stars were hung around school. Students and faculty donated over $200 to this great foundation.

On November 11th, the Student Council put together the Veteran's Day Assembly. Veteran Bob Frasher attended and spoke to the student body. His message was very emotional and patriotic. The assembly went very well, and we received many compliments on the event. In addition, the student council voted to light the flag in front of school in honor of our veterans. It is a solar powered light which is lit 24 hours a day. We have a deep respect for all veterans and civil employees.

Now the Student Council is busy working on upcoming events such as the Holiday Assembly, pep rallies, March Madness, and many other happenings. The students of Western Dubuque want to wish you happy holidays.

Talented & Gifted Education

By Ben Wilson, TAG Coordinator

The Talented and Gifted program has hit the ground running this year. Students have been participating in a multitude of activities offered through the TAG program. On November 2, Ryan Lehmann was named to the all-academic team at the Platteville Math Competition. Congratulations Ryan!

Also through the TAG program, Lindsay Crouse participated in the Global Youth Institute for the World Food Prize in Des Moines. For her participation in this prestigious event, Lindsay was recently featured in the Dyersville Commercial and will continue to pursue opportunities offered by the Global Youth Institute.

Western Dubuque students Laila Sahir, Kyle Naber, Tyler Simon, and Justin Kluesner were recently selected to participate in the Iowa State Science Bowl in Ames this coming January. If you see any of these students, please wish them good luck.

Guidance Office

Registration Information for the 2012-2013 School Year

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin the end of January. Once again, parents are invited to attend their student's registration meeting. If you are able to attend the 15-minute meeting, and your student is in grades 9-11 this year, please call Becky Gasper, WDHS guidance secretary, at (563) 876-3442 ext. 3005 to set up a time. If your student is a current 8th grader, please call Linda or Mary Kay at Drexler Middle School at 744-3371.

***Registration Timeline is as follows*:**

* Current Juniors will register starting January 30th
* Current Sophomores will register starting February 7th
* Current Freshmen will register starting February 16th
* Current 8th graders will register from March 6th - March 20th

Any parents who cannot attend are asked to get involved by looking over the registration form your son or daughter will be bringing home. Please approve it with a signature and send it back to school with your child the day they register. Students will then meet with their high school guidance counselor to complete the registration for the next school year.

Registering For the Selective Service

Male students who are 18 must register with the selective service within 30 days of turning 18, by law. Students can register online (www.sss.gov) at age 17 years 3 months. The information can be stored electronically and then registration will be done automatically on their 18th birthday. Students may also register in the guidance office.

8th Grade Open House/Registration Meeting

On Monday, February 27, 2012, Western Dubuque High School will be hosting a registration meeting and Open House for parents and their 8th grade son or daughter. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the main gym. This is a **MANDATORY** meeting for any 8th grade student and their parents that are planning on attending WDHS next year. Registration forms will be passed out, the entire registration process will be explained, any questions will be answered and tours will be provided for those who are interested. Forms will go home that evening for parents and their student to review and choose which classes they would like to take. Our counselors will be at the middle schools from March 6th - March 20th to collect the forms and speak with the students.

Parental involvement in the registration process is critical in order to serve the families of the Western Dubuque School District effectively.

College & Career Fair

On Thursday, January 26th the Western Dubuque High School Guidance Department will hold a College & Career Fair for our current sophomores and juniors. Students will have the opportunity to meet with several different colleges, the armed forces, and local unions. This is a great opportunity for us to show our students that there are a variety of schools and career choices out there. This fair is very beneficial to our registration process here at the high school because it can lead students towards certain career pathways. This fair serves as the beginning of the college process.

Senior News

Financial Aid Night

There will be a financial aid information night at WDHS on December 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the WDHS library for all May 2012 graduates and their parents or anyone else that would like to attend. A representative from the ICAN Network will be presenting information on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Graduation Date

Graduation will be on May 20th at 2:30 p.m. in the main gym.

"Fill Out The FAFSA Day"

Don't pay someone to do a service we offer for **FREE**. The WDHS guidance office in partnership with the ICAN Network will offer help filling out your FAFSA forms by sponsoring a "Fill Out the FAFSA Day" on Friday, February 10, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. by appointment only. Parents may call Becky in the guidance office at (563) 876-3442 ext. 3005 to schedule an hour time slot. Appointments are on a first come, first serve basis.

College Representatives Visit WDHS

Several college representatives have already visited with seniors at Western Dubuque High School, and many more will be scheduled after winter break. Students have the opportunity to get first-hand information by people who actually work at the colleges and to have their questions answered. They also bring a great deal of printed information for the students.

Students are strongly encouraged to visit with representatives of colleges they are truly interested in.

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Calendar

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	**6**	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	**16**	17
18	19	20	21	**22**	**23**	**24**
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	31

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat
1	**2**	**3**	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	**12**	**13**	14
15	**16**	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	**30**	31				

Important Dates

December

6 3 Hour Early Dismissal
16 Senior pictures are due
22 2 Hour Early Dismissal
23-31 No School (Winter Break)

January

2 No School (Winter Break)
3 Resume classes
12 End of 1st Semester
13 No School (Professional Development)
16 Begin 2nd Semester
30 Current Juniors Registration Begins

Looking Ahead

February

7 Current Sophomores Registration Begins
14 3rd Quarter Mid-Term Ends
15 No School (Professional Dev.)
16 Current Freshmen Registration Begins
27 Open House/Registration for incoming Freshmen @ 7:00 p.m.

March

6-20 Current 8th grade Registration
7 3 hour early dismissal
16 2 hour early dismissal - End of 3rd Quarter
19 Begin 4th Quarter
27, 29 One hour early dismissal. Parent/Teacher Conferences
30 No School

April

5-10 No School (Spring Break)
24 4th Quarter Mid-Term Ends
28 Prom