

“FROM OUR NEST  
TO YOURS”

**Term 4 Parent  
Conferences:**

- April 29, 2009

**Student Art Show:**

- April 27-May 8

**Athletic Physicals**

- May 6, 6:00 p.m.

**Term 4 Finals:**

- June 4th & 5th

**Graduation:**

- June 7, 2009
- i-Wireless Center
- 12:00 p.m.

**ACT Testing:**

- June 13, 2009

**Term 4 Report**

**Cards Sent Home:**

- June 15, 2009

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# Falcon Newsletter

VOLUME 2008-2009, ISSUE 2

APRIL, 2009

## From the Principal

West High School has been a part of the **High Schools That Work** organization since 2005. One of the 10 Key Practices of this organization is a system of advisement in the building that provides an adult mentor for each student.

A unique aspect of the advisement program at our school is our **Senior Seminar**. A group of teachers spent nearly two years researching and studying delivery systems for our Advisory Period and determined that a seminar approach would be most appropriate for our seniors.

Currently, eight staff members serve as advisors for our seniors. **Melissa Trimble** serves as a chair, and is assisted with planning and delivery of services

to our students by **Stephanie Eckhardt, Ryan Graap, Alissa Hansel, Andy Zinn, Mark Kretschmer, Mike Ross and Jay Swords**. These professionals have scheduled a year of activities with the purpose of smoothing the transition to a life beyond high school. Many of the activities have included visits and presentations by community members. Some of the diverse topics covered have included **managing money and credit cards, human trafficking** (Maggie Tinsman, presenter), information on the **Davenport Promise** (multiple community presenters), **citizenship** (Elisha Gayman, presenter) including **voter registration, professionalism, post-secondary planning** and a **self-defense** presentation (for girls only.)

Robert Louis Stevenson said “Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.” Our teachers are excited about this new endeavor and they are already planning for next year, when senior leaders will be included as partners in the planning process. Several pieces of valuable information for our current juniors have also been shared, including encouraging students to take the **ACT Test on June 13, 2009**. Registration for that date closes on **May 8<sup>th</sup>**. We have every confidence that the Senior Seminar has been a positive experience for our seniors this year and that information shared and lessons learned will serve our students in the future.

—Nancy Jacobsen, Principal

## Iowa Dental Law Extended to April 1, 2009

Legislation was passed by the State of Iowa, effective July 1, 2008, requiring all students entering Kindergarten, 9th-grade, and any students new to Iowa schools to have a dental screening. The purpose of the dental screening is to improve the oral health of Iowa's youth.

To comply with this new requirement your student must provide a certificate of dental

screening to the Davenport West High School's nurse's office by **April 1, 2009**.

A screening completed within one year prior to August 4, 2008 is acceptable. So, if your student has recently been to the dentist, please have your dentist or hygienist complete a Certificate of Dental Screening Form. These forms will be printed on the back of your student's report card. Additional

forms will be available from the Nurse's Office.

If financial assistance is needed or assistance is needed to locate a dentist, please contact:

Briana Boswell  
Scott County Health Department @ 563-326-8645 or email [bboswell@scottcountyiowa.com](mailto:bboswell@scottcountyiowa.com)

Linda Manders, RN School Nurse  
Davenport West High School

## Catch-up Day

For the 2008-2009 school year, **West High** has offered **Catch-Up Days** for students to get help in a class where they have missing or incomplete assignments. Catch-Up Days are held on three Saturdays per term from **9:00 am—12:00 pm**. Teachers from each of the core subjects (**Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies**), **Physical Education, Business Education**, and other elective areas staff these extra help opportunities for students.

**Catch-Up Days** are designed to

help those students who have good attendance and are in the **50-69%** range in their classes, and may be in danger of failing a class.

So far this year, **359 students** have attended a Catch-Up Day. Of these students, approximately **80%** have increased their grade to at least passing (D=60%). The attendance at Catch-Up Day has increased from **144** students in Term 1 to **215** students in Term 2. Also, there has been an increase in

students earning grades of C or higher, and a decrease in students failing a class for those who have attended.

The Catch-Up Day schedule for **Term 4** is as follows:

- **April 18** **Cancelled**
- **May 2**
- **May 30**

Students who wish to attend Catch-Up Day should **talk with their teacher first**, so make-up work can be available for them to work on for that day.

*Leaders think and talk about the solutions.  
Followers think and talk about the problems.*  
—Brian Tracey



## State Archery Meet

Congratulations to the **West High** Archery team on its **5th place** showing at the **Iowa State Archery Meet**.

The team was led by 4th place finisher **Jessica Shadden**. A \$1000 Scholarship was

awarded to top finisher in each category, and Jessica finished only 7 points away from capturing the scholarship. In the boys division, **Justin Peters** and **Mike Potter** finished in 5th place for the scholarship.

The great finish at the State Meet qualifies the team to participate in the **National Archery Tournament** held in Louisville, KY. The tournament is held **May 8-9** and will feature 3840 contestants. **Way to go Falcons!**

## Camp West

West High Students will again have the opportunity to experience the great outdoors by participating in **Camp West**.

This year's trip will take students to the **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness** for a six night canoeing and camping adventure.

**Camp West** is open to young adults ages 14-20. Trip attendees will be divided into crews

of nine with each crew having 2 to 3 adult participants.

Crews will leave Davenport on July 7th and drive to **Ely, Minnesota**. Once in Ely, crews will be outfitted with canoes and camping gear for their week-long odyssey. Campers will only need to bring their own personal items: clothes; grooming items; water bottles; and other essentials.

The cost for this exciting adventure will be around **\$330 per person**. If you have any questions or want to reserve your spot, please contact **Camp West Advisor Jodi Zimmerman**. Jodi can be reached by email at [zimmermanj@davenportschools.org](mailto:zimmermanj@davenportschools.org) or by phone **(563) 386-5500** ext. 211.



# Guidance News and Notes



The following list of tips for your Sophomore student comes from **ICAN**, the **Iowa College Access Network**.

## Sophomore Year To Do List:

- Keep your grades high. The grades you earn now may affect your future.
- Find a mentor who can assist you through high school, such as a teacher, parent, family member, or family friend. **(Your Advisory teachers can do this also!)**
- If you are planning to go to college, talk to your school counselor about college admission requirements to make sure you are taking the right classes. **(Your teachers may also have knowledge about specific career fields!)**
- Think about college majors. Are there majors that match your skills and interests? **(Sign up for an elective class if you haven't found a career interest yet!)**
- Consider taking the PSAT/NMSQT® (Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) as practice for the actual college entrance exams. Practice tests will give you a chance to focus on weak areas. **(See a guidance counselor for more info!)**
- Continue to learn more about careers that interest you by talking to adults you know in those fields and researching online. **(Or, talk to Mrs. Getting about a Job Shadow!)**
- Attend college fairs in your area and meet with college representatives who visit your high school. **(More info is available in the guidance office, or listen to the announcements!)**
- Find a study buddy. Having someone to study with can make you more accountable.
- Try out a future career through job shadowing, volunteer work or a summer internship. **(See Mrs. Getting or guidance staff for more information!)**
- Check with your counselor to see if there are AP (Advanced Placement) classes that will fit into your junior year schedule. **(Don't forget that West offers many Dual-Credit courses through Scott Community College also!)**
- If you are college bound, start thinking about the type of school you want to attend and create a list of 10-15 that interest you. **(Your counselor can help you research this information!)**

For more information see the West High Guidance staff, or visit the ICAN website at [www.ICANsucceed.org](http://www.ICANsucceed.org)

## QC Elite Robotics Team

The **QC Elite Robotics Team** went to the Midwest Regional in Chicago Illinois February 25 – 28. The team is made up of high school students from **West, Moline, and Sherrard** High Schools. It is part of **US FIRST**, A world wide competition made up of over 2000 teams.

Each year, game designers for US FIRST develop a new challenge. The challenge is given to the teams in January, and they have six weeks to design, build, program, and test their robots before they are shipped to the regional competition.

This year's challenge was called **Lunacy**. Lunacy is played on a very slick floor surface similar to ice. This is to simulate the 1/6<sup>th</sup> gravity on the moon. The objective was to pick balls up off the floor, and to shoot them into trailers being pulled by the opposing alliance. An alliance is made up of three teams, and two alliances play at a time for a total of six robots on the field at any time.

Team QC Elite made it all the way to the quarter finals where they were eliminated when the opposing alliance scored 15 points in the last three sec-

onds of play, resulting in a loss by 5 points.

Team QC Elite did win the **Judges Award** which is one of the most prestigious awards given. It is given to a team that did not win, but whom the judges felt had one of the best robots, and had a good team chemistry where everyone participated and showed team spirit.

The next competition for QC Elite is the **North Star Regional** in the Twin Cities, Minnesota from **April 1 - 4**.



I-JAG students Derek Trader, Stephanie Harrison, and Kiara Nathaniel with State Senator Shawn Hammerlinck.

*If you doubt you can accomplish something, then you can't accomplish it. You have to have confidence in your ability and then be tough enough to follow through.*

—Rosalyn Carter



## I-JAG



**Iowa Jobs for Americas Graduates** continues to assist students with their post-secondary ambitions. This semester, **I-JAG** students have identified their plans after high school and have taken steps to aid in this transition.

Students have completed job shadows, research, interviews, and heard guest speakers' talk about career and life planning. Several local colleges and universities were invited in to speak

about their degree offerings. Students interested in college were encouraged to complete the **ACT** and **FAFSA**. Undecided students completed several work inventories to help them identify their career options.

Senior I-JAG students are eligible to receive support services from I-JAG for one year after graduation. This follow-up piece will assist students in following their self-designed career paths.

I-JAG students will continue to support various service learning projects throughout the remainder of the year. Some of the projects we have all ready completed include a lobbying effort for consistent state funding to support the I-JAG programs across the state of Iowa. Students from West met with **Gov. Chet Culver** and local legislators to express their support of the I-JAG Program.

Students just finished up a campaign that netted \$500.00 for the **United Way** Student Campaign. Activities included hat days, trivia contests, and collecting spare change from students during lunchtime to accomplish this goal. For more information on I-JAG, contact Advisor **Mike Ross** at [rossm@davenportschools.org](mailto:rossm@davenportschools.org) or **(563) 386-5500** ext. 112.

## Recycling Project at West High

With the help of **Advisor Jodi Zimmerman**, The **West High Ecology Club** is providing recycling containers for staff and students to deposit empty bottles and cans. This effort is being done in conjunction with **The Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities**.

Several teachers have volun-

teered to store containers in their classroom and put them into the hallways during the school day. The Ecology Club members will bag and cart the items on Tuesdays.

Volunteer drivers from The Children's Therapy Center will pick up our items. The five cent deposits and any money from other material will be used to

provide services to local kids who need it.

West High School is very excited to be a part of this. We won't be adding to the landfill, or wasting resources, and we get to help local kids get the care they need. The project started with nine receptacles but now we have sixteen scattered throughout the building.

## Student Art on the Web

During third term **West High Art Students** entered a contest featuring shoe designs. **Mrs. Wells** and her students took digital photos of the artworks, and sent them in to a Web site called **Artsonia**. The contest offered teachers an opportunity to place their lesson plans on the site so that any educator in the nation could use the ideas generated.

**Rashawn Bogan, Stefani Ngo, Grace Pineo, Alton Lucas, and Jacob Reyes** are a few of the many students whose artwork is included on the site. Many of the students used their own shoes to create paper cut copies of their footwear.

The students started with a drawing in graphite of their shoe. The shoe

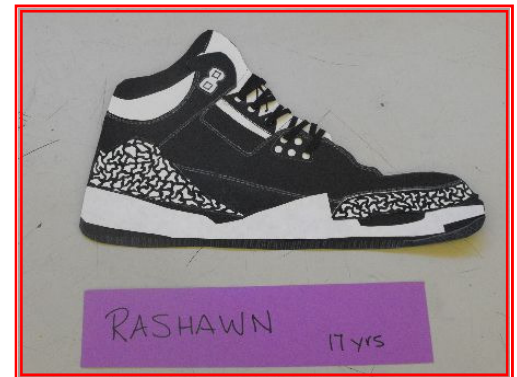
was then traced onto tracing paper, and transferred onto another sheet of paper in reverse. This was the prototype students used for the shoe to be built up using colored construction paper. Gum wrappers were used for the "metal" adornments and the shoe laces were made from thin sheets of paper laced through paper punched holes.

A follow up activity to "Shoe Trilogy" will involve the students creating their own 'original' shoe designs. These designs will be submitted to **Tony Heish**, the **CEO of Zappos.com**. Zappos is a shoe company based in Henderson, Nevada. Who knows, you

might see one of our student's designs in the windows of the mall some day in the near future!

Be sure to check out the **Artsonia** website to see additional photos of the students and their "most excellent" work.

**"Shoe Trilogy" Design** submitted to **Artsonia** by **Junior Rashawn Bogan**



## Donald Murrow Attends National Security Forum

This past February, **Donald Murrow**, a Sophomore **Business Academy** student, attended the **National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security**.

The National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security introduces outstanding students, through its interactive format, to careers in national security, intelligence, defense and the diplomatic corps. The Leadership Forum on National Security offers students insight into the challenging world of National Security.

Donald interacted with highly regarded senior civilian policy makers and military officers during his personally escorted visit to some of the most sensitive national security and diplomatic sites and facilities in Washington, D.C.

Donald was nominated for the forum by **Mr. Jack Achs, Social Studies**, who is also a **Business Academy Advisor**.

In addition to the teacher nomination, students must also earn a minimum of a B+ grade average, and have an interest in the areas of national security, defense or diplomacy.

Donald was in **Washington D.C.** for the forum from February 24—March 1, 2009. Here are some of the exciting events Donald attended:

- Workshops highlighting the MIDDLE (Media, Intelligence, Diplomacy, Defense, Legislature and Executive) concept, and how each of these groups work together in national security.
- National Security Simulations giving participants the opportunity to ap-

ply the MIDDLE concept to address hypothetical security situations. Donald's job was in the legislative area.

- Met with national leaders in the fields of cyber-terrorism, diplomacy and defense.
- Visited the **Capital Building, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, Korean War Memorial, F.D. Roosevelt Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Patuxent River Naval Airbase, Union Station, and The Smithsonian**.
- Reception on the last day with food, refreshments and a deejay.

Donald was pleased with his trip, saying he had a great time, learned a lot and gained a new perspective on national security.

# Weight Room Competitions



**West High Athletes In Competition**

*Players can say anything they want, but if they don't back it up with performance and hard work, the talking doesn't mean a thing.*

—Michael Jordan



**Cast of Rumors**

In an effort to get the competitive juices flowing in the **Weight Room**; the **West High Football** coaching staff has devised a system of round robin competitions to conclude their afternoon workouts.

According to Coach **Al Blocker**, "We felt our kids needed to learn to compete, and what better place to get excited and intense than the weight room."

The kids were divided into teams, with each team having a captain and an assistant captain. The team captains are responsible for getting their mates to workouts, filling out their workout cards properly and instructing on proper

technique. Then, at the end of each workout, the teams square off in competition. These competitions range from squats, to bench press, tug of war, and many others.

The impact has been immediate. Not only is there a renewed sense of enthusiasm and excitement, it has increased the accountability of team captains and team members alike.

**Coach Blocker** relayed a story about a sophomore who is an assistant captain that came to his office wanting help in getting a team member to come to workouts. Coach called the student down and gave the assistant captain the opportunity to explain to his

team member great things that are going on in the weight room, and how his absence takes away from the team's chance to win their competitions.

The coaching staff learned about these competitions at a football clinic presentation given by an assistant coach at **Bowling Green State University**, but many colleges and universities are using this plan to increase competition and excitement in the weight room.

If you'd like to see how a small change in activities and expectations can make a big impact, venture down to the weight room and take a look.

## Neil Simon's Rumors

The "rumors" flew all over the stage on Thursday, Friday and Saturday March, 5th, 6th and 7th as the **West High Drama Department** presented **Neil Simon's** farce **Rumors**.

Junior **Malcolm Kelley** led the talented cast through an evening of shaving cream, pretzels, man hole covers, duck grease, stuben glass, shirt pins, crystals, gun shots and police.

Over 400 West High students got a sneak peak of the show at a matinee performance on March 5th.

400 or so patrons laughed and cried as the cast performed on Friday and Saturday evening.

Other cast members included: **Aaron Lord**; **Molly Wells**; **Cydney Roelandt**; **Storm Miller**; **Sami Morrison**; **Brad Rees**; **Luke Hansen**; and **Hope Karwaski**.

## State Wrestling

Congratulations to West High Wrestlers **Reid Herrig (135)**, **Dakota Halligan (145)**, and **Nolan Proehl (215)** for qualifying for this years **Iowa State Wrestling Meet**.

While all three of these young men gave a great effort at the meet, Dakota was the lone place winner for the **Falcons**. He battled his way back from a first round loss to finish in 3rd place.

**Way to Go Falcons!**

## Winter Athletes Recognize West High Staff

West High Senior Athletes recently had the opportunity to recognize a staff member who has had a positive impact on them during their time at West.

Each of these staff members was recognized during recent athletic contests. The following are excerpts from the athletes about why they chose their staff member.

**Coach Jones** is a mentor to me. He gave me confidence in my abilities. He has opened up opportunities for me. He has been there for me when I needed help. I'd like to take this time to show my appreciation - **Ryne Valett**

**Mrs. Lietz** is a great teacher who always does her best to make class as fun and as interesting as possible. She makes her AP biology class fun and relatively easy with her fun and exciting way of teaching and for that I thank her - **Adam Paulsen**

**Mr. Saladino** helped me to be a better person in and out of the classroom. Sal is like my big teddy bear. He taught me how to be a leader in everything you do - **Josh Whipple**

**Mr. Zalaznik, AKA Mr. Z** has taught me to be successful in life and take leadership in and out of the classroom - **Brandon Sanchez**

**Mr. Kintigh** is a real cool guy and a great teacher. No matter what class he teaches, he always makes sure I learn the material and he has taught me the love of romance novels. Mr. Kintigh always makes a point of acknowledging me in the hall, whether it is saying hello, pushing me into a door, calling me names or just something to let me know he cares. To be honest he is an extremely caring person, great teacher, and an awesome mentor. He makes learning fun and makes it easy to learn his material. I would like to thank Mr. Kintigh for being awesome - **Nick Watson**



**Mrs. Huizinga** is an excellent teacher. She makes the classroom very fun. She is always nice and is filled with energy. She will help you with anything at anytime. Thank you, Mrs. Huizinga - **Matt Leal**

**Mr. Zinn** has taught me many things. He has helped me learn a strong work ethic, he has taught me how to weld and I believe that he has helped me become a better person in many ways. I have learned how to become more professional, and how to make a good first impression. Mr. Zinn is the one that has inspired me to try and become an underwater welder. I would like to thank Mr. Zinn for everything that he has done for me - **DJ Whalen**

**Mr. Belz** has been an amazing teacher and coach for me the past 4 years. He inspired me and also many other students and athletes to pursue our dreams and to push us to our limits. Coach Belz will continue to inspire students and athletes for years to come - **Wade Warnecke**

## Summer Camps, Clinics and Leagues

This coming summer, West High will again offer a full complement of athletic camps, clinics, leagues and open gym opportunities. While the dates and times for summer activities have not been released, stay tuned to our school website (<http://www.davenportschools.org/west>) for updated information.

Each sport will have its own camps and clinics available, but may also

have open gym times and other related activities.

Summer **BFS** times will also be released soon, so again stay tuned to the website for the days of week the weight room will be open and times that are assigned to your activity. BFS is offered three days per week and there will be times available in the morning and afternoon.

### Other Dates to Remember:

**Softball Tryouts:** May 11-13,  
**Varsity** 4:00—6:00; **Freshman/  
Sophomore** 5:00—7:00

**Baseball Tryouts:** May 4-6,  
**Varsity** 3:30—5:30; **Freshman/  
Sophomore** 5:30—7:30

Baseball and Softball Tryouts will be held at the West High Baseball/Softball Complex on West Kimberly Road.

### Booster Club Meetings:

The West High Booster Club meets on the 1st Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. In the West High Library.

# DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## West High School

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## West High Administrative Team



Standing: Bob Tollefson, Associate Principal; Jeff Nance, Athletic Director; Mike Lawler, Assistant Principal; Kris Whalen, Associate Principal; Al Blocker, Dean of Students  
Sitting: Marilyn Peters, Head Counselor; Nancy Jacobsen, Principal; Gwen Maxwell, Associate Principal

## West High Turns the Big 5-0!

**West High School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** will be occurring during the 2010-2011 school year. A committee is currently collecting information about former students, instructors, coaches, and staff who have contributed to the history of West High School.

The **Anniversary Committee** is planning to recognize former students and staff throughout the school year at sporting events, social events and other school functions.

In addition, the committee will try to build on many of the events already held at West High, including **Homecoming, Gala**, and others. There are also plans in the works to have a **50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party**. The committee is still working on ideas for this important celebration, so any suggestions or assistance would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or ideas for the 50th Anniversary Celebration, please contact **Lisa Harrington** or **Megan Baldry** at (563) 386-5500.