

FALCON NEWSLETTER

“FROM OUR NEST TO YOURS”

From the Principal

I am aware, as are most Americans and Iowans that the impact of the worldwide economic “meltdown” continues to play out at a local level due to decreases in tax revenue.

The West High School Community is not immune to these difficulties and our building has experienced severe cuts in the amount of financial support we receive through the district. Dollars contributed to our building budget for infrastructure and curricular support experienced cuts of nearly \$40,000 from August of 2009 to August of 2010.

Our Building Site Council, consisting of Department Heads, program sponsors and a parent have worked hard over the past year to insure that basic services that provide for learning activities for our students have not had to suffer. This has been possible due to the foresight of

our teacher leaders in saving monies when times weren’t so difficult, watching for the best prices on items they need and finding equal alternatives when possible. We have also looked at other areas of spending that can be altered that don’t directly impact teaching in the classroom, including postage, printing and travel costs. In addition, our teachers have also looked to alternative sources of funding, including Carl Perkins monies, grants and the Great Minds Program which is sponsored by the Davenport Schools Foundation.

I feel fortunate to work with people who put classroom learning first. Rather than bemoaning budget related issues, our leaders rolled up their sleeves and looked at this as an opportunity to reexamine past practice.

Governor Culver Visits West High

April 9th, 2010 was a special day for West High School. Iowa Governor Chet Culver made a visit to WHS for the ceremonial signing of a new Iowa law pertaining to Mixed Martial Arts Performances.



Governor Culver signs an autograph as WHS students Tori Blackwell and Lisa Nguyen look on.

Governor Culver’s appearance at WHS came as a result of student involvement in the February 15th Legislative Day at the Iowa Capitol. During the Legislative Day, students and faculty members were able to speak with the Urban 8 School District Lobbyists about procedures and expectations for meeting with lawmakers in the Capitol Rotunda. They were also able to speak with Quad City area legislators in a general session pertaining to bills that would affect education and student interest. WHS Alumnus Senator Shawn Hammerlinck gave students an opportunity to witness live floor debate and role call procedures from the balcony of the legislative chambers.

Davenport Community Schools was the only school district present at this function. Many other districts did not attend because it was a scheduled holiday. The Governor was impressed by the civic interest of our local students. By signing the bill at WHS, he allowed our students to witness the completion of the legislative process that starts at the Iowa Capitol.

Important Dates to Remember:

Athletic Physicals

May 5, 6-8:00 pm
WHS Café/LMC

WHS Baseball Bash

May 15 1:00 pm
Baseball/Softball Complex

No School

May 31

Term 4 Finals

June 2 & 3

2010 Graduation

June 6, 2:30 pm
iWireless Center

Final Report Cards

Available for pick-up in main office
June 7

ACT Testing

June 12 8:00-12:00

2010-11 School

Registration

12-5:00 pm
Aug. 5 11th—12th
Aug. 6 10th
Aug. 9 9th

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Helpful Tips for Parents of Teens

Upcoming Catch-up Days

May 1
May 22

Many people think they want things, but they don't really have the strength, the discipline. They are weak. I believe that you get what you want if you want it badly enough.

Sophia Loren

Parents, do you ever feel like you can't seem to connect with your teenage son or daughter? Below are some helpful reminders courtesy of *Parenting Today's Teens* with Mark Gregston, www.markgregston.com

- Encouragement after failure is as important as praise after success.
- Find out what your teen likes to do, then do it with them every week.
- Asking a teen's opinion teaches them to make thoughtful decisions.
- Catch your teen doing things right.
- Ignoring bad behavior today will bring bigger problems later.
- Say "I'm sorry" when you're wrong. It teaches teens to do the same.
- Much teenage rebellion comes from treating them like they're 10 but they're 15.
- Shift from providing a teen everything, to preparing them for the next step in life.
- Teach lessons to be learned from other people's mistakes.
- Focus on changing the bad behavior, not the teen.
- When you talk to a teen, do so mostly with your eyes and your ears.
- What a teen wants more than anything else is relationship.
- The more you encourage your teenager to think for himself, the more he will care what you think.

Summer Internship Opportunities

Do you know what your plans are for the summer? How about earning a stipend, having fun, and exploring **science, technology, engineering, and math**? This is all possible through one of the many summer camps and summer research opportunities offered to high school and college students like YOU!

The programs listed on **The Midwest Alliance** website (<http://stemmidwest.org/default.asp?contentID=480>) provide housing, food, and in most cases, travel funding, for you to spend 3-10 weeks having a blast learning about the fields of tomorrow. And the best part is that there's some amazing funding available, too! High School students can earn up to \$500 (minimum participation length of 40 hours) through The Midwest Alliance as an Intern, while College and University students can receive up to \$1,000 (minimum length of 80 hours)!

Check out the programs on the link above, and let the folks at The Midwest Alliance (<http://stemmidwest.org>) know if you need help applying or have any questions. Be sure to check the link soon as many programs have deadlines or limited space.

Science Department Awarded Grant

The WHS Science Department recently was awarded a Scott County Regional Authority (SCRA) grant in the amount of \$30,000. Department Chair Renee Lietz wrote the grant request in order to obtain new drying ovens and hand held data collection instruments called Lab Quests. Each Lab Quest is a small computer equipped to measure temperature, pH, oxygen, light, force, and speed.

The new equipment allows classes to easily perform experiments, collect data, and download data to computers for further study and analysis. It will also ease the transition to Iowa's new science curriculum called "Every Learner Inquires."



APEX Online Learning Opportunity

West High School has continued to provide the opportunity for students to recover necessary credits and improve grade point averages through the APEX online program. Students are scheduled in specific courses and work in the APEX lab at school. In some cases, students who have shown responsibility and success will be allowed to work at home. Currently about half of the students who enter the program complete it and earn credit for the course they take. We are fortunate to have teachers in the lab each block to support student effort. Additionally, Mrs. Rita Schroeder is the APEX lab Para-educator and works with students also. She is one of the keys to success in this program. Rita encourages and exhorts students to complete work, stays on track monitoring student success, and builds relationships with students so they want to complete the course. Her efforts have helped a number of students to succeed who might otherwise have quit. This year we expect to have about 60 students complete credit recovery courses and earn credits on their transcripts, moving them closer to graduating.

In addition to the credit recovery classes, we have another program that uses APEX courses. Carla Veasey, the High School/Community College Liaison for Davenport Schools, manages the program and has helped a number of seniors complete courses toward graduation. Students

do not have to have failed the class in the classroom to take it on APEX with her. This is an extra opportunity the district offers to help students stay in school and earn a diploma. She also works with students who might drop out of school. Together, Carla, students, and parents work with Scott Community College's Career Assistance Center to help the students obtain a GED. She works at all four of the Davenport High Schools and can be reached by cell phone at 309-269-1959. She is at West High School on Thursdays.

West High is always exploring new opportunities that can support all students and help them earn credit with hard work and consistent effort.

Enrollment Summary – Students enrolled in 95 Courses West High School - School Year 2009-2010			
Course Name	Current Students	Credits Recovered	Incompletes
Algebra I Sem 1	2	2	2
Algebra I Sem 2	3	4	0
American Government	1	0	0
American Literature	1	1	1
American Studies 2 Sem 1	0	4	4
American Studies 2 Sem 2	2	2	1
Biology Sem 1	2	1	1
Biology Sem 2	0	1	1
Contemporary American History	4	2	2
Contemporary Literature	2	0	0
CT Algebraic Principles Sem 1	5	4	1
CT Algebraic Principles Sem 2	5	2	1
Earth Materials	0	1	0
Economics	1	0	0
English 9 Sem 1	3	1	2
English 9 Sem 2	2	4	1
Geography	0	1	0
Health	0	1	2
Physical Education Core	1	7	2
Weather, Climate, and Space	0	0	0
World Cultures	0	0	1
Total	34	38	22
% of all APEX Participants	36%	40%	23%

Meet Rita Schroeder, APEX Para-Educator

Rita Schroeder is a remarkable para-educator who has worked for the DCSD for a number of years. A West High graduate, she is currently assigned to the Credit Recovery Lab where she assists students and teachers. Credit Recovery is an online program from APEX, a company located in the state of Washington. Rita has brought a cheerful and supportive personality to the room. Her smile and genuine desire for success for each student has helped build the necessary relationships and rapport with students to help them succeed. She manages student records for the program and communicates progress regularly to students. With Rita's efforts we have increased the number of students earning credit through the Credit Recovery program this school year.



Read Across America Day



March 2, 2010 was the 106th birthday of Dr. Theodor Geisel, more well-known as **Dr. Seuss**.

Since 1997, the National Education Association has celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with a special day to promote reading awareness and motivation. Called **Read Across America**, it has become "...the largest celebration of reading this country has seen." (NEA) West High

School first joined the celebration in March of 2002. Students from our feeder elementary schools came in busses and on foot to read with high school students, and join our Occupational Child Care Pre-school in their celebration.

This year over 300 students and their teachers from **Wilson Elementary**, organized by librarian, Susan Bunch, joined a similar number of West High Stu-

dents to read books, eat cookies, and find out what high school is like. Many of the elementary students are keeping an eye out for high school siblings or relatives. The rapport between our students and the younger children is amazing, and reading brings them together. Many thanks to the teachers, students, and librarians that keep this event going!

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!



Greg Arp

Greg Arp Benefit

A Trivia Night was held March 20th at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds to benefit **Greg Arp** and his battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

Greg's wife **Vicky** is a Para-Educator at West High School, and his children Laura and Christopher both graduated from West.

Greg is a 1970 graduate of Central High School and played on the State Basket-

ball Team. He has been a big supporter of Davenport Schools. Greg received a Hug Award for the outdoor classroom he built at Wilson School. Additionally, Greg was Dad's Club President at Wilson School and coached several Dad's Club soccer, basketball, and softball teams while his children were at Wilson and Williams.

For many years, Greg was

a member of the West High Boosters. He cooked hundreds of pork chops at Brady Street Stadium and built many show choir, prom, after prom, and homecoming props. He also made and hung several display cases.

The thoughts and prayers of the West High Community go out to Greg, Vicky, and their family during this difficult time.

A lot of dreams don't come true in life.

If you can make somebody's dream come true, you should.

Jameer Nelson

Spring is Student Senate Charity Time

Student Senate is again hard at work raising money for worthy causes. Senators have created an extensive list of activities for the enjoyment of the WHS Community.

As always, the big draw is the **West High Variety Show**, featuring student and staff performances in music, dancing, and comedy. The Variety Show will be held on **Friday, April 30 at 7:00 pm**.

New for this year is **Minute to Win It**. Senate will recreate this new NBC show featuring seemingly simple tasks that must be completed in one minute. If the task is not finished, the player is eliminated. After completing each task, contestants can choose to walk away with prizes, or try their luck at another task.

The following is a list of dates and times for the **Senate Charity Events**:

April 23—Drive In Movie, "The Blind Side" at Dusk, south side of building.

April 30—Variety Show, 7:00 pm, Auditorium.

May 4—Minute to Win It, 3 pm in the WHS Gym.

May 28—Mr./Mrs./Ms. Freddy Falcon, 1:45 pm in the Auditorium.

May 29—Car Wash, 12-3:00 pm at NorthPark Mall.

Pink Out Night

On January 15, member schools of the **Mississippi Athletic Conference** hosted a “**Pink Out Night**” in support of Breast Cancer Research. The MAC partnered with the **Susan G. Komen for the Cure** Quad-Cities Affiliate to sell over **1600** pink t-shirts that were worn to that evenings basketball games.

In all close to \$12,500 dollars was raised by selling the shirts. In March, the

MAC Athletic Directors were able to present a check for the \$5,000 in profits from the sale to the Komen for the Cure organization.

West High School led the MAC in t-shirt sales by selling close to **\$4,000** in t-shirts! This almost doubled the amount raised by the next closest school.

This just goes to

show how the West High Community continues to rally around worthy causes to support those in need. The Falcon Family should be extremely proud!



SUPPORTING THE PROMISE OF
SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE

Project Lead the Way Legislative Showcase

On **Tuesday, March 23**, representatives from the **Davenport Community Schools** attended the **Project Lead the Way Legislative Showcase** at the **Iowa State Capital Rotunda**.

Project Lead the Way, Inc. (PLTW), is a national, non-profit organization, established to help schools give middle and high school students the knowledge they need to excel in high-tech fields, has been established in more than 100 schools across the state.

Students **Shannon Lange** (West), **Flint Ridenhour** (North), and **Megan Essary** (Central), were accompanied by teachers **Duane**

Stahl (West), **Gary Blinkensop** (Central), and Career and Technical Curriculum Coordinator **Betty Griffin**. The students displayed a variety of projects developed in PLTW courses, and had an opportunity to network with students from other PLTW schools, state lawmakers, and the CEO of PLTW, John Lock.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) gives students a brighter future by providing them with a strong foundation and proven path to college and career success in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)-related fields. PLTW partners from Iowa’s regent universities,

Iowa community colleges, state departments and Iowa businesses also were available to share information about their roles in the PLTW system.



Rep. Cindy Winckler, Flint Ridenhour, Gary Blinkensop, Shannon Lange (seated), Megan Essary, Betty Griffin, and Duane Stahl.

WHS Chosen as a PLTW Model School

The **Project Lead The Way** program at West High School was chosen as a **national PLTW model school site**. Schools were judged based on the degree of uniqueness of five PLTW quality indicators: **program implementation, post secondary relationships, communications and outreach, professional development and student engagement**. West High School currently offers six courses in the PLTW program.

WHS Principal, **Nancy Jacobsen**, and teachers **Jason Franzenburg** and **Duane Stahl**, have served on the PLTW Advisory Council since its inception and have provided on-going support in many ways. Jason and Duane have each been trained in 3 different PLTW courses, and Jason is a master teacher for Introduction to Engineering Design. This honor is definitely well deserved!



Winter Sports Recognition

We will receive not what we idly wish for but what we justly earn.

Our rewards will always be in exact proportion to our service.

—Earl Nightingale

Many West High athletes had a great Winter Sports season and were recognized by the **Mississippi Athletic Conference** or the **Quad City Times** as an **All-Conference** or **All-Metro** competitor. Following is a list of our honorees by the sport in which they participate.

Boys Basketball:

Cody Cooley—3rd team All MAC Conference

Joe Scott—Honorable Mention All MAC

Darren Stringfellow—Honorable Mention All MAC Conference

Nate Wells—Honorable Mention All MAC

Patrick Wright—Honorable Mention All MAC Conference

Girls Basketball:

Madison Rugeburg—3rd Team All MAC; Honorable Mention All Metro

Mackenzie Gray—Honorable Mention All MAC Conference

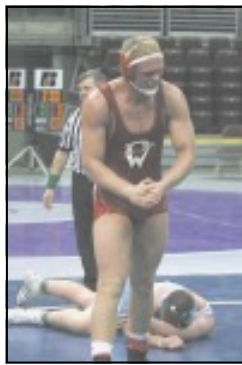
Abby Willich—Honorable Mention All MAC Conference

Wrestling:

Jarred Delp—Honorable Mention All-Metro

Nolan Proehl—2nd Place Iowa State Wrestling Meet and District Meet, 3rd Place MAC Meet, 2nd Team All-Metro 285 lb.

Garrett Riley—Honorable Mention All-Metro



Nolan Proehl exits the mat victorious at the Iowa State Wrestling Meet. Photo courtesy Q.C. Times

Falcon Wrestler Finishes Second

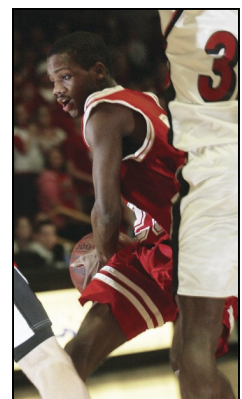
Congratulations to senior wrestler **Nolan Proehl** for his great season and runner-up finish at the **Iowa State Wrestling Meet**. Nolan's run through the 285 lb. class included an opening round win over eventual 3rd place fin-

isher Colin White of Glenwood and a win over 6th place finisher Connor Herman of CR Jefferson. Nolan finished the season with a record of **30-5** that included a **2nd Place** finish at the **District Meet** and a **3rd Place** finish at

the **MAC Conference Meet**.

As a team, the Falcons finished the season with a **9-7** dual meet record and a 5th Place finish at the Conference Meet.

Great job Wrestlers!



Junior Patrick Wright looks to pass during the sub-state final versus Clinton. Photo courtesy Q.C. Times

Falcon Cagers Make a Run at State

The **West High Boys** and **Girls Basketball** teams both had victories in this years **Sub-State** round of the post-season.

The Falcon Girls posted an opening round win against Central **46-42**. The win awarded them a third straight trip to the sub-state semi-finals against 5th ranked Cedar Rapids Kennedy. The Falcons fell 60-30 to a very tough Kennedy team led by U of Iowa recruit Jade Rogers.

The **Falcon Boys** took a

6-16 record into sub-state play looking to continue improvements made during the season. Their first round matchup was against Muscatine. The Falcons stormed to a **15-0** early lead, but allowed the Muskies back into the game. In the end, West prevailed **46-40**.

The win over Muscatine gave the **Falcons** a shot at 4th ranked Bettendorf. West answered the bell swinging and put the Bulldogs away **43-38**.

Up next was a return trip

to Bettendorf to face Clinton. The **Falcons** took an early lead but couldn't hold on, falling **56-51**.

Coach Mark Bigler praised his team and West High, "I am extremely proud of our team. They have been extremely hard workers and it is nice to see their hard work rewarded with this success. Our student body and Falcon fan support was outstanding. It was great to see the Falcon Red Pride demonstrated at the games."

Falcon Drama Goes International

For the first time in the history of West High School the drama department (newly dubbed **Falcon Drama**) has been selected to perform at the **International Thespian Festival** in **Lincoln, Nebraska** held the last week in June. Being chosen to perform at this event is one of the greatest achievements a high school drama department can reach.

The selection entitled **Fortress** competed at the **Iowa Thespian Festival** and was chosen from a group of one acts. The International cast is smaller than the State cast, but Falcon Drama **Director Wayne Hess** is planning to get the same points across, only with a smaller cast.

The International cast includes seniors: **Justin Grubbs, Sarah Ormsby,**

Cydney Roelandt, and **Jim Slagle;** junior **Katie Revelle;** and sophomore **Hope Karwoski.**



To raise money to attend the festival Falcon Drama brought in **Come-dySportz** for a special performance. There are also several Falcon Drama Improv performances scheduled to help raise money.

The starting point of all achievement is desire. Keep this constantly in mind.

Weak desires bring weak results, just as a small fire makes a small amount of heat.

Napoleon Hill

Athletic Booster Club Website

Did you know the West High Athletic Booster Club has its own website? The Booster's website is a one stop shop for a variety of information pertaining to athletics at West.

The site has a link for

each sport at West including information about the coaching staffs, a catalog of spirit wear available for purchase, a calendar of upcoming events, press releases about Falcon teams and athletes, info on former Falcons at

college, and a printable membership form.

You can access the Athletic Booster's website through the West High website, or at www.davenportwestathleticboosters.org.

WHS Band Travels to San Antonio

Over Spring Break, the members of the **West High Bands** competed in the **Heritage Music Festival** in **San Antonio, Texas.**

Band Director Dennis Mott says his Big Three on band trips are: **good behavior, good performance and good weather.** The band got many compliments on their deportment from front desk staff, the restaurant staff at the hotel, the festival staff, AND bus drivers and chaperones.

They played well, too! The band placed **2nd** in their class with a **Division 1** rating. They were one of five groups of the 31 competing to win an **Adjudicators Trophy.** This earned the Falcons an invitation to compete in the **National Heritage Festival of Gold** to be held in **Los Angeles, California.** The weather was sunny and in the upper 70's to low 80's the whole time. "We won the trifecta," said Mr. Mott.

The kids also got a bit of history at the **Six Floor Museum** site of the JFK assassination in Dallas, and more specific Texas history at the **San Jose Mission** and **The Alamo.** They had a lot of fun at **Six Flags Fiesta Texas,** where the music awards were given out and also at **Sea World.** They were also able to spend some time on the **River Walk** in downtown San Antonio. In all, a great time was had by all of the band members.

The West High Athletic Boosters Club meets the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm, in the Library Media Center



DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

WWW.DAVENPORTSCHOOLS.ORG/WEST

West High School Administrative Team



Standing: Bob Tollefson, Associate Principal; Mike Lawler, Assistant Principal; Al Blocker, Athletic Director; Matt Hassig, Assistant Principal

Sitting: Gwen Maxwell, Associate Principal; Nancy Jacobsen, Principal; Kris Whalen, Associate Principal; Marilyn Peters, Head Counselor

WHS Needs Your Help!

Due to the decrease in available funding from the Department of Education, State of Iowa, and the Davenport Schools, West High School will no longer be mailing printed copies of this newsletter to each family in our school.

So, here is where you can help us. Please forward this newsletter to your friends or neighbors with students at West High, or our feeder schools. Then, please provide an email address where future correspondence could be sent. You could do this by: emailing the newsletter editor, Brian Price, at priceb@davenportschools.org; or provide an email address when you attend Parent/Teacher Conferences on April 28.

Thank you in advance for your help!