

PANTHER PRIDE

A Publication for friends and neighbors of Palmyra School District.

Issue 1, Winter 2008

Palmyra School District Makes Leaps and Bounds with Curricula

With AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) being met every school year and high standardized test scores also being achieved, including the challenging SAT's, Palmyra School District is now one of the best in the county. Recently, the school district has implemented at the high school many new programs to make the school system even stronger. Some of these programs include, Technology Based Electives, Sports Medicine and Training, Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Film/Digital Editing, Media Digital & Technologies, Music Finale, Music Theory, Piano, Guitar, History of Sports, and Humanities. The list of programs to be added for next year include Forensic Science, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Hospitality and Tourism, WebDesign, Advanced Placement European History, Engineering Design, and Introduction of Engineering for college credit. The school district

has formed a partnership with Burlington County College/Drexel University Engineering School to align engineering related curricula for college course credit. The pre-engineering programs are currently being developed for both the elementary and high school levels. Through these programs, advanced mathematics and science courses will be offered. In addition, college credits may also be obtained for Advanced French and Accounting Courses. The school district continues to seek partnerships with colleges/universities and advance in technological instruction. Technological initiatives include white boards, on-line gradebook, teacher individualized websites (My InfoPage), SMART Technologies, and the Alumni Website. The School to Work Pro-

gram has also expanded to include career oriented private sector companies.



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PAW POWER

Palmyra Athletics was recently ranked 4th in the state in regard to the ShopRite Cup out of 94 Group I schools. In addition, Palmyra was awarded the prestigious Sportsmanship Award from the Burlington County Scholastic League and N.J.S.I.A.A. So far this year, many of our student athletes have been awarded county and state honors in several sports. Our Girls Soccer team finished with a 17-3-1 record with eight girls being named to all conference teams. The sea-

son ended with a heartbreaking overtime loss, however, in the South Jersey Championship game. The Boys Soccer team also had an outstanding season with seven being named to all conference teams. Both our boys and girls all stars played in the Burlington County Scholastic League All Star Game. Also, our football team finished the season with a 7-3 record, playing in a consolation playoff game, and beating Cinnaminson, the first time in ten years. Overall, during

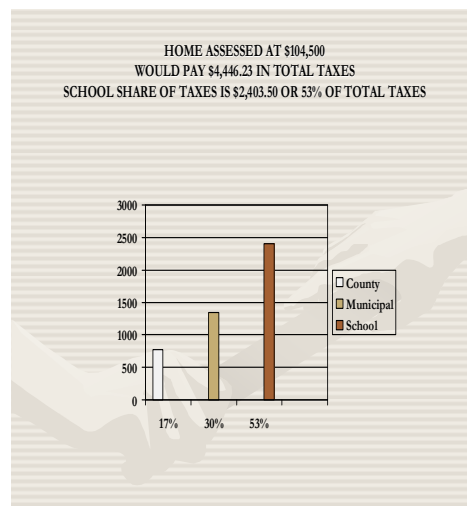
the Fall Season we had 21 student athletes named to all conference teams. In the Winter Season our student athletes had just as much success. Both our Girls and Boys Basketball teams won their divisions. This was the first time in fifteen years that both were champions at the same time. We also had a wrestler place high in the District Championships and go deep into the Regional Championships. Winter Track had 9 athletes compete on the state level in various events. During

Breaking Down the School Budget - Good News!

In times of rising costs in gas, milk, eggs, and other products including enormous tuition costs for colleges/universities, there is good news! With this year's school budget **Your School Taxes Will Not Go Up!** In fact, there will be a moderate decrease. Administrators worked hard by cutting their own budget by over \$650,000 to ensure no tax increase for the taxpayers while maintaining enough revenue for a thorough and efficient education of the students. This has been very difficult given a new Funding Formula from the state that only gave a two percent increase in aid to the Palmyra School District while other local school districts received ten and twenty percent aid increases. In addition, when there are double digit percent increases in energy, insur-

ance, maintenance, transportation, etc... Palmyra administrators have to figure out ways to keep district initiatives, programs, and services afloat during these difficult financial times. The adequacy cost to educate a Palmyra student is \$12,541.00 per student. Approximately fifty percent of your property taxes are applied for the school budget. So, for example, if you pay \$4,000 a year in property taxes, \$2,000 is used for education. That's only 16% of the \$12,541.00 needed to educate a single child.

Tuesday, April 15th is the Vote on the School Budget and School Board Candidates. Mark it on your calendar!



Counselor's Corner - Student Success

Recently, six students of our graduating class have been accepted to Drexel University. Given the high standards for admission to Drexel, this is amazing for a small school. We also had one of our students accepted to West Point with only 300 students being accepted out of the entire nation! In addition, one of our students was accepted to the prestigious Temple University Film School that is among the top ten in the nation and only accepts a handful of students each year. Some of the other colleges/universities that our students have been accepted to in recent years include Berkeley College, Bloomsburg University, Brown University, Cabrini College, California State University, Clemson University, Cornell University, Franklin and Marshall College, George Mason University, Harvard University, Hofstra University, Howard University, James Madison University, LaSalle University, Marymount University, Mount Saint Mary College, Mulenberg College, Northeastern University, Penn State University, Temple University, University of California- Santa Barbara, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Notre Dame, University of Southern California, University of Vermont, University of Virginia, Ursinus College, Villanova University, and West Virginia University to name a few. When asked what attributed to the success of these students attending these colleges/universities, the answer from teachers and administrators was that a small school has

a lot to offer in terms of individualized instruction and support, including a cultural environment whereby students are able to participate in extracurricular programs in which they can stand out and receive scholarships.

For underclassmen this is a very busy and important time of the year for middle school and high school students. This is the time of the year when parents and students should be discussing their future educational plans; for example: What courses will I take next year - regular, college-prep or honors? Based on these courses what are my long-term educational plans - two-year colleges, four-year colleges, trade/technical schools or the workforce? What career path are you interested in? Do you know what type of college degree you will need to enter into this career field? These questions may seem a little aggressive for incoming high school students but the sooner these conversations take place the better prepared you will be for the future.

If a student is undecided of their future plans the best advice is to have them register for college-prep courses, this way if a student decides to go to college they will have taken the appropriate courses and will be on track. If a student is unsure of a career path they can come to the guidance office and discuss potential careers with their counselor.

"A small school has a lot to offer in terms of individualized instruction and support..."

Attention parents of seniors: Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA is currently available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This application is free and determines your child's financial eligibility for grants and loans for college. Every parent is encouraged to fill out a FAFSA for their college-bound senior regardless of income levels. If you need any assistance with the form please contact the guidance office.

Little Paws - News from Charles Street

Charles Street School had a wonderful celebration for Read Across America Day, an NEA Project, on February 29th. Community members, Board members, administration and Congressman Andrews, and news anchor Lori Delgado participated as guest readers.

Our guest author, Tom Tocher, courtesy of the P.T.A., shared his experiences as a writer with grade level groups. Over 200 students met the six hour reading goal and received tickets for free admission to a Camden Riversharks game on April 25th. Students who met the goal will be honored at the game.

Students in grades 3-6 participated in slogan and poster contests, tying in the benefits of reading with Dr. Seuss theme. Barnes and Noble gift certificates were awarded to the winner, courtesy of the Just Say No Club. The posters are on display on a bulletin board near the office. Parents were invited to join in the school-wide reading train which ended our wonderful day celebrating the joys of reading. In addition, other reading programs have been implemented including Bookmates, Reading Buddies, and Jungle-Like Vines whereby students and staff write on leaves the books they read and these leaves are placed on vines throughout the school building.

Fox in Socks



Regionalization Fallacy

Given shrinking school budgets, less aid from the state, and more challenges educating our children, some people mistakenly believe that Regionalization is the answer. What do we know about Regionalization? Many school districts find out much too late that

Regionalization is not the answer. Often higher taxes, less control, and a displaced student body is what they are usually left with. Whenever a school regionalizes, buildings have to be brought up to code or built, transportation has to be provided, and additional re-

sources in many forms have to be implemented. The Palmyra School District is a comprehensive K-12 school district that already has County/State Supported Send-Receive agreements.

Paws for a Cause

In addition to high academic and athletic achievement, Palmyra students give back to the community in a variety of ways. Some of these include, Canned Goods Drive, Blood Drive, Project Linus (Blanket Collection for Children in Hospitals), Fundraisers for March of Dimes, Fundraisers for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Dr. Martin Luther King Service Day, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, assisting the Borough with Holiday Festivities, Computer Instruction for the Elderly, various walkathons, and providing help to those in need within the community.

Seniors Helping Seniors

Panther Pride is published by:

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