



# WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL

ARROW—A Newsletter for Parents  
November 2009

## Points of Interests and Upcoming Events

### Board of Education Meetings:

November 9th  
at 7:00 p.m.  
MacGregor Elem.

December 14th  
at 7:00 p.m.  
Kolb Elementary

January 11th  
at 7:00 p.m.  
Mackensen Elem.

**There will be no school for students on November 2nd**

**There will be no school for students on November 25th thru November 27th**

**The offices will be closed on these days as well.**

**Fall Trimester Exams:  
November 19th and November 20th**

## MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM JUNIOR PARENT MEETING January 27, 6-7:00p.m. in the Commons

The Michigan Merit Exam is a combination of the ACT test and Michigan Department of Education State requirement for all Junior status students. Taking this exam is also a graduation requirement for the Bay City Public Schools.

Michigan Merit Exam schedule: Tuesday, March 9 - Thursday March 11, 2010.

### *A note from the Principal*

Our new phone menu is now in place! Please keep the following list close by your phone for reference. Our telephone number is 662-4481 and your options will be as follows:

Press 3 for the Attendance Office  
Press 4 for the Counseling Office  
Press 8 for the Records Office  
Press 9 for the High School Main Office  
Press 2 for the Athletic Office  
Press 1 for Administrator Offices

We hope that this will help to direct your calls to the appropriate office. Thank you!

### FALL TRIMESTER EXAMS

Fall Trimester exams will be here soon! Here is the schedule that we will be following:

#### **Thursday, November 19, 2009**

7:30a.m.-9:15a.m.: 1st Hour  
9:30a.m.-11:15a.m.: 2nd Hour  
12:15p.m.-2:00p.m.: 3rd Hour

#### **Friday, November 20, 2009**

7:30a.m.-9:15a.m.: 4th Hour  
9:30a.m.-11:15a.m.: 5th Hour

The Winter Trimester will begin on Monday, November 23, 2009. Due to the upcoming break, report cards will be distributed the week of November 30, 2009.

### FALL CONFERENCES

At our fall conference, 49% of our students were represented, a considerable increase from previous years. It is yet another example of the involvement and commitment shown by our parents for the students at WHS. A common theme circulating that night was the amount of homework parents are seeing students bring home. This is due to a number of positive changes we are experiencing this year. Including efficient use of class time, the increase in the number of academic classes taken by students to meet the state requirements and the twelve week terms are all examples of how education at WHS is changing for our young people. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

## **Counselor's Corner**

PSAT results will be available in early December for all students who tested.

The PLAN will be given to all 10<sup>th</sup> graders in December.

Seniors met with their counselor in October for their senior interview. Parents please review the information packets that were sent home with your student.

Sophomores had the opportunity to attend the Career Pathways Open House on Friday, October 23, 2009 at Delta College. Students interacted with professionals representing over 200 different careers.

### **PLAN Testing**

The ACT PLAN assessment program will be given to all sophomores on Tuesday, December 8th. We want your son or daughter to have every advantage in planning for their remaining years of high school and their future. We believe the PLAN supports these efforts.

The PLAN includes academic tests in English, math, reading, and science reasoning; an interest inventory, a study power assessment, and a section on your student's plans, needs, and goals. The tests are modeled after the regular ACT, thus giving your student practice for the ACT college admission test they will take in 11th grade.

You and your student will receive a Student Report that identifies academic strengths and weaknesses, helps in exploring careers, and contributes to planning for the last two years of high school. Please make sure your sophomore is in attendance on the 8th and if you have further questions you can contact your students counselor.

### **Co-op/Career Opportunities**

**Co-op** is a partnership between the school and an employer from the various trade, industrial, business or pre-professional establishments in the community. By working half of the school day, students learn practical skills and knowledge that will prepare them to work in their chosen career. Co-op is an opportunity for seniors only and they must be a paid at least minimum wage. Western High School has 56 seniors on co-op this year.

**Second Trimester Co-op opportunities** will be listed in the morning announcements. Students may also find their own opportunities and have them approved in the Co-op office. November 23 is the last date a senior may add co-op to their schedule. Any questions, call Diane Oberlies at 662-4481 extension 6415.

**JUNIORS** interested in a co-op job next year may stop by the co-op office for applications and resume instructions. More information next month.

### **Career Center News**

The Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center offers approximately 24 programs to juniors and seniors in Bay and Arenac counties. Classes are offered in all six career pathways. Brochures may be picked up in the counseling center listing the classes and their descriptions – or information can be found on their website at [www.baisdcareercenter.com](http://www.baisdcareercenter.com). Students may receive college credit (articulation) as well as state and national certifications in many of the programs. Currently Western High School has about 200 students attending. Students wishing to attend the career center second trimester should see Diane Oberlies in the Counseling Center for availability of classes.

**In December**, there will be a presentation sophomores and juniors interested in attending the career center next year. More information next month.

### **COLLEGE PREP SERVICES**

Attention Parents & Students – Grades 8 to 12! Mark your calendars and plan to attend "*College Bound: It's Not All About the Money!*" hosted by BCPS College Preparation Services. Here are the details:

Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Western High School or

Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Central High School

This event focuses on college and career preparation and planning – the earlier you plan, the better! Informational sessions for grades 8 – 12 will be offered, so whether you want help completing your FAFSA, or you're worried about how you'll pay for college, or you want to talk to recent H.S. graduates about their college experience, plan to attend either one of these events. For more information: 989.671.8180 – or – [murphys@bcschools.net](mailto:murphys@bcschools.net) – or – [www.bcpscollegeprep.com](http://www.bcpscollegeprep.com). We hope to see you there!

## **Preschool**

The Western High School Preschool program will run from January 18th—May 14th of this school year. Applications are available for download on our webpage at [www.baycitywestern.com](http://www.baycitywestern.com). Enrollment is limited to 25 and registrations will be accepted on first come first served basis.

The cost will be \$100 for this program and class sessions will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-11am. If you have any questions or need more information, you can Email Mrs. Piotrowski at [piotrowskid@bcschools.net](mailto:piotrowskid@bcschools.net) or call her at 662-4481 ext. 6249.

## **Auburn Elementary Fundraiser**

Auburn PTO is conducting a mini-fundraiser and we are taking Schwann orders from November 4-12. The pickup will be in the Auburn Elementary Parking Lot from 2-6 on Friday, 11/20. Orders are to be paid upon pickup. Last minute shoppers can also park and shop without pre-ordering. If you have any questions, please contact Auburn Elementary at 662-4921.

## ***Athletic News***

Attention Athletes: Winter Sports Physicals are due to the Athletic Office by **November 5, 2009**. You must have your physical and \$75 pay to participate fee in to the Athletic Office by that date in order to try out.

Winter Warrior Night will be held on Monday, November 23rd, at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. This event is held to recognize all winter athletes and is open to all winter athletes and their families. Desserts and refreshments will be provided.

A big thank you goes out to everyone involved in the Dig Pink Fundraiser held by the WHS Girls Volleyball program to support Breast Cancer Research. A donation of over \$2,300.00 was made to the Side Out Foundation to support this cause! Special thanks to all of our sponsors listed below!

Valley Carpet, Inc.

Krengielski Farms

Professional Manager Network

Bay Regional Medical Center

In Loving Memory of Barbara Wheelock

Ed Samborn Insurance Agency

Milissa's School of Dance

Boilermakers Local 169

Garber Buick-Saginaw

Harbour Light Photography

Ron, Teri, Drew, and Morgan Jenkins

## **Warrior Wednesday Raffle Tickets are here!!**

Attention: Parents (Especially Senior Parents) The Warrior Wednesday Raffle Tickets are here and ready to sell. Proceeds go to Post Prom/Senior Parties. They are 10 dollars each. Prize: \$100 per drawing based on Michigan's 3-Digit Lottery Number drawn every Wednesday night for the 20 weeks from March 3, 2010 thru July 14, 2010. These make great stocking stuffer Christmas presents. To pick up your tickets contact Janie Ouillette (662-4766) or Janet Peterson (684-8136) for more information.

## **United Bay Community Credit Union Warrior Branch**

Financial illiteracy among today's youth is staggering. Teenagers spend more than \$100 billion a year, yet less than half of our young people know the basics of money management. A survey of young people ages 12 through 19 indicated that 40% of them have access to a credit card and another 33% are interested in having one. Add to this the statistics that consumer debt has grown nearly 700% since 1972 and more than one million Americans file for bankruptcy every year.

United Bay Community Credit Union is committed to helping your student obtain a financial foundation. We have a branch at the high school so the students can have access to their accounts and also get their financial questions answered. Now is a great time to encourage a savings plan.

The UBCCU Warrior Branch is open on Tuesdays and Fridays during the student lunch periods. If you need additional information, please call Kerri at (989) 891-1636.

**ATTENTION WESTERN ALUMNI!!**

We have yearbooks available from prior graduating years. If you are interested, please contact Amy Schmidt, Yearbook Advisor, at 662-4481, ext. 6243.

Attention Seniors & Parents,

Please don't forget to turn in your senior portraits by **Tuesday December 15, 2009**. Due to publishing deadlines, pictures delivered after this date will not appear in the yearbook. Please see the senior specifications on the school website: [www.baycitywestern.com](http://www.baycitywestern.com) (click on yearbook)

There are two ways to deliver your pictures:

Drop the printed and labeled photo in the senior drop box located in the main office.

Or hand deliver a CD to the main office, it's also acceptable to mail the disk to the school attention: *WHS Yearbook*.

Please do not e-mail your photos to us; we have restrictions on the sizes of photos we can open.

Once again, we will have a local photographer come to school to photograph students who would like to appear in the yearbook, but due to hardship can't purchase senior pictures. If you could benefit from this opportunity please contact Mrs. Amy Schmidt, yearbook adviser.

Western High School Yearbook  
500 West Midland Rd.  
Auburn, Mi 48611  
Amy Schmidt, adviser  
662-4481 ext. 6243

Purchase your yearbook, parent page, or business ad by credit card at:  
[www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com) (\$2 surcharge)

**YES! I want to buy a Parent Page for my son or daughter!**

**I would like to purchase a:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **1/8 Page Full Color Ad for \$65 (1 Picture)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **1/4 Page Color Ad for \$100 (1-2 Pictures)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **1/2 Page Color Ad for \$200 (1-4 Pictures)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Full Page Color Ad for \$350 (1-10 Pictures)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **2009/2010 Yearbook for \$55**

Please enclose a self-addressed envelope large enough to mail back the pictures when printing is completed. Be sure to include enough postage to cover the weight of the photos. You may also want to write on the envelope that PHOTOS are enclosed!

**Please do not exceed the picture limit! If more pictures are enclosed, it will be at the WHS Business Manager's discretion to decide which pictures will be used.**

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please mail checks or money orders by Tuesday, December 15, 2009**

**Western High School Yearbook  
Attn: Parent Pages  
500 West Midland Road  
Auburn, MI 48611**

**November 2009**

**Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of Bay City Public Schools,**

Thanks to all of you who are actively involved in your child's education as we all know how important this is to their success in school and in life. Generally this is the time of year that you have an opportunity to participate in parent-teacher conferences and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to see and hear how your child is doing at school.

In last month's newsletter, I highlighted Ms. Colleen DeSanto who was named the Michigan Art Education Association's elementary "Art Educator of the Year."

This month, another of our dedicated teachers, Matt Reid, who teaches at Wenona, received the Milken National Educator Award along with a \$25,000 cash award. Dubbed the "Oscars of Teaching" by *Teacher Magazine*, Matt is one of more than 50 teachers nationwide this year to receive this very prestigious award. If you would like to view more information related to Matt's award, visit the Milken Family Foundation at [www.mff.org](http://www.mff.org) and link to "Recipients." The district congratulates Matt for his accomplishments and dedication to the students of the Bay City Public Schools.

Trimesters are underway at our high schools. This is the first year we have used trimesters and with any change of this size, there are adjustments that have to be made. The main concern we have at this time is the coordination of starting and ending class times between our high schools and the skill center. This has impacted time students have to eat lunch and drive between their school and the skill center. We're working toward a viable solution for the second trimester which begins at the end of November.

Many of the curriculum changes that are being directed from the State have to do with high school. A new change at high school will pertain to students in the class of 2012. This change will not permit students to opt out of physical education if they are involved in certain alternative class selections such as marching band. The main reason for this change is the national and state concern regarding children's obesity and physical health.

At our October board meeting, our auditors presented the 2008-09 audit report. The good news is that the audit report was clean and without any findings or issues. The bad news is that our financial picture, like most other school districts, is getting worse and we will be discussing this year how to stabilize our finances in the face of funding cuts this year and even larger cuts next year.

I hope that you and your loved ones have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

If you have comments or questions, I can be reached at [newcombed@bcschools.net](mailto:newcombed@bcschools.net) or 671-8165. As always, thank you for your interest and support of the Bay City Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Newcombe  
Interim Superintendent