



Volume 14, Issue 4
January 2012

Dates To Remember

- *Jan. 9: School Board Meeting at 6:00 pm at Sandy High School.*
- *Jan. 16: No School - Holiday*
- *Jan. 23: Winter Court tickets on sale before school and during lunches at the fee window.*
- *Jan. 26 & 27: Semester Finals*
- *Jan. 30: No School - Grading Day*
- *Feb. 1: Last day to purchase Winter Court tickets and turn in outside guest forms (by 12:10 pm).*
- *Feb. 4: Winter Court Dance from 8:00-11:00 pm in Gym A.*
- *Feb. 13: School Board Meeting at 6:00 pm at Cedar Ridge Middle School.*
- *Feb. 20: No School, Holiday.*
- *Feb. 21: Athletic Clearance for Spring Sports.*
- *Feb. 27: Spring Sports begin.*
- *Feb. 28: Choir Invitational at 7:00 pm in the Gym A.*

GO PIONS!

PIONEER PRIDE

Sandy High School Oregon Trail School District #46

A message from Principal Werner

Welcome to the New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and is looking forward to an exciting 2012. Our students and community did a fantastic job raising money and collecting cans for the canned food drive in December. The deliveries were made over the break and with your help the Kiwanis and Sandy High School were able to provide meals for many families in our community. Great job!

Winter athletics are in full swing. We have a full slate of home and away events in January and February and our athletes always enjoy having your support. Please come out and root on your Pioneer athletics. The link to winter sports schedules can be found on our website.

Finals will be the 26th and 27th of January. That means our school year will be half way complete! We encourage our students to get plenty of rest in preparation for Finals. Students and staff are working diligently on maintaining a high academic standard. The semester will end on the 27th of January and the new semester will begin on January 31st.

Progress continues to be made at the new high school. The interior changes on a daily basis. We are still on target to open up this September in our beautiful new building. Please visit the website for updated information and photos.

January is often a time of reflection on the past year and of hopeful expectations for the year ahead. May our reflection increase our wisdom and capacity to embrace the joys and meet the challenges of 2012. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Tim Werner
Principal

Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated by their teachers for Student of the Month with the theme of Perseverance.

Chris Boner
Seana Byron-Perry
Mackenzie Hale
Marie Klein
Kimi Loren
Melissa Sherwood
James Yoerger

Important Information for Parents of College-bound Seniors

Seniors and their parents should file the **FAFSA** as soon as possible to be considered for ALL possible financial aid opportunities. Go to the government's FAFSA website (fafsa.ed.gov) to get more information and to file. Avoid the website fafsa.com as they will CHARGE you to do your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid!** If you would like FREE help filling out the FAFSA, local community colleges are hosting College Goal Saturdays during the month of January. Financial aid experts will be available in community college computer labs to help families complete the FAFSA. Go to collegegoaloregon.org for January dates, times, and locations.

The **OSAC Scholarship Early Bird Deadline** is February 16! If seniors submit their applications by that deadline, OSAC will notify students if they are missing any documents. If the application is complete by that deadline, the student's will be put into a drawing of over 20 \$500 scholarships. The final deadline for the OSAC eapp is March 1. Be sure to wait to submit the transcripts AFTER first semester grades have been posted. To get to the eapp go to getcollegefunds.org and click on the bright green OSAC Scholarship button.

Please be sure to make copies of any **scholarship awards letters** that seniors receive and turn them in to the SHS Counseling Center. We include a list of ALL scholarships that seniors are offered in the SHS Graduation Program and in the scholarship lists we send to local media. Although we do not publish scholarship amounts, we DO tally all scholarship money to also reveal at the annual Senior Awards Program the total amount of scholarship money offered to the graduating class. But, colleges and scholarship organizations do NOT generally send that information to high schools, so we must rely on students and their parents to provide us with that information!

Attention Parents: The finals schedule in the planner is incorrect. Please see our website on the week of January 16th for an updated schedule.

Career Center Corner

JANUARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Jan 7: College Goal Oregon; see CollegeGoalOregon.gov for locations
- Jan 13: ACT registration deadline for 2/11 test
- Jan 14: College Goal Oregon; see CollegeGoalOregon.gov for locations
- Jan 15: U of O Standard Application and Scholarship deadline
- Jan 21: College Goal Oregon; see CollegeGoalOregon.gov for locations
- Jan 21: WOU Winter Preview Day I
- Jan 26: U of O Connections (college prep for 1st generation, ethnically diverse, economically disadvantaged high school students)
- Jan 27: WOU Making College Happen II
- Jan 28: EOU Campus Preview Day
- Jan 28: SAT test
- Jan 28: College Goal Oregon; see CollegeGoalOregon.gov for locations

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY

FOR SENIORS:

- Remember to proofread, and have someone else proofread, your completed FAFSA
- Submit completed FAFSA online as soon after Jan. 1 as possible
- Attend a College Goal Oregon event if you need help with your FAFSA. For more information go to www.CollegeGoalOregon.org
- Check for student aid report on the FAFSA website several days after filing FAFSA
- Have someone proofread your scholarship applications and essays.
- Register for SAT subject tests if required
- Request mid-year transcripts be sent to colleges applied to
- Request transcripts needed for OSAC scholarship application
- Check mail for decision letters and info from schools applied to
- Send thank-you notes to those who wrote recommendation letters
- Keep grades up; colleges pay close attention to the second half of the senior year!

FOR JUNIORS:

- Make a list of the different colleges you would like to explore
- Find out dates of campus preview days and plan some visits
- Visit as many campuses as possible
- Meet with an admissions representative and a financial aid officer during campus visits to find out what types of aid are available

FOR SOPHOMORES and FRESHMEN:

- Explore the CIS website (if available) to explore career possibilities and scholarship database
- Take challenging courses. Colleges take a close look at course rigor when evaluating an application

Reminder to Parents regarding Attendance

Just a reminder that all absences from school must be cleared by parents or guardians within 2 school days. All notes must have student name, student ID number, date(s) of absences, times or periods missed and the reason for the absence. Absences that can be excused are listed in our student planner on page 40. If you leave a voice mail message for the attendance office, please include all information mentioned above.

Have you purchased your 2011-2012 Oregon Trail calendar?

The Oregon Trail Education Foundation (OTEF) 2011-2012 Calendar highlights artwork from Oregon Trail students, and includes dates for events, meetings, and activities occurring across the entire District. OTEF is a private, voluntary organization, so all profits from the calendar will be contributed toward academic programs that are not otherwise available to our students. Calendars are available for purchase in every school office.

OTEF meets on the 4th Monday of each month, 4:00 p.m. at the Sandy High Career Center. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact OTEF President James Milliken at: james.milliken@ortrail.k12.or.us.

Newsletters to be emailed home

The Sandy High School parent newsletter will now be emailed home. If you would like a hardcopy, please have your student stop by the Principal's Office to pick one up.

Overdue Library Books?

If your library book was checked out in 2011, it is now overdue. Please return all library books to the library today so that others may use them. To make sure that your account is clear, you also need to pay any late fees that you have accrued. Want to avoid fees? Library books may be renewed for additional time. Stop in at the library for details.

Bring back the books!

Register for emergency text messages

The Oregon Trail School District uses an internet-based system for delivering emergency messages, such as weather closures, to parents and the media. Message delivery has now been extended directly to the public through a system called FlashAlert. You may self-register and manage up to three e-mail and/or Twitter addresses, or cell phone text message numbers, and receive emergency information just minutes after we post it, at no cost to you.

To get started, go to FlashAlert.net and follow the registration instructions. All addresses registered on FlashAlert will remain confidential and shall not be released to any person or organization. Once a year, you will receive an e-mail at your registered e-mail address asking if you wish to continue your subscription.

Important: Please be aware that with the proliferation of spam and the resulting spam filters, it is impossible to guarantee message delivery. After registering at FlashAlert, have a test message sent to verify it will pass through your mail server's filters. However, be aware that while a single message may make it through a filter, a whole group of messages at the same time might not, appearing to be spam. Also note that if you are using a "challenge/response" system (where a person must type in a number or word), there is no way to respond to your mail server's e-mail challenge.

If you have any questions, contact Julia Monteith at julia.monteith@ortrail.k12.or.us or 503-668-0679.