



Counselor's Newsletter

PCHS Guidance Department

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November, 2008



****Rend Lake College has notified PCHS that, beginning this year, students will be required to apply for all Foundation Scholarships on-line. Stop by guidance to apply. Applications are now available at https://webapp.rlc.edu/foundation/scholarship_apply.php. Recommendations required. Deadline: February 27, 2009.**

**** SIUC Alumni scholarships are now available on-line at www.siu.edu/alumni.com/scholarships.**

FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, & JUNIORS

- The Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) will be given on November 12-13. The test is administered to all freshmen, sophomores, & juniors. To learn more about the tests you can visit their website at <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/itp/ited/index.htm>

Upcoming College Representative Visits @ PCHS

Students wishing to meet with a college rep **MUST** sign up in guidance prior to the meeting.

November 20, 2008	University of Illinois—Springfield	11:00 a.m.	Conference Room
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ILLINOIS COLLEGES:

The following colleges have set priority deadlines. This means applications sent after these dates will be assessed at more competitive levels.

- University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign-**November 1st**
- Illinois State University- **November 15th**
- Northern Illinois University-**November 15th**
- Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville-**December 1st**
- University of Illinois at Chicago-**January 15th**

Quincy University (Quincy, Illinois) will be hosting a number of Discovery Days this year. They are currently in the planning stages and dates have not been set however you can view all the details at <http://www.quincy.edu/Admissions/DiscoveryDays/>

University of Illinois-Springfield- will be offering several Preview Days. Preview Days are on the following Saturdays: November 8th, January 24th, March 7th, and April 18th. For more information go to <http://www.uis.edu/admissions/preview.html>

Eastern Illinois University-Charleston, invites you to attend Open Houses on November 10th. For additional information go to <http://www.eiu.edu/~admissns/openhs.php>

Eureka College (Eureka, Illinois) would like to invite you to one of several Open House dates: November 8th, November 11th, and November 22nd. Also, during the second semester: January 24th, February 16th, and February 20th. For more information call 1-888-4-EUREKA or visit them on the web at www.eureka.edu

SENIORS

- Seniors- You need to be filling out your college applications on line. Several early-bird deadlines are November 16th. Computers are available in the guidance department. Be sure to print off the transcript release portion of the application. Bring the release to guidance so that we can forward transcripts to the appropriate school. **Apply FIRST-decide later.**Apply to any schools you are considering—you have until May 1 to make a final decision.

- Hopefully, many of you have visited or have set up a visit to colleges. College visits are very important for the students but especially important for the parent. Plan to make those visits as soon as possible. John A. Logan College WILL HOST A COLLEGE FAIR ON TUESDAY, November 4th, 6-7:30. Students can visit with representatives from dozens of colleges. Students and parents will have an opportunity to discuss admissions requirements, majors, financial aid, etc.
- **SENIORS:** www.ecampustours.com is a free web site offering virtual tours of hundreds of college campuses in full view. The site also includes many student-focused services to assist in choosing a college and understanding financial aid. Also, students can register for a \$1,000 scholarship at the website. Scholarship deadline is March 31, 2009.
- There will be a working meeting regarding financial aid for all senior parents on December 15TH at 6:30 p.m. in the PCHS auditorium. Come ready to fill out the FAFSA and local scholarship information. More details to follow as we get closer to the date. Continue to check the Guidance Newsletter on the PCHS website for monthly updates.
- Job Shadowing can also be set up in the Guidance office. Job Shadowing is important. It allows students to get a glimpse of what goes on during a typical day for a particular career. Job Shadowing days count as a college day. (2 per year)
- Students should be completing their RESUMES to attach to all scholarship applications. This prevents students from writing out the information on every application. Their personal essays are also very important as well as recommendations.
- **All athletes** looking for athletic scholarships need to register with the NCAA on line at https://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/NCAA/student/index_student.html. Make sure you print off the transcript release and bring it to guidance. To receive any athletic scholarship money, you **MUST** be registered. There is a \$50 fee. Register as soon as possible.

JUNIORS

- **ACT testing is about to begin.** For this years juniors we strongly recommend that they take their first ACT test in February, 2009 (Deadline for application is January 6, 2009-the day after we get back from Christmas break). Registration packets are available in guidance. Once you have picked up your packet, **fill out ONLY the front and the back pages of the registration folder and use the booklet inside the packet for code numbers of colleges and test sites. PCHS code is: 143-480.** PCHS will give the test April 22-23 along with the PSAE. This particular test date is the only determinant for Illinois State Scholars however; we recommend that juniors sample the test prior to the April 22nd test.
- Both the **ACT and the PSAE tests are free on April 22-23 here at PCHS.** A national ACT is also available on April 4, deadline: February 27, 2009, however, student scores will not be received before the April 22-23 test dates.
- Students planning to attend Rend Lake College in the fall of '09 must take the ASSET test. If you scored a 21 in English AND a 22 in Math on the ACT you DON'T have to take the ASSET test. The ASSET must be completed prior to registration for RLC classes in the fall of '09. Please call Heather or Linda at RLC to schedule the test, 357-3742.

SOPHOMORES

- The HUGH O'BRIEN YOUTH LEADERSHIP (HOBY) organization is sponsoring an all-expense paid seminar in IL and also the opportunity to become eligible to attend the "World Leadership Congress" in Washington, D.C. During these seminars, 10th graders have the opportunity to interact with groups of distinguished leaders in business, government, education, and other professions to discuss present and future issues. **ALL SOPHOMORES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.** You will be judged by the designated selection committee on leadership ability, sensitivity to others, and desire to communicate your knowledge to your peers. An essay is required. Please submit your interest along with your essay to your counselor by November 10, 2008.

FRESHMEN

- **If your student is struggling in a specific class we would like to remind you that teachers are available beginning at 7:45 each morning. Also, NHS will offering tutoring the third week of school at 7:45 every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning in Ms. White's room (14).**

OUT OF STATE COLLEGES:

Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) - SEMO offers individual tours Monday-Saturday. They also offer an open house program called, The Show Me Days which will be held on November 1st, February 21st, and March 28th.

University of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri- will be hosting its annual Meet Mizzou Days on November 1st. For more details go to <http://admissions.missouri.edu/visitus/specialEvents/mizzouDays.php>

University of Evansville (Indiana) will be hosting several open houses on November 8th, and January 19th. For more information visit: www.evansville.edu/prospects/visitue

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

Many scholarships are available through PCHS- <http://www.pchspanthers.com/academics/scholarships.htm>. However, from time to time other scholarship opportunities come available.

The **Toyota Community Scholars Scholarship** is ready for pick up! If you have a GPA of 3.0+, are actively involved in a service organization/project, and plan to pursue an undergraduate degree at an accredited four-year college or university, this scholarship opportunity is for you! Each year the program awards 100 student scholarships valued at \$10,000 and \$20,000 over four years. PCHS can only nominate **ONE** senior student. More information is available in guidance. **Deadline: December 1st.**

Seniors: Burger King announces a scholarship opportunity for you! Up to 700 scholarships at \$1,000 will be awarded! Eligibility requirements include: GPA 2.5+, work part-time 15 hours week/40 weeks per year; demonstrate participation in community service and/or co-curricular activities; demonstrate financial need; recommendations; and plan to enroll in an accredited two- or four-year college, university, vocational/technical school. You **DO NOT** need to be employed at a Burger King restaurant to be eligible. Applications are available online at www.bk.com/scholars. **Deadline: February 2, 2009.**

Seniors: The Elk's Most Valuable Student Scholarship competition is now underway! Any high school senior who is a U.S. citizen is eligible to apply. Male and female student compete separately for identical awards. Criteria include: scholarship, leadership (honors/awards, organization, employment, community service), and financial need. Applications are available at www.elks.org/enf/scholars. **Deadline: January 9, 2009.**

Seniors: The AXA Achievement Scholarship program is now open. The association will be awarding \$670,000 in scholarships to seniors who demonstrate a drive to succeed through their accomplishments in high school. To qualify, students should be well-rounded, determined to do their personal best, and have demonstrated achievement. Applications are available in Guidance or at www.axa-achievement.com **Deadline: December 15, 2008.**

Seniors: Wild Turkey Federation scholarships are now available in Guidance. To qualify you must have a GPA of 3.0+ and have a current hunting license. Additional information is now available in the Guidance Office. **Deadline: January 1, 2009**

Rend Lake College High Achiever scholarship- In order to qualify students must have an ACT composite score of 27 or higher. This scholarship includes all tuition, fees and books. Summers are also included.

ALL STUDENTS: The First Freedom Student Competition is a national essay contest, offering 9th – 12th grade students nationwide an opportunity to compete for \$3,000, \$1,500, and \$750 awards, as they examine the First Amendment and history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. For guidelines and registration, visit www.firstfreedom.org and click on the red button under Council News. **Online registration deadline is November 24 and postmark deadline is November 29, 2008.**

The ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (IEG) is awarding seven \$1,250 scholarships to students whose parent(s) is an electric cooperative consumer/member. The applicant must be a senior who is planning to enroll full-time at an accredited two- or four-year college or university anywhere in the United States. Other scholarships are also available for children of cooperative employees. Applications are available in the Guidance Office. **Deadline is January 1, 2009.**

The ILLINOIS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (ICF) will recognize a select few high school students in the state's prestigious Conservation YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP. The annual \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to ten (10) juniors and/or seniors who have made significant contributions or exhibited unparalleled dedication in preserving, promoting, enhancing or supporting natural resources in Illinois. Applications are available in the Guidance Office or visit www.ilcf.org. **Deadline is December 1, 2008.**

Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO)- Salutatorians, in addition to Valedictorians, may now qualify for the President's and Regent's Scholarships automatically with the required ACT/SAT scores. The guarantee deadline for all merit scholarships is December 15th. Scholarships of \$500-1,000 are now available to Marching Band students, with additional scholarships for all-state band members.

Lincolnland Legends is a program designed to engage Illinois students in honoring people who inspire and motivate them. Any junior or senior may nominate by essay someone for special recognition. Nominees must be still living and must have been born in, have lived in, or currently live in your congressional district in Illinois. The nominations should fall into the category of business and community leadership. Information is available from Mr. Herbst. \$3,000 scholarship, deadline December 1, 2008.

UPCOMING TESTS:

ACT (American College Testing Program). Registration forms are available in the PCHS Guidance Office. The ACT is the most frequently used test by Illinois colleges for admission and is even required in many cases. If you are a junior and would like to take an ACT to prepare for the PSAE in April we recommend you sign up for the February 7 test date. The last day for registration to avoid a late fee is January 6, 2009. Pinckneyville's school code is 143-480.

Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) The ITED at PCHS is used in grades 9-11. From its beginning in 1942, the emphasis in the program has been on the use of ITED results for instructional purposes and to track student progress. **The ITED test dates for PCHS will be November 12th & 13th.**

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Nov. 21, 2008 HOBY-interact with groups of distinguished leaders in business, government, education, and others.
- Nov. 21, 2008 Toyota Community Scholars Sch—GPA 3.0+, attend four-year college/university; involved in community service.
- Nov. 24, 2008 First Freedom Student Comp.—essay contest on the First Amendment; religion; www.firstfreedom.org
- Nov. 26, 2008 IEA-NEA- child of IEA member; pursuing career in education; www.ieanea.org
- Nov. 30, 2008 Golden Apple Scholars-pursuing a career in education; www.goldenapple.org
- Dec. 1, 2008 Youth Achievement Sch.—contributed in preserving, promoting, enhancing natural resources; www.ilcf.org
- Dec. 1, 2008 Student Challenge Prog.-summer science field research station; exposure to latest technology; www.earthwatch.org.
- Dec. 1, 2008 Soc. Of Auto Engineers (SAE)- considering any career in engineering; online at www.sae.org/students/engschlr.htm
- Dec. 1, 2008 Lincolnland Legends-essay contest honoring person in business/comm. Field; www.illinoisdollarsforscholars.org
- Dec. 15, 2008 AXA Achievement Sch.-demonstrate accomp. In school, sport, comm., extra-curricular; www.axa-achievement.com
- Jan. 1, 2009 Wild Turkey Federation-GPA 3.0+; have current hunting license
- Jan. 9, 2009 Elk's Most Valuable Student—male & female awards; scholarship, leadership, need; www.elks.org/enf/scholars.
- Feb. 2, 2009 Burger King Sch.—GPA 2.5+, work part-time; comm. serv.; activities; financial need; www.bk.com/scholars

PCHS would like to congratulate the following seniors for applying early and receiving good news!

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| Casey Rains | University of Mississippi |
| Ashley Kellerman | Washington University & St. Louis University |
| Jessica Voice | Murray State |
| Rebecca Peradotto | Southern Illinois University-Carbondale |
| Madison Meacham | University of Missouri-Columbia |

Students: As soon as you hear the good news regarding college admission please stop by the guidance office and share it with us!