



COURIER

From the Principal...

Happy Holidays! It is a great time to be in education! This is the time of year when we see students really work hard as the end of the semester is soon upon us. However, we see students work hard in other areas as well. This is the time for students to embrace our community and to showcase the talent that we have here. I am so proud of our students and what they have done during this time of year.

The performing arts departments have been busy. Choir concerts, band concerts, and Season's Greetings from Advanced Acting are a few of the activities our students have been involved in. In addition, the Band marched in the Parade of Lights and the choir sang at Zoo Lights.

FBLA students also participated in the Parade of Lights this year. Our Latino and African American Leadership groups have been busy. They have traveled to the elementary schools, talking with students about being successful and prepared throughout their school years.

The FCCLA Club has once again collected gifts for the giving tree. This year we collected gifts for needy families in our own community. In addition to this outstanding work, these students have also been busy cooking meals for the staff. They cooked for us during Parent/Teacher Conferences. They also catered for the Art Show and the Supreme Court when they visited Overland. In addition, these students, along with the SKILLS Club, have been writing holiday letters to our troops.

Kelly Osuna is the Teacher of the Year for Overland High School. While this is not specific to the holidays, we all feel that Kelly is truly a gift to our school. Congratulations, Kelly!

The LINK class is also busy. They have reached out to 9th grade freshmen seminar classes. They went bowling with some of the students from those classes. In addition, they will be volunteering at one of the local hospitals during the week of December 14.

The Boys Basketball Team has partnered with Juniper Village, a retirement home. Each player has adopted a resident, and they do weekly community service with the folks there.

We have so much to be thankful for during this time of year. Our students have many opportunities and activities to participate in. It is also important for us to "pay it forward." We know how important our community is to us. I want people in the community to feel as proud of our students as we, here at Overland, do. Thank you for sharing your son or daughter with us. It is a responsibility we take very seriously.

Jana Frieler
Principal

Applause for Overland's Outstanding Performers:

Congratulations to Travis Timm and Hannah Zelman who were chosen for All State Choir. Great job!

Zak Bissinger, mathematics teacher at Overland High School, was honored by Pacific Educational Group at the 2009 Summit for Courageous Conversation in Baltimore, Maryland.

Alan Herron, the head coach of our gymnastics team, was named as the 5A Coach of the Year!

Senior Golfer, **Jonathan Park**, was named to the 5A All-State Golf Team! Great job Jonathan!

So Min Lee was named by the Colorado Women's Golf Association as their Junior Player of the Year. Congrats So Min!!

Senior, **Lindsay Hinton**, has been named the 5A Colorado Player of the Year for Girls' Field Hockey!! Although Overland does not have a Field Hockey team, she competes with the Smoky Hill team and had a terrific year. Congrats Lindsay!!

Congratulations to **Kelly Osuna** who has been named Overland's Teacher of the Year!



WAY TO GO BLAZERS!



Winter Break
December 21 2009
Through
January 1, 2010

PIN POINTS
November 2, 2009

Getting a Grip on Entitlement and Narcissism. Presented by Rick Lawrence, author and editor of GROUP magazine.

The “ocean in which we all live” is the most affluent and has the most choices available in all of history. Kids today suffer from “too-muchness” – too many activities, too much to learn, too much texting, too much information, and **too many choices** in all aspects of their lives – tv, movies, games, merchandise, etc, etc. So many areas with so many choices make kids think they deserve *something*. This creates stress and entitlement.

Kids ask “why can’t I have that?” Rather than stressing over each of these instances, rely on one simple answer that goes something like this: “That is not part of our family’s mission, value system, budget, health regimen, etc.” Define with your family a clear family mission of what your family stands for and what your family’s goals are, and you can always return to that when a kid asks for something that isn’t appropriate at the time.

Ways to battle entitlement or “Counter-Culture Battle Plan”

1. Move from offering many choices to offering fewer choices. For example, choose one store to buy your fall clothes. Stop cooking different things for the people in your family. Make enough so that everyone can eat some of what they want and get a healthy meal. Limit entertainment choices. This will be hard – it is “counter culture!”
2. Move from rescuing to allowing. It is ok to inject hardship in kids’ lives. Let them know how important their contribution is to the household and have them “participate” by doing chores and earning allowance or other things. Make a list of what you are currently doing to ensure that your kids don’t fail and examine it closely. Our job is to get kids ready to launch into society and the failures they have now will HELP them learn to navigate when they are older.

Move from “hot” activities to “cold” activities. Hot activities are passive, anything where your child is entertained and does not need to interact or think. They do the work for you and kids get used to “being served”. Cold activities require them to think and grow and create – reading, crafts, playing outside, playing inside, just making their own fun. Try it. Kids are naturally good at playing.

Lastly, research shows that happiness is greater when a child feels they can have a good impact on the world via their behavior and contributions versus focusing primarily on educational and financial success.



Dedicated to Excellence

Cherry Creek Schools

CHERRY CREEK SCHOOLS HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, November 12, 2009
Contact: Tustin Amole, Director of Communications, 720-554-4436

For the 13th consecutive year, the Cherry Creek School District has received the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). The award, presented in October, recognizes the district's Budget Department, under the direction of Dan Huenneke, for excellence in the preparation and issuance of a school system annual budget.

Earlier this year, the Cherry Creek School District received ASBO's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. The award, which Cherry Creek has received every year since 1993, is ASBO's highest recognition for school district financial operations, conferred only to school systems that have met or exceeded the high standards of the Excellence in Financial Reporting Program.

The district also received, for the 17th consecutive year, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. Both financial reporting awards honor the district's Accounting Department under the direction of Brad Arnold.

"These awards are evidence of the importance the Cherry Creek School District has always placed on sound financial management and strong stewardship of taxpayer resources," said Superintendent Mary Chesley. "They also reflect the high standards of the district and our Chief Financial Officer Guy Bellville, as well as the integrity and credibility of the district's financial departments and personnel."

To inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, to care

Congratulations to Participants in the UNC Math Contest



On Monday November 2, 51 OHS students participated in the UNC math contest. A total of 1,541 students from 60 Colorado schools participated.

263 students were invited to participate in the final round competition to be held on the Greeley campus on Saturday, January 30, 2010. Overland had four students invited for the second competition:

- 9th **Julian Cannon**
- 10th **Samuel Volin**
- 11th **Stephen Whitnah**
- 12th **Phvoc Truong Pham**

There were 13 perfect papers in the state, one of which was from an Overland student, 9th grader Julian Cannon.

Congratulations to all students who gave this contest a try. See Mrs. Morales in office 2002A for questions.

Watch for the next math contest in early February.

MU ALPHA THETA INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

On Wednesday, December 2, 2009, Overland initiated 34 students into Mu Alpha Theta. This is a National High School and Two-Year College Mathematics Honor Society with over 75,000 student members in more than 1,500 schools. Overland will be one of seven schools in the state of Colorado, and the only Cherry Creek District School, which participates in Mu Alpha Theta.

This organization is dedicated to inspiring an interest in mathematics, developing strong scholarship in the subject, and promoting the enjoyment of mathematics in high school. All members have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA and have completed Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 and are enrolled in additional math courses beyond Algebra 2. As an additional part of this honor at Overland High School, students are expected to help tutor other students in mathematics during the after school tutorials or during the school day on their free period.

Mu Alpha Theta supports mathematical excellence and rewards this through numerous scholarships, and encourages problem solving through mathematical competitions. For additional information, see Mrs. Morales in office 2002A.

Congratulations to all the new members:

- Abdu Allah Abdu Shahma
- Emmy Caraveo Meraz
- Solomon Chapman
- Joe Delgado
- Sarah Dollar
- Callista Earlene
- Ala Ahmed Elbagir
- Sara El-Khatib
- Jessica Evelyn
- Jessica Flanagan
- Eva Gebel
- Janelle Haynes
- Arsema Khsay
- Miguel Loayza
- Sultan Maliev
- Mayra Mendez
- Bhawana Mohan
- Kara Ninke
- Cady Owen
- Kaitlyn Patzer
- Phuoc Pham
- Erika Savage
- Alex Sevit
- Angie So
- Jasmine Solis
- Taylor Steine
- Pauline Swai
- Tracy Wanjiru
- Stephen Whitnah
- Hannah Zelman

First Semester Exam Schedule

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

7:20 a.m.—8:50 a.m.	Period 1B
9:05 a.m.—10:35 a.m.	Period 2B
10:50 a.m.—12:20 p.m.	Period 3B

Thursday, January 14, 2010

7:20 a.m.—8:50 a.m.	Period 4B
9:05 a.m.—10:35 a.m.	Period 1G
10:50 a.m.—12:20 p.m.	Period 2G

Friday, January 15, 2010

7:20 a.m.—8:50 a.m.	Period 3G
9:05 a.m.—10:35 a.m.	Period 4G

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Make-Up Exams by Appointment
7:30 a.m.—12:00 noon
(**No Bus Transportation**)

The Overland Courier is a monthly newsletter with combined issues for Dec/Jan, May/June, and July/August. Correspondence should be addressed to the Courier Editor, Overland High School, 12400 E. Jewell Ave., Aurora, CO 80012.

Overland's Teacher of the Year!

Overland High School is proud to announce that Kelly Osuna has been selected as our 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year. Kelly teaches Spanish and is the coordinator of our AVID program. She has been a part of the Overland staff since 2000. This is a well deserved honor for Kelly, and we are both excited and proud to celebrate this accomplishment with her.

The announcement was made on Friday, December 11, in a morning staff meeting. Teachers Colleen O'Brien and Jenny Kirkpatrick as well as students, performed a short skit leading up to the announcement of Kelly as our winner. Kelly's husband, two children and other family members were able to participate in the exciting moment.

Kelly will be honored in upcoming events in the spring. Our congratulations to Kelly!



Safety Reminders by Overland High School Security Team

Blazer Students: Your Overland High School safety and security team members are dedicated to your care, welfare, safety, and security every day. Each one of you can help us keep Overland High School safe for students and staff while on or off campus.

Please remember these school safety rules that are already in place.

1. The area at the Pacific Avenue entrance to our school, commonly known as the "PIT" is not a place to loiter and visit with friends. Please keep clear of the PIT area and observe the posted "no smoking" signs. Report any unsafe conditions to a school adult.

Ninth graders: Remember you have been asked to remain on campus throughout the year. This is for your safety and for your academic success.

2. Accidents can happen. While on the second floor of our school, please remain back and off the railings. Leaning on or over the railing is unsafe at any time.
3. Overland High School students have their own designated entrance, the south cafeteria doors. After 7:30 a.m., other perimeter doors will remain locked for your safety. Blocking perimeter doors open may allow uninvited guests to gain entrance inside.

After 7:30 a.m., students will need to enter through the student entrance.

Keeping our school safe is your business, too.

Student Council Notes

For the past couple of months, Student Council has been busy working on the 2009 Talent Show, community service projects, a canned food drive for the Salvation Army, and beginning renovation projects around Overland.

On December 3rd, Overland's Got Talent showcased many unique student performances. Seth Khan won third place and fifty dollars for pop and locking to the Dance of The Sugar Plum, Valentino Vladimirov won second place and seventy-five dollars for his lyrical dance, and Dulguun Tumurbatt won first place and one hundred dollars for her unique talent as a contortionist. The show was a great success!

Each class in Student Council planned a community service project and volunteered at organizations including the Dumb Friend's League and Prairie Middle School.

Our upcoming project in Student Council is organizing a school-wide survey on what renovations should be made to the building. StuCo members will then create a proposal and present it to administration in hopes of giving OHS a much needed face-lift!

Marissa Pooley,
Student Body President
On behalf of Student Council

Snow Delay Information for Overland High School 2009-2010

When radio, television or our website announces that our school is on a delayed start due to weather, it means that the bus pickup and school start times are delayed by one half hour (30 minutes):

1. First hour begins at 7:50 a.m.
2. Manor programs have a 30 minute delayed start.
3. The vocational buses which pick up students at our school will arrive 90 minutes late.
4. The vocational schools' start time is delayed by 90 minutes.
5. Out-of-district programs will also be delayed by 90 minutes.

The number to call for information on snow days is **720-554-4701**
Please do not call the school

CCSD staff monitor severe weather all night to determine snow days, late starts or business as usual



While most of us are snug in our beds on a snowy night, staff members who work in Educational Support Services are awake assessing weather conditions to determine whether or not a delayed start or snow day is warranted.

When severe weather is forecast, Cherry Creek School District officials must make a decision by 5 a.m. on whether or not to delay classes or close schools.

For that to happen, Transportation Services Director Mike Hush and his team climb into their vehicles at about 3 a.m. and drive specific routes to evaluate road conditions.

Based on their observations and ongoing reports, Hush calls Executive Director of Facility Support, Rick Collier, to discuss the effect the weather has had on the roads and how difficult it may be to transport all students to school safely and on time.

If it is determined that the road conditions will cause difficulty in getting students and staff to schools safely, Collier calls Scott Siegfried, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Support Services, by 4:15 a.m. to further assess weather conditions and develop a recommendation.

Finally Siegfried calls Superintendent Mary Chesley with a recommendation to start school as normal, delay the start of school, or close school completely, with Chesley making the final determination.

“To start picking up students on time, or to notify parents, bus drivers and schools that the schedule has changed, we must make a decision by 5 a.m.,” Collier said.

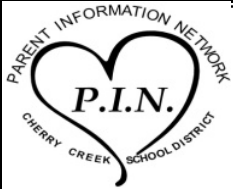
If school is delayed or closed, the media is notified and the district’s Web site and weather hotline, 720-554-4701, are updated immediately.

In addition, the district will now send Connect-ED calls to notify parents of a delayed start or school closure. Connect-ED is similar to a reverse 9-1-1 call. It allows the district to send important information, via a recorded message, to parents’ and employees’ phones.

Delayed start and school closure information will be sent via an “outreach call,” which is used for non-emergency situations. Outreach calls are sent ONLY to home phones.

Emergency calls are sent to all the numbers listed on a student’s emergency contact card.

“Once we start the morning transportation routes, our focus will be on the safety of students even if the weather and road conditions make some of the routes run behind schedule,” Collier said. “In any case, parents are always able to determine if their students should go to school on a bad weather day. If students are kept home, the absence will be considered excused.”



Pin Presentation Tuesday, January 5, 2010

The Pathways to Success—See Where Our CCSD Graduates are Headed

Save the date for the January PIN presentation. We look forward to welcoming a panel of 6-8 young people who have all gone through the Cherry Creek School District and have taken a variety of paths in their lives. The panel will be moderated by our own Superintendent Mary Chesley. You will hear from some who have pursued the traditional college path, as well as some in professional and post graduate schooling, the military, gap year, and working in a trade. They will be answering a variety of questions about how their high school experiences prepared them for the future, what they might do differently if given the opportunity, what role their parents played in their education (i.e., how they motivated or did not motivate them), and many other pertinent topics.

Plan ahead to take a little time out of your day or take a few hours off of work and come to **connect** with other parents, **be informed** by local and national speakers, and **get empowered** to take a proactive approach to parenting. All parents, school administrators and community members are welcome and encouraged to attend Parent Information Network (PIN) programs. Programs are held on the first Tuesday of each month from **9:00 am to 11:00 am** at the **Student Achievement Resource Center (SARC)**. Come at 8:45 for coffee. **SARC** is located on Briarwood Avenue, south of Arapahoe between Potomac and Jordan Roads. (Address: 14188 Briarwood Avenue, Centennial, 80112)

For further information, contact us at
PIN@cherrycreekschools.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

February 2	Recognizing & Preventing Risk-Taking Behavior
March 2	Living a Value Based Life

TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS...

The Business Education Department at OHS has had a very busy semester! This department boasts programs in Web Design, Computer Applications, Accounting, Marketing, Finance and Business Law. Students in the Accounting 2 and Marketing 2 classes are gearing up to earn college credit during semester thanks to CCSD's new articulation agreement with Community College of Aurora! This is a great opportunity for our students to get a head start on college credit while attending OHS!

Our students in our related student organizations, DECA and FBLA have been very busy and successful so far this year! We are proud to have two state officers—senior Khalid Al Shami represents DECA and senior David Komisarchik represents FBLA. Combined, these two outstanding leaders represent over 14,000 members of Colorado DECA and FBLA. It is impressive to have officers from two different CTSOs (Career and Technical Student Organizations) from the same school.

DECA hosted a very successful Fall Festival which gave many children in our neighborhood a safe place to trick or treat before Halloween. They are preparing for their district conference and competition on Friday, December 11. FBLA has attended one state and one nationally-hosted regional conference so far this year, in addition to many other activities to keep members motivated. FBLA is also gearing up for their district leadership conference and competition on February 5. Additionally, our school store, Blazer Corner, which is jointly operated by both groups, will open December 10. All of these opportunities give our students valuable experience beyond the walls of the traditional classroom that give them a definite edge when it comes to college and workforce readiness.

Don't miss out on your opportunity to "Take Care of Business". Be sure to get involved in an organization like DECA or FBLA by taking a Marketing or Business class—you will be glad you did!

Important Numbers



Attendance	720-747-3826
Grade Administrators	720-747-3745
Counseling	720-747-3871
Athletics	720-747-3614
Activities	720-747-3872
Security	720-747-3718
Main Office	720-747-3883

CHERRY CREEK SCHOOLS

Community Forum

Sponsored by the District Accountability Committee

Although Cherry Creek School District received the highest accreditation rating by the Colorado Department of Education, we are still striving for excellence and improvement.

In addition, recent state legislation requires all districts in the state to develop new improvement plans. As a result, Cherry Creek School District is asking the community for its input in creating a District Performance Plan.

In fact, one of the goals in this process is to develop understanding and ownership of Cherry Creek's future direction and district goals among staff, parents, and community members.

Please help us by attending the following community forum

January 13, 2010
Smoky Hill High School
6:00—8:30 p.m.

In the forum, participants will meet in structured small groups to discuss the future direction of the district and help identify district goals and performance indicators.

All parents and community members are encouraged to attend.

Please RSVP

E-mail: eporter6@cherrycreekschools.org

Call: 720-554-4935



Dedicated to Excellence

Cherry Creek Schools

www.cherrycreekschools.com



IMPORTANT DATES FOR SENIORS

Winter/Spring 2009-2010

- Jan. 21 - FAFSA Night – 7pm
(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Feb. 17-19 – Winterfest Week
- Feb. 20 – Winterfest Dance – 8pm
- March 25 – Senior Choir Concert – 7pm
- March 25 – Senior Cap/Gown Pictures
- April 13 – Graduation Auditions
- April 14 – **MANDATORY** Parent/Grad Meeting
- April 27 – Senior Blood Drive
- April 28 – Academic Awards – 7pm
- April 30 – Senior Panoramic Picture
- May 10 – Yearbook Distribution Party
- May 11 – Band Concert – 7pm
- May 13 – Jazz/Orchestra Concert – 7pm
- May 15 – Prom/After Prom
- May 18 – Variety Show – 7pm
- May 22 – Advanced Acting Last Call – 7pm
- May 21 – Senior check-out
- May 24 – Senior Breakfast/Graduation rehearsal
- May 28 – Graduation – 4pm

Visit our website: <http://blazernet.ccsd.k12.co.us>

Overland AVID Students Visit Three Colleges in Two Days!

Ginny Bludeau

On November 5th and 6th, 95 AVID students along with 6 AVID teachers, Jessica Price, Tim Reyes, Kelly Osuna, Kara Powers, Jenny Kirkpatrick and Ginny Bludeau, visited three universities. The group



first visited Colorado State University where students went on a campus tour and ate in their newly redone cafeteria by the dorms. Many students immediately fell in love with the green campus and all you can eat buffet. Who knew students would actually look forward to eating dorm food?

The AVID group then traveled to Greeley to visit the University of Northern Colorado. Some students gravitated to the smaller univer-

sity over CSU after another campus tour and a quick stop at the gift shop. One high school junior noted the spacious dorm rooms that had vaulted ceilings as reason enough to apply to UNC, "along with academics and the majors they offer, of course!"



After an overnight stop at the YMCA in Estes Park where the group swam, roller-skated, and played basketball, it was off to the final university in Wyoming. Students were impressed to hear that WU offers in state tuition for Colorado residents, and that they had a plethora of scholarship opportunities, as well, being the only public university in Wyoming. By the end of the trip everyone was exhausted, but excited to start applying for colleges. We would like to send a big thank you to the Overland community, and the AVID coordinator, Kelly Osuna for putting this trip together for our kids.

Overland & Prairie Students Team with Urban Peak

During the months of November and December, Overland's AVID students teamed up with the AVID students from Prairie to help out our community. The students and many of their parents met at Prairie and Overland on several Saturday mornings to cook breakfast burritos for an organization that works with Urban Peak, a homeless shelter for teens. While they were working, Esti Karo from One Mouth spoke to the group about the organization and ways to help homeless teenagers in Denver. The AVID kids and parents who attended were so excited to help out that they are now working to collect hats and socks for the teenagers. These much needed supplies will be delivered to Urban Peak right in time for Christmas.



POST GRAD CENTER NEWS

What we have been up to:

49 OHS students toured Colorado State University at Pueblo on November 5, 2009.

22 OHS students toured the Community College of Aurora on November 13, 2009.

Over 100 parents and students attended the Senior Information/Financial Aid Night presented by College Invest on November 19, 2009. Thank you for attending it was a great night and very informative!

Counselors visited Freshman Seminar classrooms once per week from October 19th to November 24th and presented information about: graduation credits, college readiness, 4-year Individual Career and Academic Plans, career exploration, and Explore test results.

The Post Grad Center and Athletics Department hosted a NCAA Information Night on December 7th, 2009. Thank you to the University of Colorado at Boulder Athletic Department and former CU athlete Roman Hol-lowell for presenting. Thank you to Chick-Fil-A for providing food!

The University of Northern Colorado held an application day at OHS on December 7th, 2009

The Metropolitan State College of Denver held an application day at OHS on December 9th, 2009

51 OHS students toured the University of Colorado at Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver, and Community College of Denver Auraria Campus on December 10, 2009.

Upcoming Dates:

The end of the semester is January 19th, 2010. Students have finals from January 13th through January 15th.

The FAFSA Information Night is scheduled for January 21st, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Lower Lecture Center. A Financial Aid Officer from Pickens Technical College will present information about how to complete the FAFSA to senior students and their parents.

Next ACT Tests: February 2, 2010 and April 10, 2010

Next SAT Tests: January 23, 2010 and March 13, 2010

What your college-bound student should be doing right now:

Seniors: Completing applications to colleges. Visiting colleges you are considering. Applying for scholarships. Studying for Finals—Colleges DO look at your grades your senior year!! Planning to attend the FAFSA Information Night on January 21st, 2010. Remember that the FAFSA is available to fill out on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov after January 1st, 2010 or you can opt to start filling out the FAFSA4caster now and it will automatically transfer the information from the 4caster to the FAFSA after January 1st. You can complete the FAFSA4caster at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

Juniors: Maintaining good grades (mostly As and Bs, maybe some Cs...NO Ds or Fs. Colleges don't like Ds or Fs). Studying for Finals. Starting to think about what colleges/majors/careers you are interested in. Thinking about your course selections for next year.

Sophomores: Maintaining good grades (mostly As and Bs, maybe some Cs...NO Ds or Fs. Colleges don't like Ds or Fs). Studying for Finals. Thinking about your course selections for next year.

Freshmen: Maintaining good grades (mostly As and Bs, maybe some Cs...NO Ds or Fs. Colleges don't like Ds or Fs). Studying for Finals. Thinking about your course selections for next year.

Overland High School
12400 E. Jewell Ave.
Aurora, CO 80012
Phone: 720-474-3711

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Overland High School Activities Calendar

Dec. 21—Jan. 1

Winter Break

January

4	School Resumes
12	GT Night
13-15	Final Exams
18	MLK Holiday—No School
19	Make-up Exams
20	Second Semester Begins
21	FAFSA Night
27	Eighth Grade Parent Night

February

1	School of Choice Forms Due
4-6	OHS Registration—10th Grade
8-9	OHS Registration—9th & 11th Grades
15	Presidents' Day—No School
17-19	Winterfest Week
20	Winterfest Dance

Have a Fun and Safe Winter Break