

Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School

“Excellence Through Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships.”

Newsletter
November/December 2016

Principal Travis Duley
Assistant Principal Jeff Graham



A Note from the Principal

Upcoming Events

- ◆ November 7
Fall Sports Awards Night
6:00-Refreshments
6:30-Awards
- ◆ November 11
Veteran's Day Ceremony
- ◆ November 11
Winter Kick Off
- ◆ November 23-25
Thanksgiving Break
No School
- ◆ December 4
District Winter Concert
- ◆ December 20-21
Semester Exams
- ◆ December 22-
January 2
Winter Break

I feel like I say this a lot, but it's hard to believe it's already November. It certainly has been a busy beginning to the school year as my staff and I have been working on a number of items. Each year we set school improvement goals, which allow us to focus on specific items throughout the school year that we want to improve upon. Our goals this year revolve around increasing parent/guardian communication, setting academic goals within our classes, and working to improve the culture within our school. Hopefully between Skyward Messenger and the new [Homework Central](#) link on our website you are being kept more up-to-date about what is going on within classes at the high school. We have also been implementing a free curriculum provided by Jostens called "The Harbor." Jostens releases a new episode every week and then every other week during Guided Study, students view and discuss an episode. The topics range from bullying, to your civic duty, to bias, to school spirit, to anywhere in between. The hope of this curriculum is to provide a platform for students to have open and honest discussions about topics that can affect the school environment.

As you read through this newsletter I encourage you to check out our school report card data. Within the newsletter, I reported our PARCC scores compared to other schools in our conference and our area, but the school report card contains way more information than just test scores, so I encourage you to click the link and check out all of the information. I would like to highlight the fact that our math PARCC scores were #1 in the SVC and #1 among the area school's I compared us to. This speaks well for the work our students have put in, the many math curriculum changes we have made over the past several years and our high school math staff members who have worked tirelessly to make difficult changes that are in the best interest of our students.

Additionally, I want to bring your attention to the last section of this newsletter, which is information about semester exams. I know it is hard to believe that we need to discuss these already, but semester exams are about a month and a half away, so this is the time for this information to get communicated. Aside from the importance of these exams, the most critical information that must be stressed about semester exams is that these days are regular attendance days unless you are a junior or senior who has earned an exemption. If anybody has questions about this they should see me in the next week or two. That's all for now.

Travis Duley

Travis Duley, Principal
Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School
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Go Panthers!

School Successes

- 268 students made some sort of the honor roll during 1st quarter; including 43 on straight A honors, 131 on high honors, and 94 on honor roll.
- On Monday, October 17th, seven PBL students joined over 60 students from throughout the Sangamon Valley Conference at the Dwight United Methodist Church for the second annual SVC Student Leadership Conference.
- The varsity football team finished the season with a 9-2 record and earned their second consecutive SVC Championship.
- Twelve members of the varsity football team earned all-conference honors. Dalton Coplea was selected as a quarterback, Andrew Zenner and Cole Eshleman were each selected as receivers, Keanan Crabb was selected as a running back and Tyler Adkins and Jaxson Coplea were each selected as offensive linemen. On defense, Alex Pippin was selected as a defensive end, Tim Tabor was selected as a defensive lineman, Dylan Polson was selected as a linebacker and Will Pound and Stefano Rodriguez were each selected as special mentions. Additionally, Brandon Scott was earned honorable mention.
- The boys cross country team placed 4th at the regional on Saturday, October 22nd in order to advance to the sectional meet.
- The girls cross country team placed 5th at the regional on Saturday, October 22nd in order to advance to the sectional meet.
- Evie Ellis placed 14th overall at the cross country sectional meet in order to advance to the state meet on Saturday, November 5th.
- The varsity volleyball team bowed out of regional play on Tuesday, October 25th, which wrapped up another successful season as they finished the season 21-11. The JV team finished the year with a record of 13-6 and the freshmen 8-2-1.
- Four members of the varsity volleyball team earned all-conference recognition. Katelyn Riffle and Kelsey Vaughn were selected to the all-Sangamon Valley Conference first team. Kalista Klann was also selected to the second team while Katelyn Crabb received an honorable mention.
- The FFA Agronomy Team placed 6th in the nation with individual placers of Michael Curry placing 18th, Jakob Miles placing 23rd, Jake Watts 37th, and Autumn Flessner 81st.
- The FFA Novice Parliamentary Procedures Team placed 5th at the National FFA Convention.
- The FFA Floriculture and Marketing Plan teams received Bronze ratings at National FFA Convention.
- The band had another successful marching season as they placed 3rd at Sullivan, 2nd at Monticello, 2nd at EIU, and 6th at Metamora.

Think Your Child Has A Great Teacher?

Obviously I am biased, but I truly believe PBL High School has many outstanding teachers. If you agree with me and would like to nominate a teacher for teacher of the week then you can do so through two different area media outlets. On Wednesdays, the News Gazette is spotlighting a difference-making area educator. To nominate a teacher, tweet to education reporter @Nicole_Lafond with the hashtag #TeacherOfTheWeek. In addition, MIX 94.5 is also currently doing a recognition program for Teacher of the Month. They want to learn all about the teachers in east central Illinois who go “above and beyond,” engage and inspire students and make a difference in their community as well as in the classroom. If you know a teacher you would like to recognize you can go to the following link and make a nomination: <http://mix945.com/2016/08/28/teacher-of-the-month-nomination/> On the nomination form you can tell them the story of a teacher who is making an impact in your child’s life.

Illinois School Report Card

The Illinois School Report Card was released on Monday, October 31st. You can access this information by clicking [this link](#). Most of the data represented in the report reflects well upon our school, but, as always, we continue to strive for even better results that will benefit our students as they prepare for college and a career. Below you will see the comparisons of PBL High School versus other schools in the Sangamon Valley Conference and versus other selected schools in east central Illinois.

Sangamon Valley Conference PARCC Meets & Exceeds Percentages

	Composite	ELA	Math
1. Clifton Central	46%	67%	22%
2. Cissna Park	42%	46%	39%
3. PBL	38%	31%	46%
4. Watseka	37%	38%	34%
5. Dwight	34%	29%	38%
6. Momence	6%	8%	4%
7. Iroquois West	11%	19%	3%

*Due to being in Indiana, South Newton does not take the PARCC exam

East Central Illinois PARCC Meets & Exceeds Percentages

	Composite	ELA	Math
1. Mahomet-Seymour	51%	56%	45%
2. St. Joseph Ogden	49%	54%	38%
2. Prairie Central	49%	64%	32%
4. PBL	38%	31%	46%
4. GCMS	38%	48%	27%
6. Monticello	35%	46%	16%
7. Tolono Unity	34%	33%	35%
8. Champaign Centennial	22%	16%	28%
9. Champaign Central	19%	13%	25%
10. Urbana	17%	29%	5%

5Essentials Survey

The 5Essentials Survey will be available beginning on November 16th. This survey is an evidence-based system designed to drive improvement in schools nationwide—it reliably measures changes in a school organization through the 5Essentials Survey and provides individualized, actionable Reports for each school. The 5Essentials system is based on more than 20 years of research by the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research on five components found to be critical for school success:

- **Effective Leaders:** The principal works with teachers to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.
- **Collaborative Teachers:** Teachers collaborate to promote professional growth.
- **Involved Families:** The entire school staff builds strong relationships with families and communities to support learning.
- **Supportive Environment:** The school is safe and orderly. Teachers have high expectations for students and support students to realize their goals. Classmates also support one another.
- **Ambitious Instruction:** Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.

Any parents wanting to complete the survey should visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/>. Please note that this survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and 20% or parents must complete it in order for us to receive the data.

Concern about Bullying?

As a school we take our responsibility to address bullying very seriously. Unfortunately, conflicts, which are natural to have between students, often times get labeled as bullying. Due to taking our responsibility of dealing with bullying seriously, one item we have to do when working through each incident is to determine whether the incident is bullying or conflict. As we work through issues that occasionally arise at school, we use the following definition to help us make this determination: Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

Another issue that arises at times is that we can only deal with what we know about, which occasionally becomes a problem because often times those who are involved are afraid to report it to someone who can help. Whether the specific incident you are aware of is conflict or bullying, you can report it anonymously via our online [Report A Bully form](#), which can be found at this link or on the PBL Unit #10 website under the District tab.

Semester Exams

Semester exams will be on Tuesday, December 20th and Wednesday, December 21st. Some important items of note for semester exams are:

- Semester exams count for 20% of the overall grade.
- **As always, we have a closed campus, so all students should be in attendance all day during semester exams, unless he/she is a junior or senior who has earned an exemption.**
- Juniors and seniors, who are exempt from all exams, are also exempt from school on Monday, December 19th as this is designated as a review day.
- Juniors and seniors, who are exempt from all exams, should not be on school grounds during the school day.
- Juniors and seniors who are exempt from some, but not all exams, must be here by the start of the class period they must take an exam in and stay through the end last period that they have an exam in.
- The schedule for each day is as follows:

Tuesday, December 20th

8:00 - 9:27	2nd Period Exam (87 Minutes)
9:32 - 10:59	4th Period Exam (87 Minutes)
11:02 - 11:32	5A Lunch/Guided Study (30 Minutes)
11:35 - 12:05	5B Lunch/Guided Study (30 Minutes)
12:08 - 1:35	6th Period Exam (87 minutes)
1:40 - 3:07	8th Period Exam (87 Minutes)

Wednesday, December 21st

8:00 - 9:27	1st Period Exam (87 Minutes)
9:32 - 10:59	3rd Period Exam (87 Minutes)
11:02 - 11:32	5A Lunch/Guided Study (30 Minutes)
11:35 - 12:05	5B Lunch/Guided Study (30 Minutes)
12:08 - 1:35	7th Period Exam (90 minutes)
1:40 - 2:25	Exam Make-Up (45 Minutes)

- Lunch periods will be just like a regular school day. Students who eat during 5A on a regular day will eat during 5A on exam days, and students who eat during 5B on a regular day will eat during 5B on exam days. Also, just like a regular school day, students will report to Guided Study during the period they are not eating.
- The last period on Wednesday is to allow time for students who need to finish or make-up any exams. Students who need to do this will be expected to report to the classroom of the teacher they need to finish or make-up the exam with. If a student has all of their exams completed, and they have transportation available, then they may leave at 1:35. **Buses will not be at the school to pick up students until 2:25, so all students who have their exams completed, but do not have any transportation, will report to the high school gym.**