

## PARENT CONNECTION

March 2010

**Upcoming Events:****March**

- March 1st—Senior Pictures Due for Yearbook
- March 2nd—SHS Choir and Orchestra Concert 7:30 p.m.
- March 3rd—PM Homeroom Schedule
- March 8th—Incoming Freshmen Meeting 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria
- March 13th—10th Annual Blue and Gold Drawdown
- March 16th—Bob Sullo to Speak on Student Motivation 6:30-7:30 SHS Library
- March 17th—Early Out 11:30 a.m.
- March 18th —Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7:30 p.m.
- March 18th—Bilingual Parent Night 5-6:30 p.m.
- March 22nd—SHS Band Concert 7:30 p.m.
- March 23—NCIC Music Festival in Chillocothe
- March 25th Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7:30 p.m.
- March 29-April 5th Spring Break

## How Important are Parent-Teacher Conferences?

"More than 30 years of research shows that family involvement promotes student success. No matter what their family income or background may be, students with involved parents are more likely to: earn higher grades and test scores, pass their classes, attend school regularly, have better social skills and adapt well to school, and go on to post-secondary education" (www.pta.org).

Full parent-teacher conferences this year were less than successful with only 26% of our students being represented by a parent or guardian. We would like to see a great improvement in this during spring conferences. Conferences are a great time to catch up with your child's teacher and model a positive teacher-parent partnership. "When families, schools, and communities work together, student achievement improves, teacher morale

and administrators increases, and family school and community connections multiply" (www.pta.org).

Students notice when their parents are involved in their schooling. Last October, we surveyed all Sterling High School students with the help of Search Institute in the 40 Developmental Assets and found that only 25% of SHS students report that their parents are involved in their school. This external asset is defined by Search Institute as, "Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school."

Help us increase parent involvement at conferences and make an appointment today.

Parents can begin calling the Sterling High School main office March 1st to schedule their conferences with their child's teachers.

### Parent Teacher Conferences

Sterling High School Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on

Thursday, March 18th from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm

And Thursday, March 25th from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm

**Please call the Sterling High School Main Office to Schedule Conferences (815) 625-6800.**

*Note for Freshman Parents: Freshman Academy will again hold conferences in the library. Please call the school to inform us of the day you will attend conferences and schedule appointments for non-academy teachers.*

#### Incoming Freshman Parent Meeting

There will be an incoming freshman parent meeting on Monday, March 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sterling High School cafeteria. We will be discussing the high school curriculum and course options for freshmen and the sequence of classes for the 4 years of high school. Counselors and administrators will be leading this presentation and available for questions you may have. Please plan to attend this important meeting as you prepare your child in his/her high school journey.

#### Pre-registration for the 2010-2011 School Year

Look for pre-registration packets for the 2010-2011 school year to come home in early April. The forms need to be completed and turned back into the main office by April 30, 2010.





## Sterling High School's Mission Statement

Sterling Schools, in partnership with parents and community, will create a caring environment in which all students learn. This partnership shall empower all students to become responsible learners and decision-makers as they prepare for the future.

### Sterling High School

1608 4th Avenue

Sterling, IL 61081

Phone: 815-625-6800

Attendance Phone:

815-622-4181

Fax: 815-622-4157

Website:

[www.sterlingpublicschools.org/shs](http://www.sterlingpublicschools.org/shs)

### Administration

Jason Austin, Principal

Lori Adell, Secretary

Jessica Bicknell, Associate Principal

Joyce Howze, Secretary

Nathan DeLany, Activities Director

Elaine Forward, Secretary

### Deans

Janet Barnhart, Dean of Instruction

Vicki Dunphy, Dean of Students

Mary Rhodes, Secretary

Greg King, Dean of Attendance

Andi Sumerfelt, Secretary

### Counselors

Darci Francis, Counselor

Kailean Gaumer, Counselor

Cami Hartman, Counselor

Travis Myers, Counselor

Kris Hippen, Secretary/Registrar

### Parent Coordinator

Janet Freed

## SHS Speech Team

Of the 13 events we took to Sectionals, our Performance in the Round qualified for the State level competition. There were 20 P.I.R.s at State this year (2 more than normal due to a three way tie at one of the suburban sectionals), split into 2 preliminary rounds. The first group of 10 performed on Friday afternoon and the second group performed on Saturday morning with the top 3 of each prelim competing in a final round Saturday afternoon. Sterling performed very well in the particularly heavy Saturday morning group, but unfortunately did not break into the final round. They represented Sterling very well, behaving professionally throughout and made us all proud. It was a good experience and, like the Cubs, we look forward to next year!

Visit

[http://www.centennialauditorium.org/SHS/Speech/Speech\\_09.html](http://www.centennialauditorium.org/SHS/Speech/Speech_09.html) for additional speech information!

## NEED HELP WITH FAFSA?

Two members of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will be available on the evenings of Parent/Teacher Conferences, to help with any questions regarding the FAFSA, the financial aid process, and any other related topics. They will be available in the Counseling Office conference room on Thursday, March 18 and Thursday, March 25 from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. If you have questions, please contact Kailean Gaumer in the Counseling Office.

## Math Team Competes

The Sterling High School Math Team competed in the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) Regional Math Contest on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The team consisted of 22 students at all high school grade levels and was coached by Jim Say.

Eight schools participated at regionals, including regional team winner Prairie Ridge, Cary-Grove, Wauconda, Boylan Catholic, Rochelle and Woodstock. Sterling garnered 336 points, to place fifth as a team overall. In the individual events, junior Riya Thekdi tied for third in Pre-Calculus. The Oral Presentation team of senior Ben Felker and junior Cody Camps placed second, with Felker delivering a presentation on symmetry, patterns and tilings. Thekdi, Felker and Camps qualified for the ICTM State Contest held at the University of Illinois campus on May 1, 2010. At-large state qualifiers will be determined on March 15, 2010, after the conclusion of all regional contests.

## Special Olympics

Twin City Schools Special Olympics organized a basketball team for the first time this year. Their team placed first in Division 5 at Bryon on Sunday, January 31st. A gold medal sends them to the State Competition on March 13th & 14th at ISU in Bloomington, Normal.



### NEW ILLINOIS VEHICLE CODE

Please be aware that the law has changed regarding the use of cell phones while operating a motor vehicle. A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device **to compose, send or read an electronic message**. Also, a person, regardless of age, may not use a wireless telephone at any time while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway **in a school speed zone**. Police will be enforcing this new law.

## Graduation

**Sunday, May 30th—2 p.m.**

Graduation will be held on **Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**

Students who ordered graduation announcements and supplies may pick them up during any of the 3 lunch periods on **Tuesday, March 9th**.

Caps and Gowns will be distributed in May several weeks prior to graduation. The students will be notified when the caps and gowns are available.

**All school fees must be paid to pick up your cap and gown and participate in the graduation ceremony.**

At registration, students completed a graduation card indicating whether or not they would be participating in the graduation ceremony. If this information has changed, you have any questions regarding graduation or you need to pay school fees, please contact the Main Office at 815-625-6800 ext. 1503.



Nathan Delany,  
Activities Director



# Sterling Athletic Booster Club

## 10th Annual

### “BLUE and GOLD” DRAWDOWN

Westwood Sports Complex, Bldg.3

**Saturday, March 13**

6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

1 - \$1000 Winner\*      1 - \$500 Winner\*

1 - \$250 Winner\*      10 - \$100 Winners\*

\*Need not be present to win

Last Chance Drawings - Raffles - Games of Chance!!

Tickets: **\$25/person** (includes Admission, Food, & Entertainment)

Meal only - \$15.00/person (also sold at door)

**Only Meal tickets will be sold after March 10**

Tickets may be purchased from

Booster Club Board Members

or

SHS Athletic Office 622-4114

or

Jeff Gee 626-8263

**Come and Join the Fun!**

***SUPPORT YOUR GOLDEN WARRIORS!***

### Upcoming Girls and Boys Track Events

- March 6th 9:00 a.m. .... Sauk Valley Gold Medal at Westwood
- March 13th 9:00 a.m. .... First Chance Indoor Meet at Westwood
- March 20th 9:00 a.m. .... Illini Prep at Westwood
- March 27th 9:00 a.m. .... Sterling Indoor Invite at Westwood



### Shop at Kroger and Support Your Golden Warriors

Kroger makes a donation equaling 3% of all money added to the rewards card!!!

Contact any booster club member or email [shsboosters@comcast.net](mailto:shsboosters@comcast.net) with your contact info and they will get a card to you. Remember to reload your card! We earned \$6000 in first 11 months of the program.

*Please encourage your students to become involved in fine arts, activities, and/or athletics. The rewards and life lessons are great and their academic performance will improve.*