



# MUSTANG MINUTES

May 2011

New high school highlighted in construction magazine... inside on page 3

The official monthly publication of Portage Central High School

Portage Central High School • 8135 S. Westnedge Ave. • Portage, MI • 49002  
(269) 323-5200 • www.portageps.org/schools/high/chs/

## minute by minute

### What Should I Wear to School?

As the weather warms it is important that students remain mindful of appropriate dress for school. We believe that student dress is a factor in the establishment of an educational atmosphere and reflects the quality of the school, of student conduct, and of student work. The following specific guidelines are reprinted from the student planner:

1. Hats/headwear/hoods are not to be worn in the building.
2. No bandanas.
3. Footwear is required in the building.
4. Clothing will not be permitted which:
  - a. Advertises or supports drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
  - b. Is profane or vulgar.
  - c. Is revealing, suggestive or otherwise distracting.

Please help us keep our focus on learning by talking with your son or daughter about what they choose to wear to school.

## Annual Day of Kindness

Day of Kindness is an annual event sponsored by Lighthouse Christian Fellowship and the "Be the Change" School

Improvement team. This year, Day of Kindness will take place on Friday, May 6. During the day, we provide a

bagel breakfast, cookie delivery, and ice cream to our students. Volunteers grill lunch for staff and deliver flowers to

secretaries and bus drivers. Students are encouraged to "pay it forward" by reaching out to others with words

see "Day of Kindness" on page 3

## Seniors and parents - mark your calendars!

The 2011 PCHS Senior Academic Achievement Awards and Mustang Ride Out will be held at McCamley Field at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 13. Departmental awards nominees and winners will be announced, and honor cords will be presented. National Merit finalists, IB Diploma candidates, and Senior Athlete Award recipients will be recognized. The students receiving the Most Improved Academic Award will also be honored.

### The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 1-3rd hours: Class as usual
  - 4th hour (10:30 a.m.): Senior meeting in the gym
  - 12:30 p.m.: All seniors line up on the front lawn. Please dress up for the occasion!
  - 1:00 on: Awards and Mustang Rideout
- Please plan on attending to honor the achievements of the Senior Class of 2010.

### Senior Exams and Dates to Graduation

Students must pass two of the three semester components in order to get credit for a course, so exams are important. Four two days have been set aside for second-semester senior exams: On Monday, May 16, seniors will take the first half of their exams in hours 2, 4 and 6 and on Tuesday, May 17 they will take the first half of the exams in hours 1, 3, 5 and 7. They will complete the 2, 4 and 6 hour exams on Friday, May 20 and for hours 1, 3, 5 and 7 on Monday, May 23. At the end of Monday, May 23, seniors stop at the Blue or Gold office and pick up a check-out sheet.

### Tuesday, May 24

Senior Check-Out: Seniors return their release slips to the principal in the cafeteria between 7:20 and 8 a.m. (This is their ticket to walking at graduation.)

### Thursday, May 26 Graduation!

During this morning's breakfast and class meeting, your son or daughter will receive a map of Wings Stadium, and he or she will have the opportunity to write down where he or she will be progressing out for the graduation ceremony. Please encourage him or her to write this information down, so you can decide where is the best place to sit. Because we are at Wings, there is no limit on how many people you may bring to the ceremony.

- 8:00 a.m. Senior breakfast (Seniors must be here in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.)
- 8:45 a.m. Graduation rehearsal in the auditorium
- 9:30 a.m. Seniors get their gifts and enjoy the day (...safely)
- 6:10 p.m. Meet at Wings Stadium for the Graduation ceremony at their designated spot
- 7 p.m. We start!

## Congratulations Will Devries!

Central high EFE student Will Devries made it to the First Robotics State Championship with his Stryke Force team. The team, sponsored by Stryker Instruments, was ranked No. 17 out of 112 teams in Michigan after competing in two district championships.

The team competed against 63 other teams for a trip to the World Championships to be held in St. Louis and narrowly missed advancing. The team, of Ian Middleton of Loy Norrix and Clayton Seager of Kalamazoo Central placed 21 in the state finals. Great job for all your hard work and representing PC!



# Parents of 2011 Seniors!

Honor your graduate with a full-color **Senior Ad** in the **Central Stampede** on **May 26th, Graduation Day!**

Be sure to check your mailboxes in **mid-April** for a special mailing!!!

Morgan...

...we are so proud of your many accomplishments and for the young woman you've become.



All Our Love, Mom, Dad, & Alex

not to scale

For more information, call the Stampede at

**323-5218**

or e-mail adviser Cheryl Braford at [cbraford@portageps.org](mailto:cbraford@portageps.org)

## Last chance to purchase a brick for the new school

Brick sale concludes at the end of May

Portage Central's Brick Sale provides parents and relatives the opportunity to congratulate their graduating senior with a lasting gift, visible to everyone at the outside landscape feature at the new high school. Please consider inscribing a brick for your senior to commemorate their special achievement. All profits will go toward projects that will benefit students in the years ahead.

Thank you as well to all of you who have graciously contributed to this project. We appreciate your support!

Donations can be made in increments of \$50 for the 4x8 brick, which has three lines with up to 14 characters per line, or \$150 for the 8x8 brick, which has five lines and up to 14 characters per line. Your message can be sent to Portage Central High School in care of Kent White, 8135 S. Westnedge, Portage, MI 49002. Please make checks payable to Portage Central High School. If you have any questions regarding the brick sale, please contact Kent White at [kwhite@portageps.org](mailto:kwhite@portageps.org) or 323-6573.



\_\_\_\_\_ 4x8 Brick - \$50    3 lines, 14 characters per line

\_\_\_\_\_ 8x8 Brick - \$150    5 lines, 14 characters per line

Line 1:
Line 2:
Line 3:
Line 4:
Line 5:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# New school featured in construction magazine

*Masonry Edge* magazine recently showcased the new PC building for its different use of bricks and materials for design and visual appearance.

The magazine article highlighted many of the school's state-of-the-art features, and described how the veneer masonry on the outside gives the school a classic look, while

the monarch bricks used in the interior serve both a functional and aesthetic purpose.

It also mentioned how the masonry color along the interior walls gives the school a calming feel with more pale and light colors, as opposed to the darker brick used on the outside to make the school stand out.



# Things to consider if seniors plan a “camp out”

In past years some seniors have organized a “Senior Camp Out.” This event is not supported by PCHS, and it has been a concern to us, teachers and parents alike.

In the past seniors organized this overnight event typically outside of our county, and the concern has centered around alcohol and drug use. We are not suggesting that all of our past students were involved in these poor decisions. We are concerned that this camp out

can provide an opportunity for quality students to make dangerous decisions.

So we strongly recommend that you consider not allowing your student to attend, if a camp out is organized. You as the parents are the final decision maker in this and all decisions concerning your son or daughter.

But please do whatever you can to make sure that your child – and all of our children – are safe. Thanks for your help.

# Students can opt out of information directory

Portage Public Schools occasionally provides student directories to organizations such as Parent Teacher Organizations, colleges and libraries offering special programs to school age children, and political action committees. This information may include the student's name, address, telephone number, email address, date of birth, parent/guardian name(s), honors, activities, and awards, grade level, and dates of attendance. We also provide contact information for those students who may benefit from targeted programs to other educational and community partners offering supple-

mental educational programming and services. Parents wishing to opt a student out of directory listings should contact the main office in writing to request omission. Please note – exercising this right will exclude this information from all external requests for directory information, including P.T.O.'s. It will not impact the inclusion of information in school publications such as yearbooks, school newspapers, extra-curricular programs, etc. If you wish for your student's information to be excluded from these publications as well, please contact the school's main office at 323-5200.

# “Day of Kindness” from page 1

and acts of kindness. Our goal is to foster an environment of caring and respect at school and in our community.

Student volunteers and teachers organize most of the funding and donations needed for the day. However, we would appreciate parent volunteers and community members who

could donate salads, chips, and desserts for our staff luncheon. If you are willing to donate a dish to help with the staff lunch, please contact Cathy Laurencig at [claurencig@portageps.org](mailto:claurencig@portageps.org) or 269-323-5220. Thank you for your support of our goal to create a positive environment at PCHS!

# Need a tent?

Portage Central Football Boosters is once again offering tents for those fun summer activities you have planned, like graduation. Please call (269) 743-9497 to reserve your tent today! Best prices in town. All proceeds go benefit the Portage Central Football program.

# Thank you, Pak Mail!

Portage Pak Mail owner and PC parent Gary Brown donated a great deal of packing tape, which will be really useful as we prepare to move next door. Thank you Gary!



Portage Public Schools  
Portage Central High School  
8135 S. Westnedge Ave.  
Portage, MI 49002

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
KALAMAZOO, MI  
PERMIT NO. 36



## Vote on May 3 for countywide millage renewal; \$3 million at stake for Portage Schools



*Mustang Minutes* is a publication of Portage Central High School. It is published monthly and distributed to parents and faculty members. If you have information you think should be considered for *Mustang Minutes*, please call 323-5165. You may also write to Mustang Minutes, PCHS, 8135 S. Westnedge Ave., Portage, MI 49002. The deadline for the May issue of *Mustang Minutes* is April 15.

Voters throughout Kalamazoo County and the nine school districts will see a school funding renewal question on the upcoming May 3 ballot.

This millage brings approximately \$3 million a year to Portage Schools, or about \$340 per student. In our District, these funds support a variety of instructional offerings and help limit class sizes.

The ballot question is for a three-year renewal of the

existing 1.5 mill property tax. Taxpayers will be paying the same rate for this millage as they have paid for the past six years.

The PPS Board of Education voted unanimously at its Jan. 24 meeting for Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service

Agency (Kalamazoo RESA) to place the renewal on the ballot, and on Feb. 10, the Kalamazoo RESA Board of Education voted unanimously for the renewal to go on the ballot.

**“In our District, these funds support a variety of instructional offerings and help limit class sizes.”**

### Millage details

- 3 year renewal of existing millage
- Millage has been in place for 6 years
- Eligible voters in Kalamazoo County can vote on it
- This local millage assists our schools in dealing with State budget challenges

