



DECEMBER 2011

From the Principal

CHUCK BRISCOE

As a person gets older, we seem to have more things to be thankful for each day. Certainly the month of December is a time to be thankful for our family, our great students, and the staff members who I have the privilege to work with each day. We are very appreciative of the relationships that we have developed at St. Paul Preparatory High School this year and the trust that you place in us each day by sending us your student.

As we move through a month with many holidays, we wish all St. Paul Preparatory families a safe and happy holiday season. This is a great time of year to let people know you love them and care about them. I will conclude with a stanza from my favorite holiday song performed by Amy Grant:

*No more lives torn apart, that wars would never
start, and time would heal all hearts.*

*And everyone would have a friend, and right
would always win and love would never end.*

All the best to you in 2012!

Sincerely,

Chuck Briscoe

2011-2012 GOALS

St. Paul Preparatory School prepares our international student body for success in a global society by offering a college preparatory education, comprehensive English language instruction and cultural exchange opportunities.

St Paul Preparatory School will improve its student performance tracking system by investigating, selecting, and implementing a new school wide testing system as a benchmark goal during the 2011-2012 school year.

We will improve the September 2011 IPT full-year students' scores in the area of writing by .5, as measured by the next school administration of the IPT by May 2012.

We will improve the September 2011 IPT full-year students' scores in the area of reading by 8%, as measured by the next school administration of the IPT by May 2012.

We will improve our September 2011 standard mean score on the ITED in the area of revision of writing by 10% as measured by the next school administration of the ITED during the first week of May 2012.

Biology Update

VICKY SANDBERG

Over the past couple of decades, the typical year-long high school biology course has ballooned to include subjects as diverse as ecology, molecular and cell biology, evolution, plant and animal physiology, and genetics. This makes for a fast-paced, demanding class, and our students are up to the challenge!

After a brief review of measurement and biological chemistry, we spent much of the first few weeks studying ecology. How could we resist taking a quick field trip to Mears Park on one of those glorious fall days? We then tackled cell structure and function, with special emphasis on my favorite part of the cell, the cell membrane (yes, sometimes scientists do seem to have a peculiar idea of what's interesting!).

Currently we're studying photosynthesis and respiration, which requires extra attention and focus since examining them at the molecular level is new for almost everyone. Genetics will be our final topic for the semester, capped by a lively debate activity that the students and I always enjoy.

Parlez-vous français?

TIFFANY GOOD

The students in beginning French have been learning how to introduce themselves, order basic food in a café and how to talk about likes and dislikes. They presented their family trees and acted out a scene in a café. We are currently working on how to accept and decline invitations. The French II students are busy learning new vocabulary, grammar, as well as verb tenses. The students are doing great speaking mostly French in class! We are also reading and listening to an audio book about a girl named Sophie and following her adventures as she tries to solve a mystery.

Students will have the opportunity to see the famous musical *Les Misérables* at the Orpheum theatre in Minneapolis on Saturday, December 17 at 2:00 pm. If your student purchased a ticket, I will give it to them on Friday, December 16.

The Intricacies of English

TIFFANY GOOD

This semester, students have been working hard in my English Composition and Writing Survey on structure, organization and idea development. Students have the opportunity to learn different genres of writing such as narrative, process, comparison/contrast, summaries as well as reflective pieces. In English Composition, students get a lot of practice writing essays and revising them. In writing survey, we learn about the different genres as well. In the beginning of class, we focus on making paragraphs more concise as well as using academic vocabulary.

This past summer, I had the opportunity to take a linguistics class. As I studied the intricacies of English and how our language functions I appreciate all the more the struggles our students go through to learn the language. I had the opportunity to do some research on contrastive rhetoric which is the examination of similarities and differences in ESL writing across cultures. Students are taught different ways of writing in their perspective culture so it is challenging for many to learn writing in America.

In our writing classes, we cover many topics. As their teacher, I seek to learn where they have difficulties in the transfer of their language to English so that I can help improve their writing. My students in Writing Survey class wrote a paragraph about why it is difficult to learn English. In this lesson, we worked on having three main points and at least two examples to support those points. Here are some of the student's examples:

-Instead of saying "I did something". Koreans say: "I something did."

-Instead of saying "English is difficult for me." Koreans say "To me English is difficult."

-Unlike English sentences, Korean sentences start with a subject, then the object, and finally the verb.

-Chinese does not really have a past tense. They need to memorize English words in the past.

-In Thai sentences, an adjective goes after the object.

Math Team Update

JIM WALKER

Math Meet 1:

We arrived a little late at Central High School, but the competition was held for about ten minutes to let us catch our breath and get to work. We only have seven students on the team (two must be 9/10 grade, and we have only one this year) so we were beginning with a handicap. In addition, few team members wanted to do Test C, which is trigonometry, so just before the match we had a team of 6. Fortunately I managed to convince Frankie – who came with us at the last moment – to switch to test C, so we increased our team complement to 7.

Thank goodness we did. Central ran away with the meet, scoring over 100 points by the end of the match with many perfect papers and a perfect team round. SPP was barely in 3rd place after the end of the first round, and passed back and forth between 3rd and 4th place, but was saved by a good showing in the team event, and besting Harding by a single point to stay in 3rd place in the match (without Frankie's contribution, we would not have had sole 3rd place). So, even without a full team, SPP managed to squeak out a good showing!

Math Meet 2:

Some of our team members were gone for the week before Thanksgiving, and then we only had two practices Thanksgiving week, so we were not well prepared. Then one team member wanted to back of their assignment the day of the meet...

Anyway, we forged ahead; after the first meet we only scored 7 points out of a possible 28, and so began well back in the pack. As the meet went on, however, we rallied and began to move up in the standings. The team scored 16 out of a possible 24 on the team event (could have been 20, but one correct answer was presented in incorrect format). In spite of that, we managed to climb back into third place by the finish, well behind Highland Park and powerhouse Central. Our next meet is the 19th of December with an in-house competition on the 13th next week.

(We are still competing with a 7 person team!)

SPP WISH LIST

St. Paul Prep is trying something new this month by including a wish list of materials that teachers would like either for their classes or clubs. If you are willing and able to donate any of the items below, please contact the teacher directly or send an e-mail to lorman@stpaulprep.org.

A class set (25) of individual-sized dry-erase boards and 25+ dry-erase markers would be LOVELY!

-Sarah McFarland

The **Sciences Department will take almost anything** from basements, garages, hobby benches, etc. Small pieces of finishing wood, dowels, wheels with or without axles, pulleys, old tools, screws, nails, small motors, small electrical appliances that don't work any longer...almost anything at all with which we can make apparatus. And don't forget common chemicals - anything like salt or sugar from the kitchen (it does not have to be pure or fresh), solvents, cleaning agents, just please no highly flammable items or poisons! If we can't use what you send us, we can dispose of most things for you. Thanks!!

-John Mawk

The **musical is in need of several props and costumes for the show**. If you have these items and are willing to let us use them for the show, we would greatly appreciate it. Some items we need are a tambourine, old marching bass drum, old cymbals, cornet, fake palm trees, a small round table with two chairs, an old-looking camera, a wedding veil, men's suits, mid-century women's clothing, and fedoras. We are also in need of paint for the set. If you have any old house paint that you would like to get rid of, we will gladly take it. -Justin Schramm

Upcoming Events:

ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA

Thursday, December 15

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Come in to St. Paul Preparatory and enjoy the artwork of our talented students. As we transform our hallways into an art gallery, come and experience artwork by our Painting, Drawing, and World Art classes. Music will be provided by students in our music classes as you work your way through the gallery. Admission is free but donations for the Fine Arts program will be accepted.

St. Paul Prep is Proud to present:

GUYS AND DOLLS JUNIOR

A part of THE BROADWAY JUNIOR COLLECTION™

Based on a story and characters by Damon Runyon

Book by JO SWERLING & ABE BURROWS
Music and Lyrics by FRANK LOESSER

Thursday and Friday, January 12, 13

7:00 p.m.

Wellstone Neighborhood House Theater

Tickets \$5.00

December 2011

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-----------|--|------------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 7-10 pm Snow-Ball Dance | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 3:30-5:30pm Arts Extravaganza | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 1pm Talent Show | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| No School, Winter Break | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| No School, Winter Break | | | | | | |