



St. Petersburg Collegiate High School

A Charter School at St. Petersburg College

The Collegiate Connection

November 1, 2009

PSAT Benefits Students

On October 14, 2009, all juniors and sophomores participated in PSAT testing. The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) is a rigorous, national assessment that measures the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills students will need for higher education and careers after high school.

SPCHS requires this testing because understanding students' strengths and skills is essential to helping them succeed in high school and beyond. Grades and teacher feedback can provide important information, but how do a student's skills compare nationally? Is there a way to gauge his skills objectively and help him build on strengths and address weaknesses?

Why the PSAT/NMSQT?

The PSAT/NMSQT is more than just a test. It gives students:

1. *Suggestions on how to improve academically.* The PSAT Score Report Plus gives students personalized feedback on their test performance, allowing them to see which questions they answered

incorrectly and which academic skills they should work to improve.

2. *Preparation for the SAT.* The PSAT/NMSQT and SAT measure the same skills and have the same format, directions, and question types. On average, students who take the PSAT earn higher scores on the SAT than those who do not.

3. *Opportunities to earn scholarships and academic recognition.* Students who take the test (usually in their junior year of high school) may be eligible to enter NMSC's competitions for recognition and scholarships. High-achieving Hispanic and African American high school juniors may also enter other programs that give special recognition.

4. *Information from colleges and universities* through Student Search Services.

5. *A free personalized online college planning kit* based on students' test results through My College QuickStart and MyRoad, a comprehensive major and career exploration tool that includes a personality profiler to help students find programs that fit their interests. Learn more at www.collegeboard.com/quickstart.

Guidance News

For Sophomores: On October 16, 2009, the sophomores were engaged in the first session of the ASVAB Career Exploration Program. ASVAB stands for the Armed Services Vocational Battery and is a fundamental career interest inventory tool we administer to students to assist with career planning. As many of you may know, the first two years of college can be overwhelming without guidance. The ASVAB is a guidance tool to help students find out about occupations they might want to pursue. Most importantly, students learn about their interest, skills, abilities, and work values, which help them to make appropriate choices for their future. Students are scheduled to explore their results from the ASVAB on November 6th.

For Juniors and Seniors: The deadline for schedule approval/submission was October 16th. If Mrs. Betts has not personally spoken with your child, your child is at risk of not having his/her ideal schedule. Please contact Mrs. Betts ASAP so she can assist your child with meeting high school and AA requirements. Mrs. Betts may be reached at 727-341-4285 or Betts.Yulonder@spcollege.edu.



H1N1 Vaccinations at School

The Pinellas County Health Department will offer H1N1 flu vaccines in schools beginning the first week of November. Parent information packets containing details about the vaccines, a screening form, and a parent consent form have been sent home with all students. Both the H1N1 flu shot and



the nasal spray will be offered free to all children enrolled in public schools. SPCHS students will receive the vaccine on November 19, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in SS 202 if they have returned the consent form.

In addition to making the H1N1 vaccine available, SPCHS continues to encourage families and employees to take precautions by washing their hands or using hand sanitizer frequently, coughing or sneezing in their sleeve, and staying home when they are ill. Parents should continue to monitor family members for symptoms of flu-like illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that anyone ill should not return to school until they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.

Parents may visit the “PCS News” section of the district website, www.pcsb.org to view the information packets, H1N1 “Frequently Asked Questions,” and other helpful links. They may also visit the SPC website at www.spcollege.edu for information on H1N1. Those who have questions about the H1N1 vaccine are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider or the Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 824-6964.

Halloween Dance a Smash

The barest sliver of a moon is all that lit the darkening sky the evening of Friday, October 16, but ghouls and monsters alike found their way to the gymnasium for the SPCHS Halloween Dance. Through the haunted graveyard and past the gatekeeper's appraising glare, they found the gym transformed into an ominous gathering place.

And indeed, the students themselves were transformed; whether they were dressed in their formal best or their Halloween scariest, SPCHS students looked unearthly Friday night! The staff voted for their favorite costumed standouts and presented them with prizes. Congratulations to the winners of the costume contest:

- Most Creative: Brad Kraut wearing a hand-made Wolfman costume,
- Most Humorous: Dylan Upson dressed as Wonder Woman,
- Most Authentic: Elgin Chacko wearing a beautiful, white sari, and
- Best Overall: Alex Mallory dressed as Dr. Frankenstein's monster.

Guests enjoyed a pizza dinner and an excellent spread of refreshments. The DJ played a variety of music to suit the diverse tastes of our students, sprinkling in Halloween-themed songs throughout the evening. And students spent the hours between 6:30 and 10:30 socializing, dancing, laughing, and having an all-around great time.

Thank you to the student government and PTSA for hosting this



amazing event, and thank you also to the student, parent, and staff volunteers who worked so hard to make this evening of fun happen.



FCAT Schedule

- Feb. 9, 2010:* Grade 10 Writing
March 9 -10, 2010: Grade 10 Reading & Math
March 11, 2010: Grade 11 Science
March 12, 2010: Make-up testing for all grades

Attention! This will affect your Spring Break!

****It is very important to note that sophomores must come to school both March 9th and 10th to take FCAT Reading and Math.**

****Juniors must come to school on Wednesday, March 11th to take FCAT Science, even though it is SPC's scheduled Spring Break.**