

SENIOR NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR PTHS SENIORS

January 11, 2008

A GOOD CITIZEN

One month from now, this newsletter will include a long list of community scholarships that will be offered to PTHS seniors this spring. For seniors with strong academic credentials, this is exciting news. Other seniors, who have not maintained a strong grade average, may assume they will get no scholarship consideration. Some of them may not even apply for any of our community awards. We hope these seniors have a change of mind. They may get a surprise on Awards Night. There's something for everyone in our community scholarship program.

More than fifty community scholarships will be awarded this spring. The total dollar amount of all awards projects to be well over \$30,000. Each local scholarship has its own application, and its own list of requirements. Yes, some of them will give extra consideration to students with high-honors grade averages. But, many of the awards give consideration for other achievements, such as participating in school or community activities. Some awards are for vocational/tech school students only.

Nearly all local scholarships include one common requirement. What are the scholarship-givers looking for? They want to be sure their awards are given to **a good citizen**. You do not have to carry a 4.0 grade average, or be the star on the football team. Our scholarship donors want to recognize **a good citizen**; a student who gives good effort in and out of school; a student who follows rules; a student who will lend a helping hand to others; a student who is a good role model for younger children to follow.....**a good citizen**.

OPEN HOUSE

We generally do not mention college open house days, but here's a local one that usually draws a lot of interest from PT students. St. Vincent College will hold a Get Acquainted Day Open House on Saturday, January 19. Registration starts at 8:30 AM, and the program begins at 9:00 AM.

If St. Vincent is on your top-choice list, plan to attend. You'll get important information about courses and majors, student housing, financial aid and scholarships, and campus tours. You must register ahead of time. Call 800-782-5549, or register on-line at www.stvincent.edu .

WHAT'S THE HURRY?

Regarding the topic of Financial Aid, students are constantly reminded to apply early....file your FAFSA financial aid form early....send required aid forms to your top-choice colleges or tech schools early.

What's the hurry? Why all this "early" stuff? You may recall that financial aid packaging is built in layers. One of the most important layers of aid-packaging is Campus-Based Grants (free money from the college or tech school). This is where "early" really counts. Each college or tech school follows a set of guidelines when awarding campus grants. One of the guidelines is "first-come, first-served". Yes, it is true. The early-bird gets the worm (actually, the early-bird gets more grant money). Students who file FAFSA forms early (before Valentines Day) may have a much better chance of getting a campus-based grant or scholarship than those who wait. It is true; the early-bird does get the worm in campus-based financial aid.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

BEST BUY--- National scholarship program sponsored by Best Buy stores....volunteering/ community service is required....no apps at PTHS, must apply on-line at www.bestbuy.com/scholarshipstheir deadline is Fri Feb 15, but any info needed from PTHS must be requested by Wed, Feb 6.

WESTMORELAND COLUMBUS 500--- At least one parent must be of Italian descent....4-yr colleges only....\$2,000 per year, renewable for all 4 yrs (\$8,000 total)....2 letters of recmd from teachers....500 word essay on your Italian heritagePTHS deadline is Monday, Feb 18.

PACB--- Penna. Assn. of Community Bankers....five \$1,000 awards statewide....one parent must be an employee of a participating PACB bank (ask your parent)....list 2 references....school activities or community service required....essay of 1,000 words or less....PTHS deadline is Monday morning, Feb 11.

SEPP--- Society for the Education of Physicians and Patients....\$2,000 award, renewable for \$8,000 total....also several \$1,000 runner-up awards....must attend 4-yr college, any major....2 letters of recmd....school activities and community service....700-1,000 word essay....PTHS deadline is Friday, Feb 8.

KFC--- Kentucky Fried Chicken's "Colonel's Scholars"....minimum 2.75 GPA....must attend 4-yr college....many awards, nationwide....no apps at PTHS, must apply on-line at www.kfcscholars.orgKFC deadline is Fri Feb 15, but if info is needed from PTHS, submit request by Wed Feb 6.

THE MILITARY

Many career and scholarship opportunities exist through the military. This includes Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. Students seeking ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) scholarships should contact their local military recruiter immediately. Also, get info from the admissions offices at your top-choice colleges right now. The college will give you specific instructions to follow. Many ROTC scholarships have already been offered, but some still remain.

If you are not interested in ROTC scholarships, ask your local military recruiter about programs that offer free college tuition (or other special benefits) after you've enlisted. Consider being a "good shopper" at this time. Compare opportunities, pay scales, time commitments, training programs, and other comparable information for each branch of the military. It's a wise idea to "get it in writing". Be sure that any offer presented to you verbally can also be found in writing in a contract or enlistment form you may sign. Be a good shopper. Good information will lead to making a good decision. This may be the "best fit" for you.

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP STATEMENT

"The Penn-Trafford School District thanks all of the community groups and individuals who sponsor and donate to our scholarship program. High school seniors who apply for these awards are expected to represent both our high school and their community in a positive manner. In order to be eligible to receive a community scholarship, the students are expected to maintain a satisfactory level of academic performance and behavior, both in our high school and in their local community."

(this is a policy statement regarding our community scholarships....in other words, be a good citizen)