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Contact Info

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www.ashevillecityschools.net/schools/ahs
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SILSA

828-350-2700
www.ashevillecityschools.net/schools/
sil/Pages/default.aspx
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Asheville City Schools

828-350-7000
For inclement weather plans, printable cal-
endars, etc.
www.ashevillecityschools.net

Asheville City Schools Foundation (ACSF)

828-350-6134
Did you know that ACSF awarded
more than \$180,000 in scholarships
last year? To learn more, call or visit
www.acsf.org

Winter 2010

ASHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL/SILSA NEWSLETTER

from the Asheville High School Parent Teacher Organization

Important Dates

Feb 2Report Cards

Feb 6ACT Testing, AHS, 8 am

Feb 10: Open House & Potluck, 6-8 pm

March 13....SAT Testing, AHS, 8 am

March 16....PTO Board Meeting, 7-8 pm, AHS
Conference Room

April 5-9.....Spring Break

April 10ACT Testing, AHS, 8 am

April 12Report Cards

April 20PTO Board Meeting, 7-8 pm, AHS
Conference Room

April 30Senior Picnic

May 1Junior/Senior Prom,
Renaissance Hotel

May 1SAT Testing, AHS, 8 am

May 18PTO Board Meeting, 7-8 pm, AHS
Conference Room

The AHS/SILSA PTO Spring Newsletter content deadline is March 19; the send-home date is April 12. Please submit your important dates, news, and other requests to joan@maxtexinc.com or 828-215-4011. Access this newsletter at the ACS or AHS website (PDF available for printing).

Special thanks to Ellen Knight for her help in collecting newsletter content for this issue.



Greetings!

We would like to thank everyone—parents and students alike—for a wonderful 1st semester at Asheville High School and SILSA! We anticipate a positive start for the 2nd semester. As we begin, we would like to encourage everyone (students and faculty alike) to take this as an opportunity to renew our Academic Commitments. This is a time to start anew in fresh classes and push toward success in year-round classes.

A significant part of academic success lies in attendance. I would like to remind everyone a student will not be awarded course credit if s/he has more than 5 unexcused absences. Saturday School can excuse up to 4 absences for any one particular class. If your student is planning a college visit or an otherwise scheduled trip that may be excused as an educational opportunity, please submit to the Principal's office, in advance, a request for Educational Absence. If approved, please make sure you bring documentation of your visit (a letter from the registrar's office, etc) upon your return. We are required to keep such documentation on file for our state attendance audit.

It's hard to believe, but now is the time to start thinking about next year. We are putting the finishing touches on our registration process for the 2010-11 school year. More information is to come, but it's not too early (never too early!) to start talking to your students about their long-term plans.

As always, we count parents/guardians as the most important allies in student success. Please contact your student's teachers if you have any questions or concerns. Communication is key!

Make sure that you check our websites and calendar for updates on events occurring at the school. We hope to see you at the PTO Open House on Wednesday, February 10!

Carol P. Ray
AHS Principal

Greg Townsend
SILSA Principal



PTO News

Message from our PTO Co-Presidents

We would like to formally thank all of our students, faculty, and parents for a great first half of the 09/10 school year! As parents and faculty we are committed to our school and the success of our students. As your PTO we are dedicated to supporting parents, faculty, and students. Some of the more formal PTO roles and activities include:

- Liaison between Parents and School Leaders
- Support for Teacher Mini-Grants and programs
- Promotion of Parental Involvement
- Elimination of barriers that prevent involvement
- Promotion of Family Events
- Support of Community Involvement
- Promotion of School Spirit and Pride

But the PTO cannot succeed without everyone's help. As members of the Asheville High and SILSA PTO, we ask only that you do your best to send your children to school ready to learn, with their assignments complete and their bodies well rested. Go Cougars!!!

Sincerely,
Tom and Diane Knoebber
828-253-1884

Dance at AHS

In addition to continually learning exciting new dances and movements, AHS dance students are creating Dance Videos. All of the videos have a message or theme, and the students must create a dance that supports it. The Spring Dance Show is scheduled to take place on April 28 and 29, 2010.

Quixotica

Asheville High School's Thespian troupe members are putting their directing skills to use for Quixotica, our annual collection of Thespian-directed short plays. Performances will be held in the Arts Theatre on March 4, 5, and 6, beginning at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Quixotica is a totally student-driven work that always proves to be a great deal of fun for the students involved as well as the audience. Don't miss it!

Asheville High School AHS-PTO Board 2009-2010

<i>President</i>	Tom and Diane Knoebber
<i>Secretary</i>	Susan McMillan
<i>Treasurer</i>	Barbie Haynes
<i>Membership</i>	Margaret Payne
<i>Stay-at-Home Fundraiser</i>	Cheryl Dalton Nancy Hutchins
<i>Hospitality</i>	Traci Silver, Terri Hetzel
<i>9th Grade Parent Rep</i>	Mary Weber, Lynda Wayne, Laura Stone, Chris Lenderman, Barb Allen
<i>10th Grade Parent Rep</i>	Laura Livingstain, Sharon Kerber, Debbie Barnstable, Kim Lasure
<i>11th Grade Parent Rep</i>	Angie Rardin, Laurie Chess, Rhonda Griffin, Laurie Pappas
<i>12th Grade Parent Rep</i>	Connie Hays, Aidree Tolan, Ruth Uffleman, Louise McCauley, Diane Wilkey
<i>SILSA Parent Rep</i>	Stephanie Beach
<i>Faculty Reps</i>	Drew Laningham Sharon Sharar
<i>SPMT Reps</i>	Nancy Hutchins Louise McCauley
<i>Newsletter</i>	Joan D'Entremont Sheri Lalumondier

Please join our efforts! Meetings at 7-8pm, AHS Conference Room, 3/16, 4/20, and 5/18.

www.ashevillehighchoirs.com

Having completed our Holiday performances, we are now preparing for the District Choral Festival to be held in Brevard in March 2010. Additionally, three students – Wes McCleary-Small, Kaja Moen, and Allijah Motika – have been selected to perform with the Mars Hill Festival Choir. (Students are selected by audition throughout the state.) Our spring concert is scheduled for May 19th in the Arts Theatre. In an effort to raise money for the program (and pending administrative approval) we will be selling 'Singing Valentines' this year. In addition, we will host a Talent Show. Watch for more information or visit our website!

SILSA News

SILSA was busy in January! The Asheville City Schools Foundation and Progress Energy awarded SILSA a \$2,500 grant for a school-wide project-based learning opportunity. SILSA students researched sustainability initiatives and wrote their own grant proposals for projects to be implemented on our campus. Many projects were proposed, including installing solar panels or solar hot water; creating an edible or insect-friendly native garden; improving our recycling program on campus; reducing styrofoam use in the cafeteria; converting school buses to biodiesel, etc. Community environmental advocates and local organizations came to the school and shared their knowledge about (1) why these changes are necessary and (2) how to go about implementing such changes. During this process SILSA students read several excerpts from Thomas Friedman's book "Hot, Flat, and Crowded," which helped to drive student interest and motivation. Kuddos to the students, teachers, and community for making this endeavor possible. We look forward to seeing the projects at work!

Greg Townsend, Asheville City Schools Principal of the Year

by Charlie Glazener, ACS

Veteran Asheville City Schools' educator and SILSA principal Greg Townsend was recently selected by his peers to represent the district as 'Principal of the Year.' Greg began his teaching career as an English teacher at AHS in 1984 and is now in his fifth year of guiding the School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville, one of the state's 'redesigned' small high schools. SILSA was one of just 21 NC high schools earning 'Honor School of Excellence' status for 2008-09.

YOUR NAME HERE

The AHS/SILSA PTO is looking for a newsletter sponsor. For a small donation that will cover our paper and printing costs we will boast your name RIGHT HERE! Contact Joan D'Entremont (joan@maxtexinc.com or 828-215-4011) if you or your business or employer might be interested.

Meet Your Counselors

Counselors have been hard at work ensuring that students have all the college and career planning information they need. Please make an appointment (828-350-2526) to speak with your counselor for guidance and information on college applications, scholarships, financial aid, career planning, resumes, interviews, etc.

9th Grade: Mr. Frank Smith

10th Grade: Mrs. Dorothy Rapp for students with last names beginning with A-L and Ms. Cynthia Pickett for students with last names beginning with M-Z

11th Grade: Ms. Cynthia Pickett

12th Grade: Ms. Clarissa Gilliam

Student Health Center Update

We are very sad to say goodbye to Susan Presson, our beloved nurse practitioner for the last fifteen years. Susan helped start the school-based health center at AHS, and has been a tireless advocate for students. She will continue to work for the Buncombe County Department of Health in clinics at the main building and will also work with the teens in the FYI Group at AHS, along with Sara Green, Kim Hill and Laura Westbrook.

The Student Health Center welcomes Becky Edmondson, RN, as the new nurse manager for the clinic. Becky has been working in the Primary Care clinic at the health department for several years and will bring extensive experience to the AHS clinical team. Julia Cavender, Family Nurse Practitioner, will provide health care services at AHS two days a week (Wednesdays and Fridays), and Jenna Prince, Registered Dietician, will continue to be available by appointment to counsel students on nutrition, healthy eating, and physical activity. Jenna serves the three student health centers and comes to the AHS clinic on alternating Mondays. Sara Green, Health Educator, will continue to work with the clinics to provide educational services for AHS and AMS students, and Renata Conyers will continue to provide administrative support to the Center.

The AHS Student Health Center will be open 8am-4pm on all school days except Tuesday. Call us at 350-2535 if you have any questions. We wish you a healthy and happy new year!

The SHC Staff