



Old Steller Yeller

May 2013

Esteemed Parents,

It's hard to believe this is the last newsletter of the year. The snow has stayed with us longer than anyone expected it to, and the sun has finally come out again. We are currently in finals week, and students are finishing up their last minute projects for the fourth quarter. I think everyone is excited to get into the intensives and to finish out the year on a positive note.

This past month has proven to be a busy one here at Steller. One of the brightest parts of the month for me was when we hosted the Volunteer Lunch. Over ninety volunteers and all the staff were invited to the celebration, but the event was lightly attended. I realize many of our wonderful volunteers were at work and couldn't get away, but by not showing up, they still helped children. About three quarters of the food from the event was left over, so all the desserts and main dishes were loaded into my truck, and I delivered it to the Covenant House. They were very thankful for everything and wanted me to pass that on. The message I gave at the luncheon was simple. We can't run the programs we do at Steller without your help and volunteerism. Your gift of time and effort sets the bar for all Steller students, and it doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you.

The new schedule for next year will be out this week, so keep an eye on the Flash to make sure you get it. Registration for next year for grades 8 through 12 will be on the 23rd of May. Make sure you have a chance to go over the classes your student wants for next year so you can talk about them in the parent conferences that take place on May 20th and 21st.

I really want to thank Op Group, Parent Group, and Advisory Board for everything they have done this year. Sometimes it can be a challenge to ensure all factions of Steller communicate with one another. This year, all groups have strived to know what is going on around them, and I believe we have all done a great job. Together, we have accomplished many positive things for Steller, and I hope to continue working for the benefit of all.

I am excited to end the year on a positive note. Students are ready to rest and relax for the summer, and I know teachers are ready to do the same. I hope the time you spend with family this summer is all good time. Take care for now and I look forward to working with you all again next year.



From the Principal
Dale Evern
742-4964



Staff Scoop



As spring gives way to summer (finally!), a look at the calendar shows that it's a time of transition within Steller as well. Staff are concluding interviews with incoming students and are currently scheduling end-of-year conferences with advisees. Be sure to schedule one with your student's advisor for either May 20th or May 21st. Conferences provide time to look back on the challenges and successes of the past school year and to set goals for the upcoming school year.

Next school year will begin with a 3-day orientation before regular classes start (August 21-23). Orientation offers a chance to familiarize new-to-Steller students with the philosophy and unique aspects of the program and allows time to re-establish the strong sense of community that our school so highly values. We have time built in for advisory groups and for grade-level classes to meet.

On the last day of orientation we will have another volunteer fair, thanks to our amazing volunteer coordinator, Victoria Weindel. The hope for next year's fair is that students will take some ownership of the event and get involved with the planning: if you think your student might be interested, please encourage them to talk to Victoria or email her at stellerbethechange@aol.com.

Speaking of volunteering, summer is a great time for students to get involved with service projects. In Anchorage, there are many organizations that offer opportunities for middle and high school students to give back to their community. See the following link for an article on encouraging your teen to volunteer: <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-moment-youth/201204/whats-summer-hands-learning-time-teens>.

Summer is also a great time to read. There are many reading lists online, whether geared toward college bound students (see College Board's website) or toward pleasure reading. The 2013 Battle of the Books lists have just been released. If your student may be interested in competing on Steller's middle or high school team next year, now is a good time to get started. There is even rumor of a staff team forming that will compete with students next year.

The staff would like to thank the students and parents who have put time and effort into the numerous extracurricular events throughout the year. We wish everyone a safe, active, and fun summer and look forward to seeing you all in August.



Counselor's Corner



Second Part of the series...Ken's Room on Friday May 4 @ Lunch...
John will be offering this presentation to pick up where we left off last week.

Important Websites When Thinking about College

Books, websites, magazines, blogs, newsletters! You could fill a local library today with nothing but college admission resources. The array of information is mind-boggling. There are scholarship sites that promise to find a student money, if you just pay (which you shouldn't do). How is a parent to know what is legitimate and what is hype? Here's a list of great "go to" college admission websites for parents and students that deliver top-notch information for free:

hscounselorweek.com...Are you tired of trying to keep current on all the media regarding college admissions? This newsletter pulls together the top stories each week and e-mails them to you. It's intended for high school guidance counselors, but parents and students are welcome to join, and it's free. <http://hscounselorweek.com/>

collegeprowler.com...It's hard to find reliable sites with student reviews that aren't littered with those who are bitter and angry. I think Collegeprowler does the best job of proving a balanced view from students of their college, and it has a great scorecard for each institution. As with all review sites, take it with a grain of salt, but it's the best that I've found so far. www.collegeprowler.com

finaid.org...Finaid.org explains the various financial aid programs available to families, from loans to scholarships. It also provides calculators and the necessary forms for parents to fill out. It's a safe site that will not ask you to pay for information, and it is not sponsored by a financial institution trying to lure you into selecting their loans. The author also puts out Fastweb, a great free scholarship search engine. www.finaid.org

meritaid.com...Merit aid is available to students regardless of income, but it can take hours to find and read each college's individual information. This website lists all of the merit aid opportunities in the U.S. and allows you to search by college or special talent area. www.meritaid.com

ope.ed.gov/security...The federal government now collects campus crime statistics. If you have concerns about the safety and security at colleges, this is the place to go. Keep in mind that controversy does swirl around truth in reporting and whether nearby off-campus crime is included. Nevertheless, it is the most cohesive source for campus crime data available today. <http://ope.ed.gov/security/>

berecruited.com...Founded by former coaches and ESPN executives, this athletic recruiting site rocks! Some of the features are free and others cost a nominal amount. Many recruiting sites will charge you thousands to post your information for coaches, but this site won't. It's an excellent place for athletes to get information on the recruiting process and post their athletic resume and videos for coaches to review. www.berecruited.com

collegeboard.com...provides SAT registration and information, college search engine and financial aid guidance. www.Collegeboard.com

act.org...If you aren't familiar with the ACT, you should be. It is an alternative to the SAT and accepted at ALL 4 year colleges in the U.S. For many students, it can be a more favorable measure of their abilities than the SAT. www.act.org

fairtest.org...Not everyone is a standardized test whiz, and studies have shown that the SAT is not a predictor of how well students will do in college. So today, more than 800 colleges and universities in the U.S. have joined Fairtest and do not require students to submit standardized test scores. Find the list of member institutions here. www.fairtest.org

usnews.com/rankings...While I am not an advocate of rankings in general, I do find them helpful in some respects. For instance, if you are looking blindly to determine which universities have the best engineering program or nursing program, they're helpful. <http://www.usnews.com/rankings>

If you have any questions or would like a little help with all this...let me know, John



Nurse's Notes



Parents.

I have called as well as sent notices home to those of you who have adolescents with immunizations due now and over the summer. Please take care of those that are due now (before school ends) and make certain I receive a copy of the immunization record. I can enter the immunizations in Zangle and then there will be no problem with you registering your child in August. You can bring me a copy or fax a copy (**FAX 742-1966**). You cannot register your student for next school year without an up-to-date immunization record.

I have also sent asthma action forms and forms for treatment of allergies, seizures, and other health problems, including ADHD. These forms need to be completed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant and, again, faxed to me or brought to me at registration. I cannot treat allergies (even anaphylaxis) or any other major health problem without authorization on a health form. ADHD requires a long-term drug administration form signed by a health care provider.

If your adolescent has a sibling that is entering 7th grade that 7th grader will need a PPD (screening for tuberculosis). This can be accomplished over the summer at the Municipality Immunization Clinic (L Street Clinic) **343-4799** or at your adolescents' pediatric or family practice clinic. I can also administer this test after school begins if you sign a consent form for me to do so. I will have the form at registration.

Last, but not least, 6 students have religious exemptions and will need their exemption form notarized **again** for next school year. These people have been notified as well. This must be accomplished after July 1st. A religious exemption form that is dated before July 1st will not be accepted. A new form must be notarized each subsequent year hereafter until your adolescent graduates from high school. Most banks have a notary that will not charge you for this service. This is a new state law, not a district policy. If you have specific questions about the law, you can contact the State Department of Epidemiology, immunization division at **269-8000**. If you have any general questions about any of the above issues, please don't hesitate to contact me (**742-4963**).

Nurse's Notes

cont'd

I have one more item I want to bring to your attention. I would really love it if you could help your adolescent get in the habit of making his lunch for school. I appreciate those parents who have been so kind to bring the boxes of Cup of Noodles. Your generosity is immensely appreciated. This is the time, however, that we teach our adolescents how to be independent and responsible for their own needs. Cup of Noodles are better than nothing to ward off hunger, but there are far healthier meals. I have heard dozens of times, "I don't have time to make lunch in the mornings." Many of these adolescents don't seem to understand that there are other options. Help your adolescent to get in the habit of preparing food the night before or on weekends, so that their lunch is readily available just to grab before heading for the door.

Thank you for the great privilege of working with your sons and daughters. It is a pleasure to work in such a congenial environment with such bright, captivating adolescents as well as dedicated staff and parents. It has always made coming to work fun! I look forward to the beginning of another great year.

Sincerely,
Nurse Anne
Steller Secondary School nurse
Phone 907 - 42-4963
Fax 907- 742-4170





Bike to School Day

news for school newsletters and announcements

Anchorage School District students will be riding their bikes to celebrate Bike to School Day on Wednesday, May 8. Steller will be participating in this event that promotes healthy habits, safety and a cleaner environment.

Health and Physical Education teachers and other staff are coordinating the event at schools. "Bike to School Day is a great opportunity for our students to explore a healthy alternative for getting to school. We're pleased to support this event that promotes safety and community benefits as well," said ASD Health and Physical Education coordinator Melanie Sutton.

Students must wear a helmet to participate and should wear bright clothing. We suggest you help your student find a safe route to school. The Municipality of Anchorage Safe Routes Web page has maps that can help (See <http://goo.gl/Ryim9>). Your school can also help. If you have questions please contact Troy at 742-4950.

The Bicycle Shop-Dimond, 1801 W. Dimond Blvd., is partnering with ASD to provide a free bike safety check and carnival on Saturday, May 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the store. Contact the shop for additional information at 222-9953.

Students who ride their bikes to school May 8 or who participate in The Bicycle Shop safety carnival may enter a drawing for a new bike, bike gear, iPod shuffle and more.

Join the fun. Parents are welcome to ride with their students to school.

See www.asdk12.org/biketoschoolday for additional details.



**Anchorage
School
District**

ASD Announcements

Register now for Lemonade Day



Lemonade Day Alaska teaches kids about starting a business, but also about the importance of financial literacy and giving back to the community. The program works to empower today's youth to become tomorrow's entrepreneurs. Program participants are allowed to keep all of the money they raise from operations, but are encouraged to spend a little, save a little, and share a little with their community. For example, last year College Gate Elementary School student Jazmaine DeHeus donated half of her proceeds to Kids' Kitchen.

Lemonade Day Alaska is scheduled for Saturday, May 11.

Super Sweepers moved to May 4

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the National Weather Service, has changed the Citywide Cleanup week to May 4-11 due to the amount of snow cover we still have and the colder-than-usual temps predicted over the next week or two. This means Super Sweeper Saturday is now on May 4.



2012-13 Anchorage School Board

Jeannie Mackie, president

Tam Agosti-Gisler

Don Smith

Pat Higgins

Natasha Von Imhof

Kathleen Plunkett

Superintendent

Ed Graff

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesday, May 1st

Parent Group Meeting
6:00-7:30pm

Friday, May 17th

Activity Day
Lynn Ary Park

Friday, May 3rd

End of 4th Quarter for Steller

Monday, May 20-21st

Parent Teacher End of Year Conferences

Saturday, May 4th

SAT Testing

Wednesday, May 22nd

Graduation
Wendy Williamson Auditorium
3:00pm

Tuesday, May 7th

College and Career Night
6:30-8:00pm

Thursday, May 22nd

1st Semester 13/14 Class Registration

Monday, May 6-16th

Spring Intensives



Anchorage School Business Partnerships
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99504-3135
www.asdk12.org/depts/sbp/



Steller Secondary
can't thank our School Business Partners enough...
thank you, thank you, thank you.