



NEWSLETTER

Oscar A. Carlson High School

30550 W. Jefferson

Gibraltar, MI 48173

Phone: 734.379.7100

www.resa.net/gibraltar

January 2012

Happy New Year!

While January 1st marks the start of a new year, we are in the midst of our 2nd Trimester as we return from our holiday break. May our New Year's resolution be to further solidify our partnership between the home and the school in assuring quality education for all our students. There are two easy ways for you to play a greater role in your student's education. First, please plan to attend our Parent-Teacher Conferences on January 16th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Progress reports will be distributed at this time, and you can have a face-to-face meeting with your son or daughter's teachers. Secondly, you are invited to attend our Community Advisory Council meetings, held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Room 101B of the high school. Next meeting is January 26 2012. Let's resolve to all redouble our efforts to further our students' success.

School Closing Information



When inclement weather necessitate school closings, tune in to RadioStations WJR am, WWJ am, or TV Channels 2 (Fox 2 Detroit), 4 (Click on Detroit), or 7 (WXYZ Detroit.) TeleParent messages will also be broadcast. Stay tuned. .

Important Upcoming Events

- January 16 Parent-Teacher Conferences
5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
- January 19 Hall of Fame Banquet
6:00 p.m. Arnaldo's Riverview
- January 23 Drug Awareness Night
7:00 p.m. Auditorium
- February 2 World Wetlands Day Expo
- February 20-21 Mid-Winter Break
- February 23 Choir Concert 7:00 p.m. Audi
- February 24 Java & Jazz 7:00 p.m. Audi
- March 1-5 2nd Trimester Final Exams
- March 6-8 ACT/Michigan Merit Exam
- March 27 Freshmen Orientation
(Class of 2016) 6:00 p.m. Auditorium
- March 28 Blood Drive Aux. Gym
- April 6-13 Spring Break

Monitor Our Progress

Next time you are on *Zangle's Parent Connect*, click on the "Class News" sections to find out what's happening on a weekly basis in your student's classes! Upcoming tests, quizzes, assignments, and projects will be posted. Check it out.

Doing Our Part

As a cost-saving measure, the entire Gibraltar school district is slowly becoming a paper-less organization. Your favorite *CHS Newsletter*, as well as other communiqués from district schools will be posted on-line. Please find us at: www.gibdist.net. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, call us at 734.379.7100.

Professional Development Day

Teachers will be involved in professional development during the day on January 16th and there will be no school for students in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in the evening.

**Community Drug Awareness Night
January 23, 2012 / 7pm / Carlson High
School Auditorium**

“How can a parent describe what it’s like to lose a child? My son – a normal kid, from a normal family, living a normal life – like so many addicts, made a life-changing decision to try drugs. He didn’t choose to be an addict, but it happened, and in a matter of 12 to 18 months he changed in unimaginable ways”’. (from Families Against Narcotics website, <http://familiesagainstnarcotics.org/stories.html>)

Recent news stories have highlighted the increasing number of teens and adults abusing prescription drugs, particularly painkillers. For example, the National Institute on Drug Abuse's 2003 Monitoring the Future survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders found that 10.5 percent of 12th graders reported using Vicodin for non-medical reasons and 4.5 percent of 12th graders reported using OxyContin without a prescription. (*Nora D. Volkow, M.D.* Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse)

Youth perceive prescription drugs to be safer than “street drugs”, they believe prescription drugs are ‘non-addictive’, and there is less ‘stigma’ to their use. However, these things are NOT true!

The SUDDs Coalition, a local community underage drinking and substance abuse prevention coalition, and FAN (Families Against Narcotics), would like to invite you to attend the Community Drug Awareness Night on January 23, 2012 at 7pm. This is not “somebody else’s” problem. Drugs affect all communities and people from all walks of life.

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) is a non-profit, 501c(3) organization that was formed to reach out to those whose lives are affected by drugs: the addict, the recovering addict,

families of addicts, concerned parents and community members. FAN's mission, "With FAN no family suffers alone", offers opportunities for individuals to learn about substance abuse and face addiction in an enlightened, rather than an embarrassed, way. The power of FAN is in our unconventional approach of dealing with people who find themselves in unimaginable situations. Using real-life experiences instead of statistics, FAN hopes to help students, parents and the community deal with the realities of drug abuse and addiction.

The SUDDs Coalition includes community members and youth who are committed to stopping underage drinking and drug use/abuse in the downriver community.

For more information about this event or the SUDDs Coalition, please call 734-785-7700, ext. 7361, or visit our website, www.suddscoalition.weebly.com. For more information about FAN, please visit their website, www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org.

World Wetlands Day Expo 

CHS will again host the World Wetlands Day Expo on Thursday, February 2nd from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Expo will involve environmental groups, the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, as well students throughout the Downriver area. The public is most welcome.

This is the third year in a row that CHS has hosted World Wetlands Day. Last year we celebrated Humbug Marsh, designated as Michigan’s first Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention. Our CHS wetlands class works in conjunction with the Convention’s goals by promoting local, regional, and national stewardship and cooperation. We’re doing our part to save our little corner of the planet.

Marching Band Rocks

It has been another Spectacular year for the Carlson High School Marching Band Program. In his 12th year as band director, Mr. David Brockington fielded a band of 115 members – the largest yet during his tenure. As a change of the pace, this year’s musical theme was *Mardi Gras: The music of New Orleans*. The Band kicked things off with a rousing and inspiring rendition of the traditional gospel tune – *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*. This then blended seamlessly into a street beat, Second Line Band inspired, *Voodoo*. For part three, senior trumpet soloist Caleb Laura electrified the crowd with his Jazz improvisations on the song *New Orleans*. And what Mardi Gras show is complete without a full band chorus of *When the Saints Go Marching In!*

Armed with such an upbeat and exciting field show, the Carlson Marching Band enjoyed great success in their competitive outings. Starting at the Trenton Invitational, the Marching band took 3rd place out of 8 bands with honors in percussion. The following weekend – and after some more practice – the band came away from the Chippewa Valley Competition with a 1st place win and honors in all captions! Heading into October, against some stiff competition at the Wyandotte DOWriver Farfare, the Marauder Band again took 3rd place out of 10 bands. And finally, at their last competitive performance of the fall – the MSBOA Marching Festival – the Marauder Marching Band took home Straight 1st Division Ratings in Music, Marching and General Effect. A great achievement for the end of the season!

Aside from the all of the pomp and pageantry of competitive marching band, the students of the band program have also been instrumental this fall in organizing terrific support for one of their own members. Early in the year senior French horn player Gina Gerow was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and had to miss much of the season

to start her cancer treatment. Since that time the entire band has rallied in support of Gina and her fight against cancer. Band students have organized a very successful t-shirt drive, a benefit rock concert, and a ton of love and friendship. Such effort brings new meaning to the words, “Go, Go Marauders – We’re going to fight and win . . .”

Check out the band website at www.gibraltarbnd.org for more information about upcoming concerts and events.

It’s a Wonderful Life

The CHS Drama Club presented the holiday classic, *It’s a Wonderful Life*, adapted for the stage, this past December. It’s the first production completed with assistance from the new Theatre Productions class, and involved more than 80 students. Students are hard at work planning the Spring Musical. Central casting is looking for a short, red-haired, mezzo-soprano. . . hint, hint! Bravo, thespians.

Carlson High School Hall of Fame

The inaugural CHS Hall of Fame banquet will take place on Thursday, January 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Arnaldo’s Banquet Center in Riverview, Michigan. The 2012 Hall of Fame Class includes: The 1977 State Championship Baseball Team: Ms. Joan Burley, retired teacher (1997); Mr. Jim McDonald, former coach and teacher (2000); Posthumously: Ms. Pat Christiansen, state champion cheer coach and teacher; Mr. Kent Curtis, former coach and teacher; Mr. John Lefevre, state champion baseball coach, former teacher and administrator; Alums: the Honorable Jennifer Coleman-Hesson (1988), Mr. Scott L. Denison (1975), Ms. Shelley Looney (1990), Mr. Nathan Matatall (2002), Mr. Adam Ruffner (1998). Tickets are \$25 and include buffet dinner. For information, contact Mike Pehote at 734.379.7123

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Gibraltar School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, marital status, disability, or limited English proficiency be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to, discrimination in any program, activity, service or employment to which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the United States Department of Education. For information, or to file a formal complaint, contact Superintendent Bruce Burger, 19370 Vreeland Road Woodhaven, MI 48173 (734) 692-4000.