

BISON BULLETIN

Fenton Community High School - District 100
630-766-2500 www.fenton100.org
Family Newsletter - January 2016 - Volume 13, Issue 6

Fenton Continues to Fight Against Hunger

During opening day for staff, Principal Ongtengco shared information on the high percentage of Americans nationwide living at or below the poverty line. By the next day, English Department Chair, Mr. Mitchell, contacted his sister who is a senior development officer with the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Mr. Mitchell joined forces with Special Education Teacher, Mrs. Bray and together they began sharing ways that Fenton could get involved with our local food pantry and the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Since then, staff, students and the community have partnered to support both organizations through monetary donations and volunteering. *-continued on page one*



On January 4, the girls volleyball team, under the direction of Coach Kleidorfer, volunteered at the Northern Illinois Mobile Food Pantry held at Fenton. Over 130 families attended the event that was funded by an anonymous donor. National Honor Society students and Fenton staff members also volunteered their time.

Students Return from Winter Break to a New and Improved Facility



When students returned from Winter Break on January 5, the new main entrance, reception area, student common area, cafeteria and classroom spaces were complete. Work will continue for the next month or so as the finishing touches are completed. The photo above represents the main reception area by the new main entrance. The photo to the right is the view from the Academic Resource Center into the new student cafeteria. Additional photos are posted on the Fenton website. Videos that capture the entire construction project were produced by the Bensenville Cable Station can be viewed by visiting the Fenton YouTube Channel which is also posted on the Fenton website.



A Note from the Principal

Happy New Year! On behalf of the administrators, teachers and staff, I hope everyone had a restful and fun winter break. January, 2016 is both an exciting and busy time for students and staff at Fenton High School. When students arrived on January 5, they were amazed by the new student commons, cafeteria, Chrome Zone, classrooms, bathrooms and hallways. Students used the following words to describe the new spaces: “Wow. Amazing. I love it. Everything is new and cool. It is like Starbucks.”

Back in November, I wrote about Equal Opportunity Schools or EOS. EOS is a non-profit, data-driven organization committed to narrowing the Advanced Placement (AP) access gap. We have identified approximately 400 Fenton students eligible to take AP classes. These students along with their parents were notified and encouraged to enroll in AP classes next school year. Therefore, if you received a letter from me about AP classes, I highly recommend that your student enroll in AP classes. Your student’s counselor is aware of this information and will assist your student. Below are the benefits of taking AP classes at Fenton:

- Knowing that your student will enroll in several college classes after high school, we want to make sure he/she takes at least one AP class now when we provide the support with a college level class.
- AP classes count more on school grade point average (GPA) calculation.
- College admissions departments look favorably on a student’s transcript with AP classes.
- If your student scores three or higher on the AP exam, Illinois colleges and universities (and many other states) will give your student college credit even before he/she steps onto campus. This saves money and increases the chance of graduating from college in four years.

Please take note that final exams are scheduled for January 19, 20 and 21. Please see page two for details.

Again, Happy New Year.

James Ongtengco
Principal

Fight Against Hunger — *continued from front page*

During the past four months, staff members from every department at Fenton have made monetary donations, during fall play productions and holiday concerts canned food drives were held and student activity groups focused fundraising efforts to support both causes.

In October, Mike Sloan from the Bensenville / Wood Dale Food Pantry, (pictured along with Dr. Pierce, Mr. Ongtengco and Mrs. Pomahac) visited Fenton to receive donations collected during Fenton’s Powder Puff Football game. In addition, Swing Choir and Fenton Student Council made substantial donations to help support the food pantry’s fundraiser to purchase two used box trucks.



Three mobile food pantries have been held at Fenton and by partnering with community organizations and

Bensenville School District 2, the goal is to host a mobile food pantry once a month at various locations. Northern Illinois Food Bank mobile food pantries are tentatively scheduled for February 27 (School District 2) and March 22 (Fenton). Time and location will be shared as details are confirmed.

The Bensenville / Wood Dale Food Pantry is located 192 S. Center Street, Bensenville. The pantry is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. For more information, please call 630-766-9382 and ask for Judy Jorns or Dave Sloan. Monetary donations, made payable to the Bensenville / Wood Dale Food Pantry can be mailed to the address above. For more information on the Northern Illinois Food Bank, please visit www.solvehungertoday.org.

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First Semester Final Exam Information



1. All students are required to be in attendance during their scheduled examinations at the designated time, whether or not they are passing the course. Any student who does not report for an examination (and does not have a dean-approved reason for the absence) will be considered unexcused. All absences during final exams require dean approval.

2. All students are to remain in examination rooms and in their seats during the entire examination period. This is to avoid traffic and noise in the halls as well as in the classrooms.

3. Students will attend all regularly scheduled classes, including study halls during final examination times. Students may only

be called out by a parent for the 6th hour exam if they have a study hall. Students are expected to leave the building during their scheduled lunch period-the last period of each final exam day; any student who chooses to stay will have to sign up in order to arrange for staff supervision in an assigned area TBD. Transportation will be provided for all lunch periods.

4. The examinations are scheduled as follows: Tuesday, January 19: Periods 0, 1, 4; Wednesday, January 20: Periods 2, 3, 5 and Thursday, January 21 Periods 8, 7, 6. The schedule is below.

5. Buses will leave at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday and at 1:10 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday.

6. Textbooks should be turned in to teachers at the beginning of each period if the class is a semester class only.

7. Students who are caught cheating on a final exam will receive an automatic zero for the test. The teacher should write up a discipline referral and call the parent as stated in the Teacher Handbook.

	Tuesday, January 19	Wednesday, January 20	Thursday, January 21
7:00 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.	0 Period Exam	_____	_____
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	1st Period Exam	2nd Period Exam	8th Period Exam
9:40 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.	4th Period Exam	3rd Period Exam	7th Period Exam
11:10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements
11:25 a.m. - 12:55 p.m.	_____	5th Period Exam	6th Period Exam
Lunch Bus Route (Leaves)	9:40 a.m.	11:20 a.m.	11:20 a.m.
Regular Bus Route (Leaves)	11:30 a.m.	1:10 p.m.	1:10 pm
Technology Center of DuPage	TCD a.m. <i>(Optional for 4th Lunch Only)</i> No p.m. T.C.D.	No T.C.D.	No T.C.D.

Guidance Department News

FAFSA Workshops

The Fenton Guidance Department will host the following events to help students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Fenton counselors and representatives from the Illinois Student Assistant Commission (ISAC) will be available to assist during the workshops and answer questions.

FAFSA Completion Workshop	January 13 and 19	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
	January 30	10:00 a.m. - Noon

Upcoming College Visits

1/26	Columbia College <i>with Joe Hofbauer</i> 10:20 a.m.
1/27	Robert Morris University <i>with Erin Ginn</i> 10:20 a.m.

Plans to Implement Fenton as an Illinois Democracy School Underway

The Fenton Social Studies department is excited to announce that it has started the process of becoming an Illinois Democracy School.

Democracy Schools is an initiative started in 2006 by the McCormick Foundation with the intent of reasserting the importance of civic education in American high schools. Their mission states “A healthy democracy—one that truly thrives, not just survives—depends on the informed and active participation of all citizens. Yet, civic learning experiences have nearly vanished from many of our schools, leaving the next generation ill-prepared for meaningful engagement in public life. The Illinois Democracy Schools initiative supports a growing network of high schools that are committed to reversing this trend, and empowering students to nurture and sustain our democracy.”

We are excited to start this process and need our parents’ assistance. Please take five minutes to complete the following parent survey assessing the current state of civic education and community participation at Fenton High School: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XQ2XY7B>. We look forward to sharing our progress in becoming an Illinois Democracy School with our community in the future.

Classroom Connection

In November, Ms. Weegar’s English class wrote letters to her sister’s battalion thanking the members of the military for their service to our country. The photo at right was taken shortly after the service men and women received the letters from Fenton.



Fenton’s Late Start Plan

With winter upon us, it is time to review the Fenton Late Start Plan. The Late Start Plan allows ample time for roadways to be cleared, therefore providing safer travel for students and staff to school. When District 100 determines that weather conditions or an emergency situation warrants the Late Start Plan, Fenton families will be notified in the same manner they would be notified on an Emergency Closing Day. Each family will receive a phone call with a pre-recorded message alerting them of the implementation of a Late Start day. The information will also be posted to the Fenton website, Fenton Facebook and Twitter. It is important to keep contact information up to date. Please call the Fenton office at 630-766-2500 to update any changes in your contact information.

On a Late Start day, school will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m. All bus pick-up times will be exactly two hours later. See schedule at right.

Should the Late Start Plan need to be utilized on a Tuesday, which is a 2:00 p.m. dismissal day, school will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. to allow for as much time in class as possible

Please visit the Fenton website at www.fenton100.org for additional information.

Late Start Plan	
Period	Time
0	No zero hour classes
1	10:00 - 10:35 am
2	10:40 - 11:15 am
3	11:20 - 11:55 am
4	12:00 - 12:35 pm
5	12:40 - 1:15 pm
6	1:20 - 1:55 pm
7	2:00 - 2:35 pm
8	2:40 - 3:15 pm

January 2016

Please note, that due to Winter Break, this issue of the Bison Bulletin was mailed in mid-January. The abbreviated calendar is a reflection of the later mailing date.

Eighth Grade (Class of 2020) Orientation Night, January 28

Current eighth graders and their parents are invited to attend Eighth Grade Orientation on Thursday, January 28 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The evening will begin in the auditorium with a short introductory program. Details on the location of additional parent meetings will be posted in the building on January 28. Following the program, parents and students will have an opportunity to tour the building and ask questions of the department chairpersons. Coaches, club sponsors, department chairs, counselors and administrators will be present that evening.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	11	12 2:00 pm Dismissal GBB H Aurora Central FA 4:30 GBB H Aurora Central JV 6:00 GBB Aurora Central V 7:30 GBOWL H Buffalo Grove JV/V 4:30 WREST H Triangular SV 5:30 Tri District Choral Concert 7:00	13 Be REAL Redemption Day During all assigned lunches Music Boosters 7:30 p.m.	14 WREST H R-B S/V 5:30 GGYM A R-B JV/V 6:00 Special Education Parent Meeting 7:00 pm	15 Orange and Blue Day GBOWL A Hinsdale S V 3:30 BBB H Aurora Central F 4:30 BBB H Aurora Central S 6:00 BBB H Aurora Central V 7:30 GBB H Walther FA 4:30 GBB H Walther JV 6:00 GBB H Walther V 7:30	16 BBOWL Regionals V TBA GBOWL Buffalo Grove JV 8:30am GBOWL H 25th annual Fred Green Classic V 9:00am WREST A Lake Park East JV 9:00am WREST A Homewood V 9:00am BSWIM A IMSA JV/V 10:00am Dance Force MSC Comp JV 11:00am Dance Force MSC Comp V 11:00am GGYM A Niles North V 11:00am
17	18 No School Martin Luther King Holiday GBB H Latin V 5:15	19 Final Exams 0, 1, 4 GBOWL A GBE JV/V 4:00 FAFSA Completion Workshop 6:30 - 8:00 pm	20 Final Exams 2, 3, 5 GBOWL A Plainfield Central JV/V 4:30 BSWIM H DeKalb V 5:00 Technology Center of DuPage Open House Visit www.TCDuPage.org For details	21 Final Exams 8, 7, 6 GBB A GBS FA 6:00 GBB A GBS JV 7:30	22 No School Institute Day BBB H Walther FA 4:30 BBB H S Walther S 6:00 BBB H Walther V 7:30 GBB A GBS V 5:30	23 BBOWL Sectionals V TBA Dance Force Sectionals V TBA BSWIM A Buffalo Grove V TBA WREST A MSC @GS V 9:00am Cheer MSC H Comp JV/V 12:00pm
24 Cheer A Huntley V 7:00am 31	25 BBALL H Elmwood Park S 5:00 BBALL H Elmwood Park JV 6:15 GBBALL A R-B FA 5:30 GBBALL A R-B JV 5:30 GBBALL A R-B V 7:00 District 100 Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.	26 2:00 pm Dismissal	27 GBOWL H Addison JV/V 4:30	28 Eighth Grade Orientation 7 - 8:30 p.m.	29 Orange and Blue Day BBOWL A State V TBA Dance Force STATE V TBA BBALL A St. Edward F 4:30 GBALL H IC Catholic FA 4:30 GBBALL H IC Catholic JV 6:00 GBBALL H IC Catholic V 7:30 BBALL A St. Edward S 6:00 BBALL A St. Edward V 7:30	30 FAFSA Completion Workshop 10:00 - 12:00 pm BBOWL A STATE TBA Cheer A Sectionals V TBA Dance Force STATE V TBA GBOWL A Leyden V 8:30am WREST A Elmwood Park JV 9:00am BSWIM A West Chicago V 10:00am GBBALL A Timothy Christian JV 3:30 pm GBBALL A Timothy Christian V 5:00 pm

Fenton Above State Average on PARCC Assessments

Last spring, Fenton students took a new standardized test required by the state of Illinois. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is the assessment and accountability measure used in Illinois. At Fenton, the test was administered to 327 English 1 students and 126 Algebra 1 students. The preliminary data revealed that Fenton students performed above state averages and demonstrated successful implementation of the curricula. Comparison data is below and additional information including the District 100 State Report Card, is posted to the Fenton website.

English Language Arts and Math Achievement

Exam	FHS	State
PARCC English meeting or exceeding expectations*	41.5%	34.7%
PARCC Algebra meeting or exceeding expectations **	18.9%	18.7%

* Fenton students in English 1 and Accelerated English 1

** Fenton students in Algebra 1

“Overall, I see these results as a springboard for curriculum and instructional conversations over the coming years, as we strive to prepare our students for their futures,” shared Dr. Jill Kingsfield, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Fenton. “The results provide critical data to evaluate our implementation of the Illinois State Learning Standards (Common Core State Standards) and to evaluate the effectiveness of our district-wide professional development efforts and instructional shifts that have focused on literacy across the curriculum.”

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Parent Connection

During the month of January, Fenton’s SEL program will focus on being a leader. This has become especially important not only for students’ personal success, but for the safety of all students at school. We are asking students to step up and speak up for themselves and others. Rather than being a bystander when they see an unkind, dehumanizing act done to another student, we want them to have the confidence and empathy to speak up. Here are some things you can do at home to help your teens build their leadership skills.

- *Be a role model:* Let your son or daughter see you in your own leadership roles, whether at work, home, or in the community. Model pro-social, empathetic leadership traits, and show them how you make difficult leadership decisions in your own life.
- *Encourage perseverance & commitment:* Good leaders know how to stick with a task when it becomes difficult. Encourage your child to continue working on a difficult project, to stay on a team until the end of the season, or to follow-through on an extracurricular commitment. Provide support and resources, but emphasize the importance of following through.
- *Promote positive thinking:* People who think positively tend to achieve more of their goals than those who see the glass as half-full. Provide a listening ear for your child to share their biggest dreams and encourage them to believe that they are possible, while providing practical advice and support. Help show your child the silver-lining in a cloudy situation from events in your own life as well as theirs.
- *Help develop positive communication, decision-making, & negotiation skills:* These essential leadership skills are developed over a lifetime, but can be honed during the teenage years. Where appropriate, allow your children to participate in family decisions and model how to effectively communicate their point of view and negotiate with members of the family.
- *Push them towards independent work & extracurricular activities:* Many leadership skills can be built and practiced through athletics, volunteer work, part-time jobs, and extracurricular activities. Encourage your teen to participate in something related to their future career interest if possible. At the same time, protect them from overscheduling themselves.
- *Teach them how to fail:* An essential leadership skill is resiliency, or the ability to bounce back from difficult situations or failure. Model failures in your own life that you overcame and learned from. Help your teen analyze their own failures so he or she can learn from them as well.

Athletic News

Signing letter of intent

Congratulations to Emelia Burris on signing a letter of intent to continue her track career at St. Cloud State University. Emmy is pictured with Coaches Kekstadt, Berago and Selvik. Not pictured: Coach Williams.



Pack the Place for Special Olympics

On Friday, December 11, students involved in Interact sponsored a Pack the Place fundraiser for the Fenton Special Olympics basketball team. The event raised close to \$1,700 which will help the team in their pursuit of another state championship. The Fenton Special Olympics basketball team defeated York High School 34 - 13 during the event.

Teams Partner to Make a Difference

This holiday season, the Fenton Dance Force and boys varsity basketball team purchased gifts for two local families that are facing cancer.



Baseball Team's Community Connection



On Sunday, December 20, the Fenton baseball team was invited to help with a Wood Dale Youth Baseball open gym at the Wood Dale Park District. The Fenton athletes helped with drills and assisted in coaching the future Bison baseball players.

Varsity Girls Basketball

During winter break, the varsity girls basketball placed second at the Northside Prep Christmas Tournament. In addition, team members Krysta Wilson and Courtney Susmarski were selected to the All-Tournament Team.

Fenton Student Crowned Miss Teen Illinois Latina

In November, Fenton freshman, Verence Ruiz, was crowned Miss Teen Illinois Latina. The Miss Illinois Latina pageant is produced annually by Silver Beauty Latina, LLC and lead by Israel Silva, CEO and Hernan Rivera, President of the brand. According to Mr. Rivera, “the organization awards the title to smart, articulate and innovative women and promotes the ideas of community service, education and heritage for young Latina women living in the United States.”

Verence will spend the rest of her reign attending events and fundraisers on behalf of Miss Latina. To follow her activities, visit the official Facebook page of Miss Teen Illinois Latina at: <https://www.facebook.com/MissTeenIllinoisLatina>.

Verence will move on the next level of competition, Miss Teen USA Latina this summer.

Verence not only sought out the pageant to be ‘a role model for young Latina girls but to participate in community service activities and promote education for girls of all ages.’”

National Honor Society Contributes to

UNICEF The Fenton National Honor Society, under the direction of Dr. Mussman, collected \$3,740.65 during their annual UNICEF fundraiser on Halloween. Recently, the Bensenville Rotary increased the donation and a grand total of \$5,300 was donated to UNICEF to combat polio in Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Fight Against Hunger – *continued from page two*

On Tuesday, December 15, the Fenton Student Council, under the direction of Mr. Porter, sponsored a mobile food pantry from the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Over one hundred families attended and received a box of nutritious food. The Student Council members not only donated \$1,200 to make the visit possible but also donated \$1,000 to the Bensenville / Wood Dale Food Pantry's box truck fundraiser and \$3,000 to the food pantry fund to purchase food.

During the December 15 mobile food pantry, the Fenton Swing Choir performed for families in the Lewis-Huffman Auditorium. Sodexo, Fenton's food service provider, donated hot chocolate and the McDonalds' located on Rt. 83 and Foster donated boxes which made this a true community collaboration.

