



Senior Seth Kern breaks off a good run in the first home game of the season. Paola won the game 35-12 against Pittsburg. "Football promotes team unity," said Tyler Hennes, senior running back.

Photo & caption courtesy of PHS Journalism, Journey Capettini

Off and Running

The 2011-12 school year is off to a tremendous start on nearly every level at Paola High School. Students are settled into classes with ten new staff members, Panther athletes are competing successfully on the court, field, pitch, and course, and our first round of conferences were successful with an outstanding turnout Monday evening.

Introducing...

New teachers this fall are: Whitney Lanier, Mathematics; Ryan Oshel, Science; Sara Allison, Foreign Language; Greg Morgan, Science; Kevin Bronson, Industrial Arts; John Menefee, Agriculture; and Brett Brownback, Agriculture. Kayla Rausch serves PHS students as a paraprofessional, while Jeff Hines moved over from the Agriculture wing to serve in the office with me as Assistant Principal and Athletic/Activities Director.

Despite the considerable turnover of staff, we all seem to be melding into a cohesive team for the benefit of the students at PHS.

Shutouts, Records, and Fun

Our student-athletes have delivered some outstanding performances in the first three-plus weeks of competition. Our varsity football team is ranked fourth in class 4A and is unbeaten, as are our freshman and JV teams, with a combined 5 shutouts thus far.

Not to be outdone, our volleyball program is winning consistently at all levels as well. The varsity won the Pittsburg Invitational this past Saturday, while the Freshman won a tournament in Iola. The JV took second at the Louisburg tournament. Last week, Courtney Schultz set a state record, as the freshman served 25 straight points in a shutout (yes, a volleyball shutout) victory against Wellsville.

Our soccer team is not coming out on the winning side of the scoreboard often, but this group plays with a ton of heart and shows consistent growth throughout the season.

Katie Jo Kirk set a school record in the girls' 4K last weekend at the Kansas Speedway with a time of 15:43, leading the Panther



Sophomores Tera Brandt and Lexi Loya hand out yearbooks during distribution on Sept. 9. Brandt and Loya were both new members of the yearbook staff. "It was cool to watch everyone get their yearbooks because they were excited," said Loya.

Photo & caption courtesy of PHS Journalism, Jacinda Dent

varsity XC to a fifth place finish in the field of 20 teams. Lauren Frederick was close behind in eighth, while Lane Harris medaled for the boys' team, also in eighth.

Speaking of eighths, for the eighth consecutive year, the Paola FFA Chapter placed in the top 2 at the East Central District Land Judging Contest, winning this year's event at Melvern on Wednesday and will compete for the state title next week in Prairie View.

Upcoming Events

Sept 22, 24: *Taking Sides*, PHS Theatre, 7:30 curtain each evening. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students. Contact Leslie Coats (Director) (leslie_coats@usd368.org) for more information.

Sept 27 & 28: Senior Parent Meetings, 6:30P, PHS Theatre; Recommend one parent/guardian for each senior; Discussion of graduation, postsecondary life, scholarships, and financial aid

Oct 10-14: Homecoming Week. Home events all week: Monday is JV Football, Tuesday is Volleyball, Thursday is Soccer and Freshman Football, Friday is Varsity Football vs. Osawatomie & Homecoming Dance, Saturday is Frontier League Volleyball. Go Panthers!



Madison Waltrip, junior, laughs as she and Sarah Dickson, junior, put a coffee filter on sophomore Gio Carrete's head at the junior varsity home soccer game on Sept. 12. "We were doing it because it made him look cool," Waltrip said. The three came from cross country practice to watch the game.

Photo & caption courtesy of PHS Journalism, Marissa Bergman



Senior Brandon Beckman shows off his card skills to juniors Samantha Smreker and Amanda Hedges at Roots Fest on Aug. 28. Beckman has been dazzling students with card tricks for years. "I love the look on people's face after I complete a trick, it inspires me to continue with card tricks," Beckman said.

Photo & caption courtesy of PHS Journalism, Ayla Fedor

Oct 12:

- PSAT, 8A—Noon
- Osawatomie College Fair, 1-2:30P
- KAYS Blood Drive, PHS Multipurpose Room, 9A

Oct 20: Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4P-8P, PHS Commons

No School Dates:

- Monday, October 17
- Thursday, October 20
- Friday, October 21

All ***Panther athletic schedules*** can be found on the school website (www.usd368.org).

Class Notes

Seniors

While May 19, 2012 seems so very far away, before we know it we'll be sitting in the stadium (Please, God, no rain that evening), some laughing, some crying, some wondering.

Before we get there, just a few reminders. First, study. Second, attend the senior meetings (*see upcoming events above*) next week on Monday or Tuesday; you only need attend one.

If you haven't taken the ACT and have any aspiration of postsecondary education, it's time to get with the program and find a Saturday morning to engage in the ultimate high school mind exercise. See the chart to the right for dates and deadlines. For those interested in the SAT (mostly colleges on the East Coast), please see Mr. Elliott or Mrs. Baldwin in the counseling office.

ACT and SAT INFORMATION

Register on-line for the ACT: www.actstudent.org

ACT registration and test dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011	September 17 – 30, 2011
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	November 5 – 18, 2011
February 11, 2012*	January 13, 2012	January 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 – 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 – 18, 2012

SAT information: www.collegeboard.com or the counseling office.



A free resource that is available to all PHS students is StudentEdge, a free online college and career planning resource center, offering tools to help all high school students take ownership of the college planning process by letting them find scholarship money, prepare for exams, search for colleges, and explore career interests. To register, go to www.studentedge.com and click on the *New User? Register Now!* link. Use the PHS Access Code: **CDGZJSNF**.

Several colleges and universities have scheduled visits to PHS in the next few weeks during seminar. Students interested should drop into the counseling office and sign up to meet with representatives of the institutions. Also, Osawatomie is hosting a College /Career Fair on Wednesday, October 12 from 1-2:30P We are sponsoring a bus to this event, in which over 50 colleges, universities, and technical school representatives will be on hand to provide information about their institution and answer questions. Students interested in attending must sign up in the counseling office (permission slip required).

The ASVAB (Armed Forces Aptitude Battery) will be offered at Paola High on Thursday, November 10. Interested students must sign up in the counseling office. This test is free and recommended for juniors and seniors. For information about the ASVAB and practice tests, please visit www.military.com/ASVAB or visit with one of the counselors.

Juniors

For many students, the junior year is the most difficult and challenging year of high school. It is extremely important to get off to a good start and stay up to speed with the pace of your classes and teachers. Many junior-level classes are designed to prepare students for postsecondary schooling, be it a traditional college or university, a technical school, or the U.S. Military. Students

Counseling Office Contacts

Registrar:

- Enrollment
- Infinite Campus
- Transcripts

~ Sheila Majors

sheila_majors@usd368.org

Counselors:

- Academic Direction
- Personal/Social Issues
- Career Guidance

~ Debbie Baldwin

debbie_baldwin@usd368.org

- Students with last name L-Z

~ Justin Elliott

justin_elliott@usd368.org

- Students with last name A-K

Office Phone: 294-8017

should begin to examine options for life after high school, make plans for taking the necessary entrance examinations, and learn as much as possible about potential schools and financial aid, especially scholarships, available. Many myths exist regarding postsecondary education, so checking with a counselor to get some tips on how to begin and then refine the search is a great idea.

The PSAT will be given to juniors on Wed. October 12- testing from approx. 8 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. The cost is \$14.00 and is open to the first 35 who sign up and pay; we still have slots open. We will be testing off campus, so a signed field trip permission slip is also required. . If you have questions about the PSAT, contact the counseling office @294-8017.

Help Me!!!

One of the primary reasons that students struggle in school and risk failure is the fear of looking stupid. You know the feeling: “Everyone else already knows this and I’ll look like an idiot if I ask.” We all hate feeling ignorant, especially when the tacit expectation is that we *should* know. When coupled with teenagism, this fear can paralyze a student. So what’s a parent to do? Here are a few tips:

1. **Gather Information.** Know what your student’s grade is and why the struggle is occurring. If you are unclear as to why, contact the teacher via email or phone (see our website for staff contact information). The more you know, the easier it is to help. Make [Infinite Campus](#) your friend. If you can’t log on, contact Sheila Majors at 294-8017 or sheila_majors@usd368.org and she’ll get you hooked up.
2. **Talk.** Visit with your student. Ask for an explanation of the assignment and then tune in. An inability to share with you what they are learning indicates a need for assistance. Teachers are typically in the classroom by 7:30 before school, here until 3:30 after school, and available during seminar and by appointment. If your student can’t explain it to you, they need some explanation from someone else.
3. **Follow Up.** Be sure that your student is doing what needs to be done by checking IC or contacting the teacher. Better to spend a little extra time now than to be scrambling like crazy in December. When the improvement happens, be sure to reinforce the positive change and the realization that it is rare for one person in a group to be the only one who “doesn’t get it.”



Senior Elizabeth Huber and junior Lucy Staats look at a 2011 Peace Love Green yearbook. Yearbook distribution was held on Sept. 9 and students were able to pick up their books during seminar. “It was a really good yearbook; It had a lot of good pictures and more color than usual,” Huber said.

Photo & caption courtesy of PHS Journalism, Caleb Hecker

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