



Christopher DOCK **Newsline**

MENNONITE HIGH SCHOOL

1000 Forty Foot Road • Lansdale, PA 19446-4398
215.362.2675 • www.dockhs.org

February 2012, Volume 44, No. 7

Principal's Corner

Our Seniors

On January 20 I met with the senior class officers to begin planning the end-of-year events, culminating in our 57th annual commencement service. These next months will go quickly for our seniors, and even more quickly for their parents. On a personal note, this year I am a senior parent for the third time. While experience helps one know what to anticipate, each time we are amazed it happened so quickly and wonder if we did all we could to best prepare our child for the next step.

I find that parents are generally even more grateful for the Dock experience as their child prepares for graduation. I have been grateful for our capable guidance counselors who give advice to our children and help them think through options after Dock. They encourage students to be independent when needed while relying on the community for encouragement and support. The recently organized Financial Aid Night was one of our most well-attended ever, and is just one example of the resources our Guidance Department makes accessible to school families.

I appreciate our faculty who do so much more than "teach." They nurture, prod, cheer and mentor our teenagers through the fun as well as difficult times. Administrators and staff lend their voice of encouragement.

While students must find their own way after commencement, I am pleased with the foundation provided for each student before they cross that stage to receive their diploma. Perhaps the greatest blessing of the Dock experience is that the relationships with teachers and staff continue long after graduation. We will join you in cheering on your young adults through the many next steps that follow. To the senior parents, enjoy these months as you reflect on your child's journey through 13 or more years of formal education and celebrate God's ongoing handiwork.

—Dr. Conrad Swartzentruber, Principal

Plan to attend Arts Day on February 17

This year's theme, "The Heavens," promises some great performances by our students as Dock celebrates the arts. The public Arts Day program will be presented on Friday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. Guidelines for all presentations are available on the website along with photo galleries from previous years. Parents can attend performances during the day Friday as well, and should sit in the balcony. To ensure that all attention is focused on the presentations, we ask that there be no contact between parents and students during the school day. More information can be found at www.dockhs.org.



DockCalendar

FEBRUARY

- 2 **11:50 a.m. dismissal**
- 2-4 Mennonite Educators Conference
- 3 **No school**
- 6 Student Visitation Day **Invite a friend!**
- 9-11 District Orchestra
- 17 Arts Day
- 17 Arts Day - Public Performance, 7 p.m.
- 20 Presidents' Day, **No school**
- 21 Board of Trustees, 2:30 p.m.
- 23 New Family Orientation, 6:30 pm

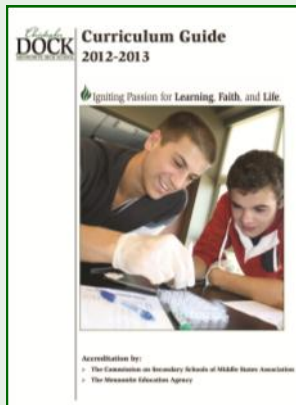
MARCH

- 5 Spring sports practices begin
- 12 Student Visitation Day **Invite a friend!**
- 12 Parent-Teacher Fellowship
- 15 Winter Athletic Banquet, 6:15 p.m.
- 19 Spring Parent-Coach Night, 7:30 p.m.
- 19-23 Spiritual Life Emphasis Week
- 20 Board of Trustees, 2:30 p.m.
- 21 Pastors' Day **Invite your pastor!**

Our Mission Statement: "Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, in partnership with the family and the church, seeks to develop the God-given abilities of students in preparation for responsible stewardship of life as members of God's people in a global society. Dock serves youth and families of Franconia Mennonite Conference, Eastern District Conference and those who share Anabaptist values."

Registration for 2012-13 begins

On Tuesday, January 31, Christopher Dock students began the registration process for the 2012-13 school year. The registration process presents a great opportunity for discussion about goals, God-given abilities, and decision-making. Parents and students should work together to complete the course registration and other forms that were sent home with students on Tuesday, including the school's covenant statement, emergency form, and Service Day permission form. Students will also have a copy of Dock's 2012-13 Curriculum Guide for reference (see photo, left). **Completed and signed forms will be due back to your student's class advisor on Wednesday, February 8.** We appreciate your help in observing this important deadline. Please contact the Guidance Office or Assistant Principal Martin Wiens if you have questions or concerns about any aspect of the registration process.



New additions to Dock curriculum

The Dock Board of Trustees and Curriculum Committee have approved a number of new and revised courses for 2012-13. New course options include Robotics for credit, Conflict Resolution, AP US Government, AP Macroeconomics, Botany, Forensics Trace Evidence, Nanotechnology and Biotechnology. Courses that have been updated include Housing and Design, World Cultures II, US History I and II, and Forensic Anthropology. We are also offering several new online courses through Aventa Learning by K12.

Classroom Corner

Dr. Bishop

Literature of War and Conflict (Grade 12 elective) students began the course by studying letters written by soldiers during various wars. They have begun reading the Civil War classic, *The Red Badge of Courage*, which is classified as a "Psychological Novel."

American Literature (Grade 10) students began the semester by reading selections from the Civil War and Post-war Period, writing that illustrates the rise of "Realism" in American Literature (1850-1900).

Gerontology (Grade 11-12) students are getting a rich introduction to aging and its effects on the aging person and his/her family by reading the play *I Never Sang For My Father*. Terms and concepts will be addressed as they emerge in the play.

Mrs. Rauch

World Literature juniors are in battle! We're reading the 'most impressive book about World War I ever written': *All Quiet On The Western Front*, by Erich Maria Remarque. We are sobered by learning of the devastation of this war, but enthralled by the first-hand account by a young man not much older than our own juniors.

Freshmen *English* students are jumping into the world of Greek myths as we prepare to join Odysseus on his long and eventful journey home to Ithaca. We're also preparing lists of places we want to visit in our own lifetimes.

In *Creative Writing*, seniors are learning to 'let their freak flags fly' as they experiment with words, phrases, concepts, and emotions. We'll do timed writings, poems, short pieces of fiction and non-fiction, and character creation. Above all, we'll do a lot of reading by known authors to generate ideas.

Mr. Wallerich

Biology midterms are complete – half the year is gone! Next we will be working on the kingdoms and phyla of the

animal world. We will have several dissections this month as well. This is a fun part of the year, learning about the simplest organisms working toward the greater subject—humans and their organ systems.

Mr. Yoder

Advanced Math II students are writing trigonometric equations to model real-world situations. They are also learning how to solve the more complex trigonometric equations that arise from these situations.

Calculus students are learning how to find the average value of a function and the average rate of change of a function. Students are also using implicit differentiation to solve related rate problems.

Personal Finance students are learning to calculate gross pay and net for different ways in which one can get paid. They will then learn how to use a checking account, including how to balance their checkbook.

Fostering a love for science

Dock Physics teacher Val Ford recently helped judge Penn View Christian school Science Fair's physics category at the request of Penn View science teacher Harry Anselmo. Penn View opened up Science Fair to 6th graders for the first time this year, and nearly 50 students entered the competition voluntarily (Science Fair is mandatory for 7th grade and Honors students). Thanks to Mr. Anselmo, Lisa Reichley and the Penn View Science Department for getting students excited about science!

Penn View 6th grader Mia Hershberger poses with her Science Fair board. Mia's experiment was about music and its ability to enhance or hinder concentration and memory.



Guidance Office

Scholarship list

The Guidance Office has a list of scholarships available. Students are welcome to stop by and pick up a copy.

Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA)

A few tips to consider when applying:

- ◆ Apply early
- ◆ The colleges you have applied to will have different deadlines for receiving this information
- ◆ Read and follow all instructions carefully
- ◆ Consider applying online. It is recommended that you complete your tax form prior to filling out your FAFSA but this is not mandatory. Regardless of whether you estimate or give the actual tax information, you will need to provide income and various other tax data. The online forms are processed faster and it seems to be a more accurate way for students to apply. Online features can help catch little mistakes and give tips and help along the way.

Financial Aid Night

Financial Aid Night was held on January 26 and attended by more than 60. Michele Hensley from Eastern Mennonite University gave a Powerpoint presentation and answered questions. If you were not able to attend the meeting but would like a paper copy of the Powerpoint, please email the Guidance Office. We will make you a copy and send it home with your student.

Buyer Beware

Beware of fee-based services that charge you a fee to submit your college application, or to find you money for college. There are some legitimate services, but quite a few scams as well.

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week

This summer program for sophomores and juniors offers four one-week sessions (July 8-14, July 15-21, July 29-August 4, and August 5-11). In each session students explore careers in business on the campus of Lycoming College or Penn College in Williamsport, PA. Students will work with Pennsylvania executives engaged in the fields of engineering, finance, law, technology, environmental protection, and politics. Non-refundable registration fee is \$235. All accepted students will receive a full scholarship for the program valued at \$1500. Go to pfew.org and call the Guidance Office if you are interested. Students who participated in PFEW report this is an excellent opportunity for summer enrichment.

Early Bird Application Deadline is March 2, 2012.
Final Application Deadline is April 6, 2012.

Save the Date

This year's **Parent-Teacher Celebration** will be held on **Monday, March 12** at 7 p.m. Stay tuned for details.



Juniors: Got Guidance?

Juniors, if you have not had a one-on-one meeting with Mrs. Hunsberger to explore careers and research colleges, missions, or occupations, be sure to stop by and make an appointment. She would also be happy to meet with you to answer your questions about course registration for next year (see page 2).

SEE DOCK FITNESS ON



Be one of the first 50 people to "like" Dock Fitness Center and be entered in a drawing for a **FREE** membership!

Don't let winter keep you away...stay in shape year-round

February Special for Dock Students/Parents/Alumni

- ◆ Sign up for 3 months, get 1 month free
- ◆ Sign up for 6 months or 1 year, and get **2 months free**

* Print this coupon to redeem offer...expires 2/29/2012

You'll also love our flexible, low-cost membership plans specifically designed for Dock students and parents:

Students: 3 Months-\$45; 6 Months-\$75; 1 Year-\$99
Affiliate (parent or alum): 3 Months-\$85; 6 Months-\$153; 1 Year-\$285

Stop in or call 215.362.0257 for more information



Christopher DOCK Newsline

MENNONITE HIGH SCHOOL

Newsline is published 11 times a year to provide parents and friends quick and easy access to Dock news and events. It is distributed via email unless otherwise requested, and is available as a PDF at dockhs.org.
Send email address changes to jgordon@dockhs.org.

What do you love?

February elicits thoughts of Valentine's Day, and Valentine's Day elicits thoughts of love. Here's a beginning list of what I love about Dock:

- ◆ Relationships and community
- ◆ Guidance counselors who advise, counsel, and mentor students
- ◆ Opportunities for learning new ideas using new methods
- ◆ Teachers who care how students' personal lives affect learning
- ◆ Opportunities to build relationships while rooming with classmates on social issues trip and senior retreat
- ◆ Opportunities to share spiritual questions in intimate class settings off-campus



- ◆ Spaces for students to talk, relax, laugh, retreat, sing, and play.

Through many more opportunities, in many places and spaces, and with many other students, faculty, and staff, there is much to love about Dock.

How are we sharing our love for Dock with those around us? As Rachel Swartzendruber Miller said in chapel on January 30, "It's all about relationships."

Share the love!

— **Susan Gingerich**
Director of Advancement

Important financial aid message

If you received financial aid from Christopher Dock for the 2011-12 school year, it is now time to re-apply for the 2012-13 school year. The deadline to apply is April 15. Submit your application to www.nais.org/financialaid/sss. In addition, be sure to send your 2011 Federal Tax return (form 1040), your 2011 PA State Tax return, and recent copies of pay stubs directly to Dock's financial aid officer, Mr. Martin Wiens, no later than May 1. If you did not receive financial aid for this school year, but would like to be considered for aid for 2012-13, you are welcome to apply by following the same directions. Any questions about financial aid may be directed to Lois Boaman at 215.362.2675, ext. 106, or lboaman@dockhs.org.

Help us reach out to new students

Christopher Dock continues to reach out to new families, and we invite you to join the Admissions Department in welcoming your friends and family to consider Dock. If you know of someone who would be a good fit for Dock, contact Lois Boaman at 215.362.2675, ext. 106, or email lboaman@dockhs.org.

Dock Robotics does it again!

Dock Robotics Team 777B first won the tournament championship as well as a Build Award at its own Dock-Bots tournament on January 21. A week later the team won the Excellence Award at the Technomage League Championship tournament held at Kohelet Yeshiva in Merion Station. This competition was a culmination event following several league scrimmages throughout the season. Team 777B (below l to r, senior Darren Moyer and sophomores Johnathan Capps and Issac Moyer) earned the highest award at the tournament for their overall "excellent" robot, programming, and lab book. This award qualifies them for their second trip to the Vex Robotics World Championship, this year to be held in Anaheim, CA.



Christopher Dock Mennonite High School

**14th Annual
Golf Tournament**

Monday, May 21, 2012
Mainland Golf Course
2250 Rittenhouse Road, Harleysville, PA

Save the date! Watch for your brochure coming soon.
Register online at www.dockhs.org/golf
All tournament proceeds will benefit tuition assistance for Dock students.

Christopher Dock — 1000 Forty Foot Road — Lansdale, PA 19446 — www.dockhs.org/golf