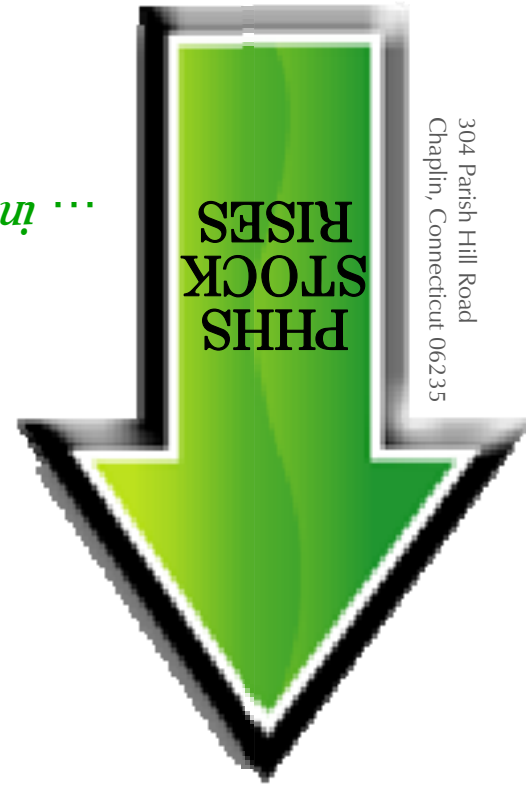


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natural wonderland
northern neighbor

la belle province Quebec

Winter transforms this dynamic City and its vast areas of wilderness into the sparkling jewel of North America.

Quebec's Winter Carnival is the largest in the World and features a gigantic ice palace, an extraordinary ice-sculpture competition, and a thrilling downhill slide! You can climb the steps to the bridge atop Chute Montmorency (300' taller than Niagara Falls) and watch the climbers challenge the huge ice wall—or, look eastward at the majestic peak of Mont Sainte-Anne.

La cuisine est tres bonne

whether you walk (or take a carriage ride) up and down the hills of the old-walled City, with its fortresses and narrow shop-filled streets—or, tour the modern City area on foot or by trolleybus!

Any high school language students, as well as any parents, are welcome to join us for 3 days and 2 nights (February 17-19) as we visit Quebec, the largest of Canada's 10 provinces and, 3 times the size of France.

You must sign up by 11/21/08. For details and fees, see information sheet outside Room 124, log onto PHHS website, or ask Mrs. Sims. ▲

PHHSASG

In mid-September, the Associated Student Government invited families from the tri-Community area to its first annual 'Harvest Festival'. Activities included pony rides, pie-eating contests, jewelry making, pumpkin painting, and moon bounce. Delicious food and crisp, Fall weather helped make this all-school, volunteer event a great success!

ASG will host a 'Breakfast with Santa' event on Saturday, December 13, 2008. ▲

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

On November 20th, from 2:30pm-4:15pm, you can get preventative shots of:
FLU VACCINE, \$35. (Medicare B, Anthem, Aetna, Connecticare, HealthNet/ Smart Choice accepted)
PNEUMONIA VACCINE, \$50. (Medicare B and Anthem accepted)

TAKING STOCK

PHHSBOE

George Askew, Chair
Hampton
middle school math
& science teacher (retired)

Christina Moore, Vice-Chair
Chaplin
clinical psychologist
'doctors-without-borders'
volunteer

Marion Taylor, Secretary
Hampton
special-education teacher
(connecticut's birth-3 program)

Steve Dunn, Treasurer
Hampton
business-development director
cub scout leader

Bill Adams
Scotland
law-enforcement instructor
& u.s. special agent (retired)

Ted Decyk
Scotland
electrical-projects manager
cub scout leader

Jennifer Jones
Chaplin
travel consultant

Sally Ireland
Chaplin
farm owner

Bill Sullivan
Scotland
high school english teacher
(norwich free academy)
community volunteer

Attend any Regional District 11 Board of Education meeting and you will see from the very beginning that a new spirit has come with the new membership. Convivial, respectful, intelligent, focused... these words best describe the interactions of the full Board as the members work through the agenda. They know this is a pivotal time in the history of Parish Hill... and yet, one of the most exciting!

This Board clearly understands how to work together for the common good.

"With the election of Bill Sullivan and Ted Decyk, District 11 now has a full Board of enthusiastic Members whose only agenda is to provide the best education for their children and yours at Parish Hill", says George Askew. "The Administration and the Teachers fully compliment the Board's commitment to help our Students meet or surpass goals as Parish Hill continues to improve and grow."

Bill Adams is "proud to serve on this Board and have the cooperative partnership we share with this Administration. Ken Henrici is an experienced Administrator, with excellent communication and organizational skills. Ken, along with Joe Fleming and Dori Smith, are a professional team with a 'can-do' attitude that motivates everyone. They find innovative solutions to problems and are not afraid to break with traditional practices that have proven ineffective. Above all, they have a sincere commitment to each Student, Parent, and Taxpayer of the District."

“ Although there are currently 2 Committees studying issues confronting our regional school, it's important to know that even if their recommendations alter the existing situation, the State and the Voters must approve those recommendations... and, they will not be put into place quickly. ”

—Bill Adams

of individual study... Russian, Chinese, German, etc... International Trade, Political Science, Musical Composition, etc... Aerospace Engineering, Aquaculture, Architecture... anything! They can do all that right here at Parish Hill."

Bill Adams firmly states that, "The Administration, Teachers, Support Personnel—and, the Students—are doing a remarkable job! Anyone who hasn't visited Parish Hill recently owes it to themselves to come in and see these changes. Former graduates will be pleasantly surprised."

"The Board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the John Navin Library," George says. "We encourage you to come. We open our meetings with a 'Communication-with-Citizens' discussion and close with an 'Audience for Citizens'. In doing so, we assure you that your questions are always welcome." ▲

Steve Dunn notes, "The new AP Courses currently have 12 Students collectively earning 60 credits. When you add the opportunities offered at Parish Hill through the 'Virtual High School' Program, our Students can elect any course

magnet SCHOOL

initial public offering

As part of the commitment to increase enrollment and lower the per-pupil cost, Interim Superintendent, Ken Henrici, strongly considered creating a Magnet School for Environmental Studies at Parish Hill. The possibility was discussed with then BOE Chair, Leslie Wertam, who was very supportive of the initiative. A sub-committee was set up to study whether this concept would deliver the desired results, which is now under the auspices of the new BOE Chair, George Askew.

In September, their findings were presented at a Forum held at PHHS. Bill Magnotta, Connecticut Board Chair of Magnet Schools, co-hosted the 2-hour, Q&A session with Ken Henrici, which was very well attended by over 75 members of the tri-Community area. Bill began his presentation with a broad explanation of the concept options, the State-wide success of the existing Magnet Schools (there are currently 60), and concluded with the financial advantages to the participating Communities.

The 'key' concern of the evening was approached head on by a parent of a Parish Hill student... She said, The kids are all worried that the Magnet School will be a 'dumping ground' for failing students from other schools and that will just make things worse for us".

"NOT SO", Bill shot back. "There is a waiting list of almost 1000 students who have applied to existing Magnet Schools... The problem is actually the reverse of your child's concern.

"District Officials in other areas fear losing their best and their brightest to the Magnet School, since applicants and their parents may be looking for a better, more-specialized education or a smaller school."

"The State is actively moving away from the current 'blind', applicant pool format", Bill said. "By the time PHHS has a Magnet School in place, there will be high academic expectations set to high standards. Each applicant will be evaluated to make certain that there's a 'right fit' to achieve success".

In the days following the public forum discussion, the Board of Education reviewed the results of the viability survey. With public opinion rallying 3 to 1 in favor of the Magnet School concept, the Board unanimously approved endorsing the concept at their September 16th meeting. They enthusiastically await a more in-depth recommendation from the sub-committee.

SAMPLE SURVEY REPLIES

(from parents with school-age children)

'YES'

~ "Unique, progressive, local.

We would retain control of our school system (BOE and voting power)."

~ "It seems like the *best solution yet!* I definitely would want my child to learn at a school that would foster their awareness and respect for our earth."

~ "I think it would provide an *excellent enrichment opportunity* to her regular education."

'NO'

~ "Parish Hill has a bunch of loser families supplying loser kids to the district—it's time to disband and unleash these kids on other districts." ▲

Ivy-League College Offers Parish Hill Honor Students FREE TUITION OPPORTUNITY

If you have (or know of) a family earning less than \$60K a year with an honor student graduating from PHHS, Harvard University wants to pay the full tuition! In making the announcement, Harvard President, L. H. Summers, said, "When only 10% of the students in elite higher education come from families in the lower half of the income distribution, we are not doing enough".

From now on, qualifying students can attend Harvard's 4-year undergraduate program for free... no tuition; no student loans! For more information about this unprecedented opportunity, call the Harvard Financial Aid Office at (617) 495-1581 or log onto their financial-aid website at: <http://www.fao.fas.harvard.edu> ▲

THE BIG BOARD

Boy's VARSITY Soccer

This team of outstanding athletes took an incredible 10-game winning streak into the CSC semi-finals. Their season record (11 wins; 4 losses), gave the Pirates a 1st-round 'bye' before hosting Prince Tech on 11/05. When the clock ran out, PHHS was denied an 11th-straight victory. The final score was 1-3.

Boy's MIDDLE SCHOOL Soccer

Undefeated in their regular season, on 11/07 these Pirates played host to the QVJC Championship game against Canterbury and won decisively 6-2! All these talented players have the proven skills to continue winning when they reach Varsity level.

Boy's VARSITY X-Country

Well-trained and ready, the team performed excellently. They finished 3rd in their division and 11th overall in the CSC.

Boy's MIDDLE SCHOOL X-Country

The members of this newly-formed team had an outstanding 1st season by finishing 3rd in their division of the QVJC!

Girl's VARSITY Soccer

This powerful and deservedly-confident team took their 14-2 regular season record into the CSC championship game after defeating Wilcox Tech in the semi-finals 1-0! At home on 11/06, the Pirates faced a strong team from Canton and were upset 0-3.

Girl's MIDDLE SCHOOL Soccer

The capable athletes on this up and coming team played very well and finished 4th in their division.

Girl's VARSITY X-Country

There were none better during the '08 regular season as PHHS finished 1st in their division and 2nd in the CSC. Congratulations... you are amazing!

Girl's MIDDLE SCHOOL X-Country

This newly-formed team of exceptional athletes distinguished themselves with a 2nd-place finish in their QVJC division. Outstanding effort!

THE PARISH HILL SPORTS BOOSTERS CLUB will meet on 12/04 at 7pm in the gym. ▲

CAREERDAY 12.11.08

Expect the unexpected!

www.parishill.org

Scholastic Stock INDICATOR

The new Parish Hill ranking in Connecticut for the greatest increase in writing scores is 7th out of the 150 schools tested!! All indicators point up... past those in most of the surrounding Towns.

Parish Hill CAPT writing scores reflect a 16.3% increase at or above goal and a 15.5% increase at or above proficiency. The results can be attributed to the combined rigorous efforts of the Administration and the Teachers, as well as the determination of the Students themselves to excel. As soon as the target-specific study programs were put into place, everyone did their share to secure acclaim for Parish Hill.

These recent CAPT writing scores, coupled with the fact that Parish Hill met all NCLB benchmarks—and, surpassed most of them—indicates a steady return to a 'Bull Market!' ▲

PTO Flapjack Fundraiser

Saturday, 11/22, 8-10am
Applebee's at Eastbrook Mall
tickets \$5. each at the door
Join us for a family breakfast!

SCHOLARSHIPS '09

"There are tens of thousands of dollars in Scholarship Grants available... some are proprietary to Parish Hill Students; some are National", explains Vice Principal Dori Smith. "Deadlines are as early as 12/01/08." For an update, log onto the PHHS website and follow these easy steps:

- ~ Go to the dark green tool bar and click on 'Guidance';
- ~ click on 'Scholarships' heading in menu box,
- ~ then click on 'School Bulletin'.

Invest your time today, the dividends will pay off tomorrow!

SHARES UP 9+%

We Should View This as a Trend!

There are now 330 full-time Students attending Parish Hill. That's a 9+% increase over last year's enrollment figure!

Conversely, the number of 8th-grade Students opting to attend Lyman VoAg, Windham Tech, and Ellis Tech dropped from 31 down to 14—more than a 50% reduction in 1 year.

This increase in PHHS enrollment may be credited to a combination of:

- ~ Excellent Computer-to-Student Ratio / Virtual High School
- ~ Magnet School Proposal with 3-to-1 Community Support
- ~ Championship-Athletics Program
- ~ Outstanding A.P. Courses
- ~ New Board of Education Members / Officers
- ~ Improved Test Scores / Rigorous Standards
- ~ A Trend Toward Overall Community Support for the Stimulating Environment at Parish Hill

Whatever the reason(s), "all Students and their Families should know that this Administration, our Teachers, Counselors, and Coaches will do everything possible to keep your trust" pledges Ken Henrici. "We will provide the best education opportunities here at Parish Hill, as well as sound guidance disciplines that help pave the way to a fulfilling future. Ask a recent graduate, or anyone about to graduate, why they think Parish Hill is an exciting place to learn and a safe place to develop good decision-making skills." ▲