

# School Year Off & Running

**PBL High School**

September-October 2017

## Upcoming Events:

- September 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Labor Day – No School
- September 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Financial Aid Night
- September 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Hall of Fame Inductees Address Student Body
- September 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Homecoming Parade & Hall of Fame Induction
- September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Homecoming Dance
- October 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Columbus Day – No School
- October 20<sup>th</sup>
  - End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
- October 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Parent Teacher Conferences
- October 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Fall Break – No School
- October 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Teachers Institute – No Student

## Special Points: Attendance at School Matters

- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- Research shows that missing 18 days of school, excused or unexcused, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days per month.

## Setting Goals & Persevering

I am happy to report that the first two weeks of the school year have gone fairly well. As always there are still a few scheduling issues that are being worked through and many of our new students are still trying to figure out how things work at the high school, all in all though it's been a good first few weeks to begin the 2017-2018 school year.

I know that each year many students come back to school wanting to do his or her best. With this in mind, many students return to school with some sort of goal focused upon "doing better this year." This goal and the desire connected to it are both real, but many times the follow through is lacking. Students and parents both need to know this is completely normal. Failure is often times a result of students not understanding how to create and follow a plan in order to achieve a goal. Even adults must learn this skill and learn to persevere when they suffer setbacks. The good news is that all of us, parents/guardians and teachers, have a role in helping our students learn these important skills. Speaking to our students about creating a plan for developing goals, establishing times for doing homework and going to bed, getting into the habit of turning their devices off when trying to work, learning how to advocate for themselves by talking to teachers and other adults who can help them, and, perhaps most important of all, learning how to keep going when they have temporarily failed are all ways that each of us can help our students as they work toward "doing better this year."

That's all for now. I look forward to seeing and working with all of you as we work our way through the fall and the remainder of the school year.

Your Partner in Education,

*Travis Duley*

Principal  
Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School

## BRIM Anti-Bullying Software

PBL High School continues to recognize that bullying is an issue in all schools, and we are not an exception to this. Due to this fact we continually look for ways to better address this issue in order to provide a safe and comfortable learning

environment for all students. One additional tool we are using this year is the BRIM anti-bullying software, which allows anybody to report bullying directly to Mr. Duley and Mr. Graham through this

user friendly online platform. If there is a bullying incident you would like to report please go to the high school [BRIM](#) link and complete the form.

## Homework Central

Homework Central is once again up and running for the 2017-2018 school year. [Homework Central](#) is a link on the PBL website that is updated daily by all teachers with the current day's

assignment. In addition, all teachers will state the approximate date of the next major grade for their class (test, project, etc.). This link was added to our website last year

and many parents found it to be useful when trying to determine what their child needed to be working on and preparing for.

## Homecoming Week Activities

Homecoming week is September 25–30. This is an exciting week for the school and the student body as there are many activities going on throughout the week. Below is a list of those activities:

### Dress Up Days

Monday - Disney Character Day  
Tuesday - Jersey Day  
Wednesday - Twin Day  
Thursday - Class Color Day  
Friday - Blue and Gold

### Daily Activities

Wednesday - Macho Volleyball 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym  
Thursday - 2017 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees address student body 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday - Homecoming parade 6:00 p.m.  
Thursday - 2017 Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony at approximately 7:00 p.m. at I-57 Stadium  
Thursday - Homecoming royalty coronation immediately following the Hall of Fame induction ceremony  
Thursday - Powderpuff football following coronation  
Friday - Pep assembly at 2:40 p.m. in the high school gym  
Friday - Homecoming football game versus Iroquois West at 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday - Homecoming Dance from 8:00-11:00 p.m. in the commons area

*“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” –Thomas Edison*

## Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

During Homecoming activities, PBL High School will induct our fourth class to the Alumni Hall of Fame. Dr. Walter Elrod (Paxton High School Class of 1980), Peter Larson (Paxton High School Class of 1962), and Dr. Sally Peterson-Falzone (Paxton High School Class of 1960) were selected from an outstanding pool of nominees.

To learn more about these three alumni visit our [Alumni Hall of Fame](#) webpage.

The activities around their induction will begin when they address the PBL High School student body at approximately 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 28. That evening the three

inductees will ride in the homecoming parade, which will be followed by a brief induction ceremony at I-57 Stadium. We encourage everybody to come out to help us recognize these outstanding alumni.

## Parent Teacher Conferences

We want to encourage all parents/guardians to attend parent teacher conferences, which will take place from 3:30–7:00 p.m. on October 25 & 26. From now through October 25, please call the high school office between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in order to have our office staff help you arrange all of these conferences.

I hope that all of you take advantage of this simple way of getting involved in your child's educational experience. These are a great way of making

yourself aware of what is going on in your child's classes and activities. If you are unsure of what to discuss here are some possible talking points:

- How has my child performed in your class so far this year?
  - Does my child have any missing assignments?
  - Does my child have any major assignments in the near future?
  - If my child needs help, is tutoring available?
- If my child is a fast-learner, how can you make sure he/she is challenged?
  - How can I help my child succeed in your class this year?
  - What resources would help my child do his/her work better? Are there additional books or resources available at school or at home that could help him/her?

## PSAT 9 & SAT Prep

As many of you know, last year the state of Illinois administered the SAT for the first time, and will continue to offer this test to all juniors as the states free college entrance exam. As a school, one of our goals is to ensure that all students are as prepared as possible for this exam.

Luckily, The College Board, which is the company that creates and administers the SAT, is dedicated to providing as many resources as possible in order to help students prepare. This

includes offering the PSAT to ninth and tenth graders, which as a school we will take advantage of and begin administering to all freshmen and sophomores this school year. For freshmen, the PSAT 9 will be administered on Wednesday, October 4 during first through fourth periods. This test is the first of many tests that students can link together through Khan Academy and The College Board in order to build a personalized SAT prep.

In order to take full advantage of this free personalized SAT prep,

students must create an account with Khan Academy and The College Board and then link the accounts together. Once the accounts are linked together each student's results from the PSAT 9, PSAT 10, and practice PSAT quizzes and tests that can be taken in Khan Academy are all used to determine what each student needs to improve upon and then develop an individualized prep within Khan Academy. Students wanting assistance setting up these accounts should see their guidance counselor.



## Important Links

Need specific school-related information? Below you will find links that will take you directly to important PBL web pages.

Want to be as up-to-date as possible with all things PBL... follow us on Twitter @PBLUSD10 to get district information and @PBL\_AD to get high school athletic information.

Need to know what supplies to buy your student for their high

school classes...[visit our supply list.](#)

Need to know about an athletic event...[visit our athletic schedules page.](#)

Need to know about a band competition...[visit the Panther Regiment page.](#)

Need to know what's going on around the high school...[visit our school announcements page.](#)

Need to know if your child had homework or has an upcoming major grade...[visit our homework central page.](#)

Need to report a bullying incident...[visit the PBL High School BRIM Anti-Bullying Page](#)

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**“Excellence through Rigor,  
Relevance, and Relationships.”**



## Our Mission & Vision

It is the mission of Paxton-Buckley-Loda Community Unit School District No.10 to prepare each student to be a successful citizen as demonstrated through strong character, responsible actions, and a passion for life-long learning. PBL students will be empowered with the skills that allow them to read with comprehension, communicate clearly, utilize technology, think critically, work effectively with others, and use information to solve problems. PBL is committed to a systematic approach of support and intervention to assist each individual in reaching his or her full potential. We are dedicated to providing a safe environment while fostering a climate of high expectations for our students, staff, and the communities we serve.

**Rigor:** PBL is dedicated to providing a rigorous curriculum, coherent across grade levels, where students learn, think, comprehend, and communicate analytically.

Due to a rigorous curriculum:

- I can achieve anything by giving maximum effort, using my academic skills to think critically to solve problems and to communicate with others.

**Relevance:** Relevance is reinforced at PBL by making curricular connections between learning objectives and real life experiences. Students will prepare for adult roles by learning and applying fundamental skills and competencies.

My educational experiences are relevant to me because:

- I can be a self-motivated, life-long learner.
- I can be accountable to myself and others.
- I can plan for the future by adapting easily to change and managing new technologies and information.

**Relationships:** Positive relationships are the foundation for all learning experiences at PBL. Students, staff, parents, and community members will collaborate to create and foster a safe environment where respect for others and tolerance of individual differences are modeled and expected at all times.

To build positive relationships:

- I can be tolerant and accepting of individual differences.
- I can demonstrate responsibility through good decision making.
- I can display good citizenship by representing myself, my school, my community, and my country with pride.
- I can achieve my goals through self-motivation and by encouraging and working with others.