

MUSTANG MESSAGES

December Newsletter

The new year is fast approaching and with it those financial aid forms. Students are encouraged to use FAFSA on the Web and apply online. The application can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The federal government will not be sending any paper forms to high schools this year. Students without access to the Internet can come to my office to print out a PDF document of the FAFSA. Please remember that the financial aid form is the prime determinant for awarding federal financial aid to a college student. Most grants, student loans and work-study allotments are based on information provided on the financial aid form. Financial aid forms may be filled out after January 1st. Many colleges want the processed FAFSA information in their financial aid offices by March 1st. Since the FAFSA forms require income tax records for completion, it is recommended that parents and students have their tax forms completed as soon after January 1st as possible. Keep in mind that federal financial aid is awarded to eligible families on a first come-first served basis.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Silver Lake High School !!!

Chris Sluka
Guidance Counselor

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT SCHEDULED

Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 6 at 6:00 pm. Silver Lake will host a financial aid presentation by Stacy Seim with EducationQuest Foundation at that time. Seniors and parents with questions about financial aid are encouraged and invited to attend. If this is your first time as a senior parent and you have not been through the financial aid process before, please plan to attend the program. Once again, the presentation will be held on Thursday, January 6 at 6:00 at SLHS.

IMPORTANT DATES AT SL

Sat., Dec. 4	Parents Night BB
Sat., Dec. 11	ACT Test Date
Tues., Dec. 21	HS Music Program
Wed., Dec. 22	End of 1 st semester 12:30 Dismissal
Sat., Jan. 1	The day FAFSA forms can first be worked on.
Wed., Jan. 5	School Resumes
Thurs., Jan. 6	FinancialAid Night
Fri., Jan. 7	Registration date for February ACT

LOOK CLOSER AT COLLEGEBOUND NEBRASKA

Have you heard of CollegeBound Nebraska? The program promises students that "if you are a Nebraska resident who meets admission requirements for the University of Nebraska, and if you are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant, you can attend the University of Nebraska and PAY NO TUITION. You may also qualify for CollegeBound Nebraska aid even if you aren't eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. The CollegeBound Nebraska program applies to UNL, UNK, UNO and the University Medical Center. Applying for admission and completing the FAFSA are the only two things necessary to do at this time. As long as students maintain full-time student status (at least 12 credits per semester) and a grade point average of at least 2.5 (C+), they can continue to have their tuition paid throughout their undergraduate education. So if you are considering UNL, UNK or UNO, please keep CollegeBound Nebraska in mind. This is an outstanding reason to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st.

INFORMATION USEFUL TO FILE FAFSA ONLINE

With high schools no longer receiving paper forms of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), it is important to be able to file the form online. To start the process the student and parent each need to apply for separate PIN Numbers at www.pin.ed.gov. The PIN will allow you to sign your FAFSA electronically and to correct your processed FAFSA information online. Don't share your PIN with anyone!! The next step is to gather all of the information you will need to apply. (See the list below). The website also has a worksheet you can use prior to completing the form. Finally you can complete the free application at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Once you submit the application, you will receive a confirmation number to keep for your records.

YOU MAY BEGIN TO REGISTER FOR YOUR PIN NUMBERS NOW !!!

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA:

Students and parents will need to following items: social security number, driver's license number, W-2 Forms, Federal Income Tax Return, current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds and other investments, business or farm records, if applicable, records of untaxed income received (like social security, welfare or veteran's benefits), if applicable.

REMEMBER: WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE FAFSA FORM, PRINT A COPY OF IT FOR YOUR RECORDS !!!

APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

After obtaining a scholarship application, the student is responsible for providing accurate information in a timely and concise manner. Some important points to remember include:

- 1) Get scholarship applications as soon as they are available.
- 2) Do not wait until the last minute to complete the application.
- 3) When completing the application, be sure to think ahead and to first do a rough draft. You may want to make a copy of the blank application for this.
- 4) Type the application.
- 5) Be certain the information you place on the application is accurate.
- 6) Follow directions. Be certain the scholarship application is completed exactly as the directions indicate.
- 7) If you need a letter of recommendation written, give the letter writer at least two weeks in advance to complete the letter.
- 8) It is appropriate to send a thank you to the provider of the scholarship when a student has been selected as the recipient of that award.

NEW THIS YEAR: NAIA ELIGIBILITY REGISTRATION

Beginning in 2010, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) is requiring student-athletes to gain eligibility for participation in college athletics through an Eligibility Center. The NAIA Eligibility Center provides initial-eligibility certification for student-athletes who plan to participate in athletics at an NAIA school. First-time NAIA participants, including high school students, must register with the online service. Students interested in enrolling at NAIA institutions for the 2011-2012 school year should register as soon as possible. To register, please follow the following steps:

- Step 1: Go to www.playnaia.org and create a password-protected account
- Step 2: Fill out your personal registration
- Step 3: Submit your information and learn more about the NAIA
- Step 4: Check the status of your certification.
- Step 5: Through a secure transaction, your credit card or electronic check can be used for the required payment of \$60.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NEW THIS MONTH

SCHOLARSHIP: Adams/Webster County Corn Growers Association Scholarship
REQUIREMENTS: Senior whose parents are actively farming or employees of an ag-related business and who are members of the Adams/Webster County Corn Growers Assn. Students must be admitted to college and must write a 300-500 word essay on *how corn production affects our community*.
AMOUNT: \$500
DEADLINE: March 8, 2011

SCHOLARSHIP: The Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship
REQUIREMENTS: Nebraska high school seniors who plan to attend a Nebraska state public college or university, have financial need, maintained a C+ or above average in high school, and will complete the FAFSA. The primary selection criteria is financial need.
AMOUNT: \$3200 per semester for tuition and fees plus an extra \$400 per semester for books.
DEADLINE: March 1, 2011 (Students can obtain application online after January 1 at scholarships@stbfoundation.org)

SCHOLARSHIP: Nebraska Press Association Foundation Scholarship
REQUIREMENTS: Attend a Nebraska college and major in print journalism.
AMOUNT: \$2000
DEADLINE: February 25, 2011

SCHOLARSHIP: Maynard Jensen American Legion Memorial Scholarship
REQUIREMENTS: Sons or daughters, grandchildren or great-grandchildren of members of the Department of Nebraska, The American Legion or POW, MIA, KIA or any veteran that was a current Legion member at time of death. Students must plan to attend college in Nebraska and have financial need, strong academic achievement, and participated in extracurricular activities.
AMOUNT: \$500
DEADLINE: March 1, 2011

SCHOLARSHIP: KFC Colonel's Scholarship

REQUIREMENTS: Senior with a high school cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher who enrolls in a Nebraska public 4-year college or university. Student must plan to complete a bachelors degree and have financial need. Apply online at www.kfcscholars.org.

AMOUNT: varies, with maximum award of \$20,000

DEADLINE: February 9, 2011

SCHOLARSHIP: U. S. Bank Internet Scholarship

REQUIREMENTS: Seniors planning to enroll next fall at an eligible four-year college or university participating in the U.S. Bank No Fee Education Loan Program are eligible to apply. Recipients are selected through a random drawing process.

AMOUNT: \$1000

DEADLINE: Students can apply now through March, 2011. Students who apply earlier have more chances to win. Apply at usbank.com/scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIP: Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year (SAMMY) Award Program

REQUIREMENTS: Judging is based on the following criteria: academic performance (35%), athletic excellence (35%), leadership (15%), community service (10%), and milk experience essay (5%).

AMOUNT: \$7500 plus a weekend at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida in June 2011

DEADLINE: March 4, 2011, apply online at bodybymilk.com

SCHOLARSHIP: Art Scholarship- UNL- Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts

REQUIREMENTS: Students must be accepted by the college and declare Art or Art History as their major. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of artistic merit.

AMOUNT: \$1700

DEADLINE: March 1, 2011

REGISTERING WITH SELECTIVE SERVICE

Registration with Selective Service applies to virtually all men living in the United States, including immigrants, no matter their status. It's a young man's civic duty and legal obligation to register with Selective Service; however, many students do not know that there is a registration requirement. Others mistakenly believe it does not apply to them. Unfortunately, by not registering, men risk their eligibility for future college loans and grants, job training, employment, and U. S. citizenship for immigrants.

Registration is quick, easy and it's the law. Even though men must register at 18 years old, they have the opportunity to submit their information as early as 17 years and 3 months. These registrations will be processed on their 18th birthday. They can either register with Selective Service online at www.sss.gov or at any post office.