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Marching Forward with Juniors: Postsecondary Planning Sessions

By the end of February annually, counselors are done with enrolling students into their classes for next year. This aspect of our job is especially important when helping juniors choose their senior classes as we must consider variables such as graduation requirements, interests, honors vs. regular diploma, and what goals that students have set for themselves after leaving Argo's hallowed halls. In graduate school, this last consideration is called postsecondary planning, and Argo's counselors will help the Class of 2027 students in March.

Delivering a structured lesson in junior English sections, students will reacquaint themselves with Naviance to check on career clusters they

researched previously in sophomore lessons. From there, counselors will guide students to discover how Naviance links careers with education, be it college and sending transcripts, apprenticeship, or other avenues.

Additionally, counselors will cover a lot of terminology that juniors have heard or will hear as they progress towards graduation, such as FAFSA, for profit colleges, and the Common Application, just to name a few. The hope is that these lessons lay the foundation for students to continue researching this topic independently and be ready to hit the ground running when they meet with their counselors in the fall as seniors. ©



Cultural Corner: Pulaski Day and Ramadan/Eid al-Fitr

Diversity is a strength at Argo, and in the month of March, diversity gives us two days off from school (the second and twentieth), so let's explore what's happening.

Casimir Pulaski Day, March 2nd

Born in 1745 in Warsaw, Poland, Pulaski was a military commander who fought against Russian influence in his homeland. After that uprising failed, he was exiled. He was encouraged by Benjamin Franklin to go to America and help in the revolutionary cause.

Pulaski joined the Continental Army and distinguished himself by saving the life of George Washington during the Battle of Brandywine. In recognition, Washington promoted him to Brigadier General. Congress authorized him to form a specialized cavalry unit, known as the Pulaski Cavalry Legion, which was composed of a diverse group of soldiers, including Germans, Poles, Irishmen, and Frenchmen.

He is credited with creating the first real cavalry in the American army. He was mortally wounded during the Siege of Savannah in Georgia in 1779 at the age of 34. His remains are interred in Savannah.

In Illinois, and particularly in Chicago, Casimir Pulaski Day is a legal holiday observed on the first Monday of March. In Chicago, public schools, libraries, and many city offices are closed for the day. It is celebrated with parades, educational events, and cultural activities highlighting Polish-American heritage. Chicago has one of the largest Polish populations of any city outside of Poland.




Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr (currently underway and March 19-20 respectively)

Ramadan is an Islamic religious observance that takes place during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, when the Quran was revealed. The name "Ramadan" is taken from the name of this month; the word itself derived from an Arabic word for intense heat, scorched ground, and shortness of rations. It is considered the most venerated and blessed month of the Islamic year. Prayers, sawm (fasting), charity, and self-accountability are especially stressed at this time; religious observances associated with Ramadan are kept throughout the month.

The most prominent event of this month is the daytime fasting (sawm) practiced by most observant Muslims. Every day during the month of Ramadan, Muslims around the world get up before dawn to eat (sahur) and perform their fajr prayer. They break their fast when the fourth prayer of the day, Maghrib (sunset), is due. During Ramadan, Muslims are also expected to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam as well as refraining from lying, stealing, anger, envy, greed, lust, sarcastic retorts, backbiting, and gossip. Purity of both thought and action is important.

The fast is intended to be an exacting act of deep personal worship in which Muslims seek a raised level of closeness to God. The act of fasting is said to redirect the heart away from worldly activities, its purpose being to cleanse the inner soul and free it from harm. Properly observing the fast is supposed to induce a comfortable feeling of peace and calm. It also allows Muslims to practice self-discipline, sacrifice, and sympathy for those who are less fortunate, intended to make Muslims more generous and charitable.

Eid al-Fitr is a celebration lasting three days that marks the end of Ramadan. This occasion is first observed by a congregational prayer at the Mosque after sunrise at which all members of the family attend, wearing their best clothes. Friends and family gather afterwards for celebration meals and gifts are given, especially to children. This celebration serves to remind Muslims of the significance of their month of fasting. 



In the Corner

English to Counseling, back to English, and then a triumphant return as the College and Career Counselor, Mr. Schutz has had a storied career here at Argo. This month, we have him cornered and even though it's the sport he coaches, we're not letting him run away (get it?) until he spills the tea.

CC: What made you want to go into the field of school counseling?

BS: I truly enjoy helping people. Even when I was an English teacher, I felt strongly about guiding students as they considered their plans after high school. I am especially passionate about ensuring that students who choose not to pursue a college education understand that their paths are equally valuable and that they play an essential role in our communities and society. I get equally excited about our Argonauts heading off to college and those that land lucrative jobs in the trades.

CC: What are your goals for the current school year?

BS: I am really trying to do a better job helping current students find jobs after school and in the summertime. We have very hard-working students that go to school here, and if I can help them bring in some extra money, that is a good feeling. I would also like to see the number of students attending some kind of training after high school increase, whether that is college, community college or a trade school, it all helps our students succeed as adults.

CC: What do you like to do for fun in your free time?

BS: I'd say exercising, but I count that as just a survival strategy. I like to read dorky fantasy novels with magic and dragons and orcs. The more books in the series the better. I like to watch my kids in their sports and just be a dad.



The super awesome Mr. Schutz.

CC: What are some of your favorite TV shows and movies?

BS: I rotate between *The Office*, *Seinfeld* and *The Big Bang Theory* as my nightly right-before-bed show that just turns my brain off. Loved the 5 seasons of *Stranger Things*. For movies, if they have Oscar aspirations, then it probably isn't for me. I get sucked into movies like *Shawshank* and the *Godfather* like anybody. I'm a DC over Marvel guy, but DC has not held up its end of the bargain. Do yourself a favor and dig up *The Last Dragon* sometime. It's a good one.

CC: What music do you listen to while driving to and from work?

BS: Am I angry? Then you're going to hear me switch between the likes of *Bad Religion*, *Pennywise* and *Disturbed*. Good moods can find me anywhere from *John Denver* to *Johnny Cash* to the *Mighty Mighty Bosstones*.**C**