



PIONEER



School District

N E W S L E T T E R

THIS JUST IN:

• Changes in the Regents exam schedule for the week of January 24 will alter the district calendar.

On Monday, January 24, the high school will not be in session for students, and high school teachers will have a day of staff development. All K-8 students will be in school, however, on that date.

Then, on Friday, January 28, no students will be in attendance at any level, and K-8 teachers will have that day for their staff development.

Also on the 28th, there are several Regents exams for those students required to take them. See page 5 for the complete Regents exam schedule.



Season offers students lessons in caring, sharing



Delevan Elementary students Mason Trowbridge (left), Sydney Lyons, and Shelby Strzelec display some of the items they helped collect for the local food pantry.

Once again this holiday season, Pioneer students and staff are making a difference in the community by showing they care.

• The 2nd grade classes at Arcade Elementary School sponsored their annual school-wide food drive from November 1-12. Arcade Elementary families, students and staff contributed 2,550 items this

year.

Organizers said that this year's drive was the most successful ever. Donations benefited the Pioneer Association of Churches Food Pantry.

• Pioneer Middle School's Student Council sponsored a collection of new, unwrapped toys to donate to local charities.

Every day during the drive, which was held Dec. 13-17, a

Blockbuster Video gift card was raffled off. Students who donated toys were eligible for the raffle. Student Council sponsored a collection of new, unwrapped toys to donate to local charities.

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District offers help for parents dealing with at-risk youth

Many times, when a parent is struggling to keep a handle on risky adolescent behavior, it can feel like they are waging a no-win fight on their own. A survival mentality or "take no prisoners" approach seem to only widen the gap between parent and child, leading to an unstable home environment and failure at school.

Pioneer School District wants parents to know that they have a partner in dealing with youth at-risk. The district facilitates a number of programs that can help when parents experience difficulty within their families.

- An agreement between Pioneer and Alfred University's Powell Institute for Children and Families will provide the district access to mental health services through the end of the school year. At the same time, AU psychology graduate students gain valuable experience in the field.

The graduate students provide individual, group, or family counseling, parent education and support groups.

For more information contact Michael Lucow at 716 492-9435.

- Prevention counseling is available through the Cattaraugus County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Prevention, and includes an assessment, educational counseling, and treatment referral if needed.

Students who are referred

for prevention counseling receive an average of three to five sessions. There is no cost to the school, family or student. Sessions can take place either during school or after school between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Any student in the Pioneer School District is eligible. Students may refer themselves, or may be referred from students, parents, school personnel, probation officers, coaches, or any individual who is concerned about a student's substance abuse.

Parents can contact the Pioneer's individual schools, or call the Cattaraugus County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Prevention at 716 373-5202.

- Active Parenting is a program sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County. Units are offered in the following age ranges: Living With Toddlers (age 1-4), Living With Kids (age 2-12), and Living With Teens (age 13 and up).

Active Parenting has also been approved by the legal system as a way for parents to complete certain Family Court requirements. The programs consist of six two-hour sessions, and instructors use written materials, videos, and simulations to initiate group discussion of parenting concepts.

Some of the topics include parenting styles, encouraging

self-esteem, non-violent discipline techniques, parental self-care, developing responsibility, winning cooperation, drug/alcohol abuse, teen sexuality, family communication, and listening skills.

The next Active Parenting sessions start in March. Please contact Pioneer's A-OK Program at 716 492-9485 for details.

Additionally, the Active Parenting Now program is also offered by the Center for Family Unity in Salamanca (716 945-6401). A new 8-week program starts Thursday, January 6 in Olean.

- The School Support Pro-

gram (SSP) is a collaboration between Pioneer and the Cattaraugus County Department of Community Services. It offers school-based mental health and support services to students who may have barriers to learning. SSP features an array of services and supports, including individual counseling, family counseling and support, consultation with school staff, crisis intervention, and referral for psychiatric consultation.

For information, please contact Jim Breen, social worker, at 716 492-9341, or Suzanne Pettie, family support worker, at 716 492-9329.

Advisory issued about drug

Pioneer School District has been made aware that a former student and possibly current students are selling and purchasing a drug known as hydrocodone.

School resource officers have been alerted to the situation and are investigating whether hydrocodone has been used or sold at school.

Hydrocodone is an effective anti-cough agent, and as an opiate it is an effective analgesic for mild to moderate pain control. Five milligrams of hydrocodone is equivalent to 30 mg of codeine when administered orally. It is now considered that a dose of 15 mg of hydrocodone is equal to 10 mg of morphine.

Hydrocodone is abused for its opiate-like effects. When abused, it is taken orally, chewed, crushed and snorted like cocaine, or crushed in water and injected like heroine.

Parents can look for the following signs if they suspect their child of abusing hydrocodone:

Anxiety, difficulty breathing, decreased mental and physical performance, difficulty urinating, dizziness, drowsiness, dry throat, emotional dependence, exaggerated feeling of depression, extreme calm (sedation), exaggerated sense of well-being, mental clouding, rash, tightness in chest.

More information at www.drugrehabamerica.net

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donated toys were eligible for the raffle. Student Council volunteers collected toys during student arrival time each morning.

- Delevan Elementary School held its annual food and toy drive to benefit the Delevan Food Pantry and Toys for Tots. Entitled "Six Weeks of Caring," the drive had collected over 900 items

were collected. Students representatives from each grade delivered the donations with the help of Laidlaw Transportation on Dec. 14.

- Pioneer High School's PRO group received referrals to help 26 needy local families through food, gift, and clothing donations. Members set up a giving tree in the high school foyer, from which they

could pick an ornament representing the holiday needs of a local child or family. Additional support has come from the Buffalo Bills Foundation, the Arcade Junior Fire Department, Wyoming County HOG (Harley Owners Group), and Pioneer Corps.

Meanwhile, Pioneer Corps was responsible for deliver-

ing 41 turkeys and 23 bags of groceries to Delevan-area families in need at Thanksgiving time. High school staff and students supplemented the Corps' donations with 15 turkeys and a large amount of food. These items went to the Arcade Food Pantry and were delivered by high school staff.

Winter brings with it its own set of rules for school

If recent history is any indication, then Pioneer School District will be closed because of bad weather several times this winter.

When wintry Western New York weather causes slippery roads, poor visibility, power failure, or mechanical problems on buses, the safety of students, staff, and parents becomes a vital concern. Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Bowen must decide within a brief time period whether to continue the normal school day schedule, delay or cancel the school day before it begins, or close school early along with cancelling after-school and evening activities.

On a day when inclement weather is a factor, Dr. Bowen is awake in the wee hours of the morning, getting visibility and snow depth reports from key personnel located throughout the district. School custodians are consulted, as well as Laidlaw Transportation director Jack Phibbs, in order to determine how poor highway conditions

will impact the buses, children waiting for them, and the few students who walk to school.

Dr. Bowen also seeks input from town highway superintendents and law enforcement personnel, and gets weather information from TV, the Internet, and NOAA weather radio. He tries to get an idea of how much snow will fall, how hard the wind will blow, and how difficult travel will be.

A decision must come no later than 5:45 a.m., because the first departure from the Laidlaw bus garage is at 6:00 a.m. Also, an announcement must come in time to catch staff before they begin their commutes.

Once a decision has been made to call off school, Dr. Bowen and other staff members notify the media of the announcement. These automated cancellation systems are code-protected, ensuring that closings are phoned in by verified personnel only.

Sometimes, the start of school is delayed by an hour or two in a situation when

the extra time could allow for roads to be cleared and more daylight to occur.

In the rare case of school being called off during the course of the daily schedule, the decision must be made in plenty of time for the district to do its two bus runs. Parents are reminded to have a plan in place to deal with any of the scenarios

that can occur when snow, wind, cold, or ice close school.

Pioneer is a sprawling district with wide variations in the weather. But a little cooperation and understanding can go a long way toward helping everyone cope with winter weather and its effect on the school schedule.

Where to tune for Pioneer winter weather closings

CALL LETTERS	STATION
WKBW-TV	Channel 7
WIVB-TV	Channel 4
WGRZ-TV	Channel 2
WSPQ	1330 AM
WBEN	930 AM
WYRK	106.5 FM
WECK	1230 AM
WBLK	93.7 FM
WBUF	92.9
WJYE	96.1
WPIG	95.7 FM

Also visit:

- www.pioneerwnyric.org
- www.wbuf.noaa.org
- www.travelinfony.gov/wta

Delevan sends cookies to Afghanistan

Like many folks, the faculty and staff of Delevan Elementary School were busy baking cookies during Thanksgiving break. However, these cookies are heading to an overseas destination rather than the freezer.

The bakers filled seven boxes for a total of 178 pounds of holiday cookies to be sent to Chaplain Carron Naber in Afghanistan. Chaplain Naber will distribute the cookies to C Co 125th Sig BN, of which former Delevan resident Ed Rung is a member.

Pioneer Middle School students in the Home & Careers class of Linda Rubeck also contributed cookies. Waste

Management Inc. has generously paid the entire bill for expedited shipping so that the soldiers would receive the cookies by Christmas.

Delevan Elementary continues to collect school supplies, clothing, shoes, blankets and toys to help Spc. Rung and his fellow soldiers establish a school in Afghanistan. Soon 70 boxes of donations will be shipped.

Donations can be brought to Delevan Elementary during regular school hours. Questions can be directed to Jan Simons (716 492-9300 ext. 4014) or Edna Sherwood (ext. 2225).

Swimming classes slated

Pioneer School District will once again hold youth swimming classes starting in January. Notices containing registration information will be sent home with children at the appropriate time.

- Two sessions of Water Readiness will be offered for children ages 2 to 6, on the following Saturdays: January 8, 15, 22, and 29. Times are 8:15 to 9:00 a.m., and 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. Cost is \$10.00 per child, and each student must have a parent or responsible adult with them in the water. The classes provide an introduction to water activities and safety.

- Five levels of Learn to Swim will be offered in 10 sessions to children who can stand unassisted in water that is three feet deep at their chins. Sessions are scheduled on the following Saturdays: March 5, 12, 19; April 2, 9, 16, and 30; May 7, 14, 21. Levels 4 & 5 attend at 8:00 a.m., Level 3 attends at 9:00, 9:45 and 10:30 a.m., Level 2 attends at 11:15, and Level 1 attends at 11:50 a.m. and 12:20 p.m.

Action plans help district focus on student success

No one succeeds in business without a plan. The same is true in education, where success depends on a practical, data-based, proactive approach to learning that allows for reflection, review, and attention to state-defined standards.

Pioneer Central School has not only a district-wide action plan in place, but also for individual schools and programs such as special education, curriculum, and athletics. Administrators establish these guidelines at the beginning of the school year, then share their goals with the Board of Education, so that everyone is working toward the same objectives.

In alignment with a board goal of having a strategic plan in place by Jan 1, Pioneer has made progress toward fulfilling educational purposes. These include:

- Revising and reviving the comprehensive district education plan (CDEP);
- Formation of committees to look at facilities, middle school planning, and district health and safety;
- Needs-based budgeting to focus more sharply on district education goals and priorities;
- Development of a key communicators group as a way of tracking trends and spreading Pioneer news;
- Adoption of a local assistance plane to address special education performance district-wide;
- Development of a district guidance plan; and
- Negotiations training and planning for 2005-06 contract renewals.

Principles of a Learning Community

The principles of a professional learning community can serve as a tool for evaluating future progress, for synthesizing initiatives already under way, and benchmarking action plans.

In his book "Failure Is Not An Option," Alan Blankstein explains these principles.

"More important than the use of one definition...is the common understanding of what such a community looks and feels like, how one behaves in this context, what the mutual commitments are, and how all of this affects students in general and academic achievement in particular."

Using this model, Pioneer has identi-

fied the following principles of a professional learning community as primary routes to success:

Principle 1: Common mission, vision, values and goals

Principle 2: Ensuring achievement for all students – systems for prevention and intervention

Principle 3: Collaborative teaming focused on teaching and learning

Principle 4: Using data to guide decision making and continuous improvement

Principle 5: Gaining active engagement from family and community

Principle 6: Building sustainable leadership capacity.

Planning by Building, Program

Each of Pioneer's individual buildings have established action plans in accordance with CDEP. What follows is a partial breakdown of these plans:

- **Arcade Elementary** is aiming to keep its character education program and parent involvement initiatives active. The school also would like to keep building upon the cultural focus it established several years ago, yielding a better student understanding and appreciation of world cultures.

In addition, Arcade will take strides toward reducing the number of at-risk and high risk math students identified through screenings and assessments. Among the English language arts (ELA) goals identified is getting students to read 25 books per year, along with offering reading and writing support.

- **Delevan Elementary** is unveiling new efforts to improve instruction in science, including new textbooks and science kits. Also, a reading "Make It and Take It" program will be expanded after a successful initiation last year.

The school is working with a local soldier serving Afghanistan to help establish a school in that country. The collection of school supplies for that effort has boosted character education initiatives.

Delevan has identified several efforts aimed at easing the transition from 4th to 5th grade.

- **Pioneer Middle School** is looking into the benefits of a possible common start/end time for all grades. Also, staff

continues to use local and state assessments to identify gaps in students learning for the core subject areas at each grade level.

In the area of discipline, the school will continue to utilize a child study team to assist at-risk students to find success. An increase in student and parent participation is sought through such programs as A-OK, Friends First, Youth Court, Peer Mediation, and various clubs/activities.

- **Pioneer High School** has set such goals as increasing by 5 percent the rate of 9th graders earning four credits in core subject areas. By developing a local assistance plan, the school will try to increase the number of special education students passing the required Regents exams by 20 percent.

To meet the social and emotional needs of students, PBIS (positive behaviors interventions and supports) was introduced this year. Two of the program objectives are to decrease the drop-out rate by 2 percent and increase graduation rates by 2 percent. PBIS is also targeted at reducing the percentage of students who are out of compliance with the Student Code of Conduct by 5 percent.

In addition, these programs also submitted action plans for 2004-2005:

- **Special Education** has prioritized narrowing the achievement gap between general education and special education students, while continuing to provide quality programs and services to meet the individual needs of special learners. Specific plans call for analysis of local and Regents assessments to help reshape individual learning plans, resulting in better scores on such tests as the Regents ELA assessments.

Staff development exercises will continue in the hope of driving down the percentage of students identified as needing special education services.

- The **Athletic Department** has stressed maintaining its current offerings to students, while also promoting the link between athletics and the classroom. Other efforts include possible expansion of physical education into a daily class, working with the Food Service Department regarding healthy food choice, and expanding an EMT training course to include more students.

High school agriculture program stresses safety

On Nov. 8, all students enrolled in agricultural classes at Pioneer High School participated in the department's annual Agriculture Safety Day.

Throughout the morning, students listened to five expert speakers, all of whom emphasized the importance of safety when working in agriculture.

Mrs. Becky Perry, representing the New York Center for Agriculture Health and Medicine, discussed proper footwear and headgear in certain situations for people involved in agriculture.

Mr. Carl Ketchum from the Bliss Fire Department, along with Pioneer student-firefighters Mark Skeels and Steve Slowich, talked about fire safety and demonstrated to the students the proper action to take if they or somebody around them is engulfed by fire.

Mr. Neamon, a local woodsman, emphasized safety to students when working with dangerous machinery such as chain saws. Mrs. Tonya Van Slyke of Cornell University discussed important precautions to take when working with chemicals.

The final guest of the day was Mr. Richard Hoffman representing



Richard Hoffman of Farmedic demonstrates to Pioneer agriculture students the way to proceed when a victim is trapped in machinery. He was one of several speakers during a recent program devoted to safety.

Farmedic. He discussed agricultural accidents and what to do before the rescue arrives on the scene.

Organizers said the event was very useful to the students and taught them

simple safety precautions that they can take everyday to avoid accidents and create a safer environment for everyone in the agricultural field.

It's not too late to apply for free and reduced meals

The Pioneer Food Service Department reminds parents that they can still apply for free and reduced price meals so that their children can enjoy healthy, nutritious meals at school.

Applications for free and reduced price meals are available at school offices. The forms contain the income criteria and other requirements. All information is confidential, especially with the implementation this year of new identification cards for meal purchases.

Parents should also know that the most cost-effective way to use the free and reduced lunch program is through the purchase of complete meals, and not with the purchase of a la carte items.

For more information, call food service director Cate Pritchard at 716 492-9347.

January Regents Exam Schedule

January 25, 2004 Tuesday 7:30 a.m.	January 26, 2004 Wednesday 7:30 a.m.	January 27, 2004 Thursday 7:30 a.m.	January 28, 2004 Friday 7:30 a.m.
Comprehensive English: Session one RCT in Mathematics	Comprehensive English: Session two RCT in Science*	Physical Setting/Chemistry Physical Setting/Physics RE in Global History & Government RCT in Writing	Living Environment Mathematics B RCT in Global Studies
11:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	
Mathematics A	Comprehensive French* Comprehensive Spanish* Physical Setting/Earth Science RCT in US History & Gov't	RE in US History & Gov't RCT in Reading	

Please turn to Page 1 of this newsletter to see how changes in the Regents exam schedule will impact Pioneer's school calendar

Pioneer students answer call of duty in Cattaraugus County Youth Court

Since 1999, Pioneer School District has been associated with Cattaraugus County Youth Court, a program designed to give young people insight into the legal system and as an alternative sentencing option for youthful offenders.

Members of Youth Court are middle and high school students, and have undergone several months of training before their formal induction. The newest class of Youth Court recruits were sworn in Dec. 8 in a ceremony at Pioneer High School.

Youth Court Coordinator Laurie Peterson praised Pioneer for its involvement in the program. "I consider Pioneer's success with Youth Court to be a model for other districts," she said.

The Youth Court process is two-fold:

- Students who have been nominated for participation in the program are trained. Since 1999, Pioneer School District has been associated with Cattaraugus County Youth Court, a program designed to give young people insight into the legal system and as an alternative sentencing option for youthful offenders.

- Youthful offenders as young as age 7 can have their case assigned to Youth Court, provided they have admitted guilt. "By involving a court composed of peers, the youth may avoid having an arrest record associated with them," said Ms. Peterson.

An interesting twist of the Youth Court process is requiring youths who have been sentenced there to return as jurors in future cases.

At Pioneer, the first Youth

Court members were trained five years ago in the high school. It was so successful that Ms. Peterson started training middle school students shortly thereafter.

Several Pioneer students were singled out by Ms. Peterson for their outstanding commitment to Youth Court.

Freshman Seth Andrews has been on the court only a year but has been involved with more than 20 cases.

Sophomore Janelle Williams started her tenure while in the middle school, and has served through over 40 cases.

As part of Youth Court Team Induction proceedings, Pioneer members conducted a demonstration based on a case from the Village of Ellicottville earlier this year.

Sentencing options weighed by the "jury" included restitution, community service, and a letter of apology.

Youth Court hearings are held in four locations throughout Cattaraugus County — Pioneer middle and high schools, Machias Town Court, and Supreme Court chambers at the County Building in Little Valley.

Youth Court is funded and supported by the Cattaraugus County Youth Bureau, the Cattaraugus County Legislature, state Senator Patricia McGee, the state Division of Criminal Justice Services, the state Office of Funding and Program Assistance, the state Office of Children and Family Services, the Village of Machias, the Cattaraugus County Court Clerk's Office, and Pioneer Central School.

Dec. 22 band concert to include middle school musicians

The Pioneer High School Symphonic Band, under the direction of Mrs. Christine Perkins, will perform its annual holiday concert on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m., in the George C. Crawford Auditorium at Pioneer High School.

The band is pleased to have the Pioneer Middle School Merit Band and the Pioneer Community Band — both under the direction of Mr. Jared Burch — on the concert program.

The Symphonic Band will be performing Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival*, which includes "Joy To the World," "Deck The Halls," "Silent Night," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and other traditional carols.

The selection *Canadian Brass Noel* includes "God Rest Ye Merry Gentle-

men," "The Holly and the Ivy" and "O Holy Night." Soloist within this selection are: Molly Bliss (alto saxophone), Kelsey Wright (French horn), and Jessica Bockhahn (flute).

Heaven's Light, a new selection by Steven Reineke (principal composer/arranger of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra) showcases flutist Kristina Conroy and percussionists Matt Salzler, Amanda LeFauve and Cameron Fraser.

Also performing at this concert will be a Clarinet Choir, Flute Trio, Saxophone Quartet, Brass Choir, Trombone Quartet and Baritone Quartet.

As part of its program, the Pioneer Middle School Merit Band will perform a piece in combination with the high school band.

"My students are very excited to sit next to a high school musician and be able to perform the same music," said Mr. Burch. "They feel a tremendous amount of pride

in even being asked."

The Pioneer Community Band will play two selections, after which they will combine with the Symphonic Band for the finale.



A trombone quartet prepares for the Dec. 22 winter band concert. From lower left: Joe Wasko, teacher Glen Mucha, Jeff Dorfman, and Mackenzie Pierce

National Junior Honor Society inducts 19 members

Nineteen Pioneer Middle School 8th graders were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society during a ceremony on October 14.

In order to be inducted into the NJHS, students must have an average of at least a 92 in the four core subjects during their seventh grade year. If taking one accelerated course, students need to maintain a 91 average, and a 90 average if taking two accelerated courses. The NJHS seeks to recognize students who exemplify outstanding leadership, scholarship, character, and service.

The 2004-2005 inductees included: Kelsie Banks, Nicholas Carton, Cas-

sondra Conrad, Marcus Conti, Kayla Cornell, Angela Czesak, Jordan Hamm, Maranda Hartman, Lucas Haskell, Dustin Hinz, Danielle Kinney, Rachel Kirsch, Spencer Lefort, Janel Phetteplace, Charles Price, Derek Rule, Jade Welch, Lauren Woodruff, and Allyson Yansick.

The ceremony opened with the National Anthem sung by Cassondra Conrad, Kayla Cornell, Jade Welch,

and Lauren Woodruff. Middle School principal Ravo Root welcomed parents, family members, and friends. He also shared words of wisdom with the inductees and presented them with their awards. Laura Reisdorf, President of the National Honor Society, spoke about the honor and responsibilities of an inductee. The evening closed with a reception in the foyer.



The Pioneer Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society welcomed 19 new members at its Oct. 14 induction ceremony. At left, principal Ravo Root congratulates Kayla Cornell on her achievement.

Teachers, expert discuss learning motivations

Dr. Allen Mendler of Discipline Associates, Rochester, visited Pioneer Middle School on Nov. 22, to discuss with parents and educators ways to motivate learning among children. His appearance coincided with Parent-Teacher conferences. Dr. Mendler's company helps schools develop training programs to manage behavior and improve student responsibility



Pioneer FFA vies successfully at national convention

by Molly Bliss, Pioneer FFA reporter

All of the hard work and dedication over the past few months finally paid off for members of the Pioneer FFA Chapter at the National FFA Convention, held Oct. 27-30 in Louisville, Ky.

Twenty-one Pioneer FFA members represented New York State at the national level, after five of Pioneer's teams competed and placed first at the New York State FFA Convention held last May.

Competing with teams from all across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, Pioneer FFA members faced challenging opposition in Louisville. Each year, there are numerous events for FFA members in which to compete at the National FFA Convention. Each specific event is designed to challenge and test the FFA members' ability and knowledge in different areas of agriculture. This year, the five teams that traveled to Louisville from Pioneer were the Agricultural Issues team, the Agricultural Mechanics team, the Farm Business Management team, the Agriculture Marketing team, and the Agricultural Sales team.

Since the contest first began seven years ago, the Agricultural Issues competition has seen five Pioneer teams vie at the national level. This year's team members included Molly Bliss, Gina Brown, Justin Baker, Dustin Bliss, Jacob Fontaine and Janet Segelhurst. This six-member team presented to a panel of three judges the pros and cons of the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States. The team received a bronze medal in this event.

This year's Agricultural Mechanics team consisted of Jason Czesak, Jason Zielenieski, Adam Hulton and Don Benz. In this two-day contest, each member of the team was tested through a written exam and hands-on activities on his knowledge in the following areas: agricultural machinery and equipment, industry and marketing, environmental and natural resources, and structures and energy. The team itself received a gold medal. Team members Jason Czesak and Jason Zielenieski both received individual gold medals, and Adam Hulton and Don Benz each received individual silver medals.

The Farm Business Management team also competed this year at the National Convention. Team members included



Pioneer High School's FFA chapter sent 21 representatives to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., in late October. The chapter earned multiple individual and team medals in such areas as mechanics and agricultural issues.

Rita Wolosyzn, Lydia Thomas, Becca Segelhurst, and Katie Mest. In this event, FFA members were tested with questions covering economic principles in farm business management as well as a problem-solving analysis section. Pioneer's team received a silver in this contest. Lydia Thomas received a gold individual, Katie Mest and Rita Woloszyn each received a silver, and Becca Segelhurst received a bronze individual.

Jon Nickerson, Jessica Bockhahn, and Stephanie Bliss were members of this year's Agricultural Marketing team. Before traveling to Louisville, the team had created a new product to sell on the market. From there, the team was to come up with marketing strategies and a marketing plan to sell and dis-

tribute their product. At the National Convention, the team received a bronze medal.

Another Pioneer team that competed at this year's National FFA Convention was the Agricultural Sales team. Members included Michelle Skrzypek, Steve Slowich, Mark Skeels and Amanda Czesak. During this contest, team members played the role of a sales person in which they sold products to a panel of judges. The members were judged on their speaking and communication abilities, as well as their ability to compromise with unsatisfied customers. The team received a silver medal. Individual results were as followed: Michelle Skrzypek (silver), Steve Slowik (silver), Mark Skeels (silver), and Amanda Czesak (bronze).

Pioneer scholar-athletes recognized

The Pioneer High School athletic department recently was notified by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) that five of Pioneer's Fall 2004 sports teams qualified for the Scholar-Athlete program.

Coaches nominate a certain number of varsity team members for scholar-athlete consideration depending on the sport. A team average of 90 percent or above

results in formal Scholar-Athlete program recognition.

The Pioneer fall athletic teams that qualified this year were:

- Volleyball (96.063)
- Golf (94.215)
- Field hockey (93.840)
- Girls soccer (93.399)
- Boys soccer (92.220).

In addition, girls swimming (89.422) and football (89.09) finished just under the 90 percent mark.