



Blake Blue Note

February 2009

BEFORE YOU DISCARD THIS ISSUE PLEASE SHARE IT WITH YOUR SPOUSE AND YOUR STUDENTS!

From the President

Monthly Message from your PTSA President

Jack W. Goble

“For everywhere we look, there is work to be done... The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation.” *Barack Obama’s Inaugural Address, January 20th 2009*

- It’s February and nearly 25 % of the families at Blake have chosen to join the PTSA. Thank you all very much.
- That means that 75% of you reading this newsletter are still able to join.
- We have a great opportunity to connect with so many more folks at Blake.

As our new U.S. President has stated so eloquently,

“...there is work to be done.” This year the Boosters (of all sorts), PTSA, the NAACP Parents Council, and the Hispanic Parents Committee have done some terrific

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Message from the PTSA President
- 1** The Principal’s Corner
- 2** Calendar
- 5** Signature News
- 6** Career and Counseling News
- 9** Academy Update

Principal’s Corner

Carole C. Goodman

Having had the perspective of 35 years in schools, I must say that this has been an exceptional year. Our students have been absolutely wonderful; the positive tone of Blake High School day to day is energizing. Despite the economic gloom and doom around us; I see students who come to school each day ready to actively engage in learning and the feelings of hope and change is pervasive.

As our teachers and students have become more and more comfortable with the new Promethean Boards in so many of our classrooms, it is encouraging to see how this technology has had such a positive impact on instruction. Students are very comfortable using the Promethean Boards, in some cases delight in assisting their teachers. It’s been a learning process for everyone but I am so glad we were so fortunate to receive the technology as our students are truly benefiting.

In the next few weeks students will be asked to register for their course selections for next year. It is critical that students make decisions very carefully as we will no longer have the luxury of allowing students to change their minds on their course selections after they register for next year. Our staffing will be extremely tight, as grant staffing has ended, signature program staffing has been reduced and we are projected to be smaller in size next year. This will be very different from previous years where we were able to offer some high interest courses when enrollment was not necessarily high enough to run the course. We will be making very difficult decisions and we will not be able to offer under-enrolled courses. Staff is assigned (and hired) on the basis of student course selection; we cannot afford to have students change their mind once they have chosen courses. We will, of course, always ensure students do not get shut out of honors or AP

Continued on page 3

work for Blake. Mr. Tyrell has initiated an after school study and recreation program that hopes to provide even more opportunities for our children after school. The school has a revised and updated mission that points the direction for Blake's future. It's a great start, but we have lots more we can do. Your PTSA has nearly half of its committee positions still open.

So, we need you. I hope to drive our membership this month to at least 50%. That may mean going door to door. Don't be surprised if you see someone from the PTSA knocking on your door with a membership envelope. We hope to be selling student memberships during or after school in February. Each student membership is only \$5.00 and helps teach our children the importance of community involvement. We also have a fantastic opportunity to win a laptop for the PTSA from the National PTA if we are successful in this effort. That laptop would really help us maintain our records for various events, including the Silent Auction.

HELP WANTED

Graduation Buses still needs:

Organizer & Scheduler

Silent Auction Committee still needs:

Organizers - 4 two hour meetings + tasks as determined
Solicitors - as much time as you can give
Mailers - 5 hours or so
Advertising - 5 hours or so
Basket Makers - 5 evenings before the event
Set up - 5 hours on the day of the event
Table Workers - ideally 2 one hour shifts at the event
Check out Clerks - 3 hours at the event
Runners - 2 hours at the event
Co-Chair in waiting - as much time as possible so that you can run it next year

Laura Miliszauskas at lmiliszauskas@twgemail.com

Arts Festival still needs

Dinner Captain - 10 hours planning and pick-ups
Dinner Servers - 2-4 hours at the event
Dinner Cleaning Crew - 2 hours after event

Jack Goble at jackwgoble@yahoo.com

... and Mr. Tyrell is looking for someone who would

be willing to help with credentialing volunteers at Blake, as well as, folks who would be willing to help after school either tutoring or running sports & games activities.

Please contact me jackwgoble@yahoo.com for any of the listed positions or Laura Miliszauskas at lmiliszauskas@twgemail.com for Auction details.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Elise Gifford for her art piece, "Eye of the Beholder," which was recommended to move forward from Blake onto the county level in the PTA's Reflections Art Contest. GREAT JOB!

Jack Goble, President

James Hubert Blake PTSA

jackwgoble@yahoo.com

h)301-622-7924 c)202-716-1275

Other PTSA Announcements:

- The PTSA is sponsoring a free college workshop at Blake on Wednesday, March 11, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium, given by Eliot Applestein.
- Flowers will be on sale for Valentine's Day. Delivery to students and teachers would occur on Fri., Feb 13, at Blake. Place your order early. Orders will be taken in early Feb. during lunch. Look for additional information on Eubiemail and on the morning announcements. Send a message of love or appreciation to your sweetheart, your teacher, a good friend, or just be nice to yourself and buy one for you!

Calendar

February

5, 6, 7 Musical Theater Company presents
Brigadoon
7 Eubie Blake's birthday
11 Bengal Ball Competition
14 Dance for a Chance
17 PTSA meeting
19 Mr. Blake Contest
27 Mock Sat (juniors)

classes but elective courses must be selected with great care. I am extremely concerned about maintaining the integrity of our signature program and academies and need to ensure we are able to keep key staff in key positions. Reading between the lines, if your child has an invested interest in a particular program, this is not the year to opt out of that program. Please understand that staffing comes in categories, but there is no distinction in teachers designated for academic core classes (math, English, social studies, science), for other electives (foreign language, technology, physical education, etc. or arts electives (visual arts, theater, dance, music, etc.) Staffing and courses offered are based exclusively on student course selection so please work with your children to ensure they make responsible choices.

In order to ensure students make informed decisions, we will host an electives fair during an extended lunch period to allow students to get a sense of the many elective classes we offer at Blake. The intent is to model it after our NEC Open House, where prospective 8th graders and their families get a sense of what we offer. We want our students to make informed decisions that are aligned with their academy affiliation but also serve to augment a rich and well-rounded high school experience for them.

The recent visits of 2008 Blake graduates at the end of their first semester of college, was extremely rewarding as virtually all reported they were doing well both academically and socially. I was very pleased by student reports that they felt Blake had prepared them well for college. So the start of a new semester for our current students is the perfect time to remind them of the importance of school success. For students who have done well academically, and are pleased with their progress, they are commended and need to continue to do well. For students who may have been disappointed in their first semester grades the new semester is particularly important. Semester grades are what appear on transcripts that are sent to colleges, not marking period grades. It is very important for students to take those semester grades seriously. Academic success is something to be proud of and strive for. We continue to praise and recognize students who are reaching and exceeding their potential academically through hard work and perseverance.

I know I say this constantly, but there are many resource supports available to assist students who need academic support, if they will take advantage of the opportunities. Our one-lunch schedule is designed to

allow for maximum teacher availability when students need assistance. Teachers let their students know what days and times during the lunch period they are available. The number of teachers who routinely forgo their own lunchtime to be available to assist students amazes me. All students need to do is ask when they need help. Another support is the National Honor Society tutors who are also available during lunchtime. Students may go to room B223 for help, and NHS tutors are assigned to work with students based on the subjects in which they need support. Students do not have a valid excuse if they say they can't get help or make up missing work. Our teachers and student leaders are available and eager to get and keep students on track for academic success.

As a school, we really need assistance from our parent community in following rules and helping us reinforce this to students. Our goal is always to have a safe, secure and respectful environment where all students can learn and thrive. We are looking at preemptive efforts and student support and modeling of appropriate behaviors including things as simple as getting to class on time. We will also pursue rewards for students for going above and beyond, which so many of them do when they demonstrate elements of good citizenship and sometimes simple kindness. Somewhere along the line some of our students have not mastered the social skills that will help them in all aspects of their lives and we need to help guide and encourage them.

One of the ways parents can assist is by modeling and respecting rules and policies. An example is that the entrance on Johnson Road is strictly for staff in the morning and is a huge safety issue as buses are exiting and staff is entering to access the staff parking lot. There are several signs that say "No stopping at anytime" and "Staff only 6:30 to 7:30 a.m." yet every morning drivers choose to ignore these signs and enter to drop off students. I have seen many near misses between cars, busses and student pedestrians, particularly with u-turns, and I am very concerned that this is a serious accident waiting to happen. The student drop-off is through the student parking lot. It may not always be the most convenient, but it is the designated and safest route for everyone.

There are several other issues along the same lines. The main office secretaries are often put in an uncomfortable position when parents insist they need to see their child, or need to give them their lunch,

Continued on page 4

clothing, homework, equipment, etc. It is a significant disruption to call students out of class for non-emergency situations. There are days when secretaries are holding up to several dozen lunches that students forgot, in addition to gym bags full of sporting equipments, projects, etc. Certainly everyone understands that occasionally a student forgets something important and parents respond to that frantic call, but in some cases it is on an almost daily basis and is a problem. We certainly want to be sure we respond and are helpful in emergency situations but need your support in minimizing interruptions that could be avoided.

We spend a great deal of time dealing with lost or stolen cell phones or iPods. In the majority of cases, they are items left unattended and students are shocked when their belongings disappear. I wish it wasn't this way, but phones, iPods, MP3 players, etc. are tempting items for thieves, and students more often than not make it convenient for their belongings to be taken. Please reinforce to your children that if they bring valuable items to school, it is their responsibility to ensure they are secured and to not make themselves vulnerable to unscrupulous and criminal behaviors of other students.

An additional issue also has to do with cell phones. Students are not allowed to use cell phones during the school day, including at lunchtime; they are to be off and out of sight. This is MCPS policy. There is constant abuse by students, sometimes as blatant as walking down the hall chatting on their phone. At one point we had parents claim the phones of rule offenders, but recognize what a major inconvenience that is for parents. However, there are many times when students are on their cell phone with their parents during the school day, which is a blatant violation of the MCPS policy and puts us in a very uncomfortable position. Please help us by following and modeling the rules we need students to follow.

On a very positive note, it is extremely rewarding to see the large numbers of students, parents and community members who are attending our music, dance, drama productions, athletic and special events. To me, the test of a successful school and its programs is when parents and community members come to activities and events at the school when their own children are not participants, and when students come to support their friends. This active participation is how we have established and found our own niche in a community already rich in the traditions of the surrounding high schools. Bring your friends, spread the word; great

things are happening at Blake High School! We are looking forward to a positive and productive second semester at Blake High School. Let's hope for a mild and event-free winter (with perhaps just a few strategically placed snow days!)

SGA is Busy!

From February 2 to 20, Blake Student Government Association will be participating in High School Challenge, a countywide competition to raise money and awareness for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The SGA has set a high goal of \$10,000 for the Challenge, but with a community as generous and engaged as ours we know that this can be achieved. To support the drive for blood cancer patients and their families (and to have some fun!) please consider attending the following events:

February 2-20: Got loose change? Each class will be collecting coins (and bills) throughout the competition--a few pennies go a long way.

February 10: Ledo's Pizza Night (at Colesville)! Eat-in or carry-out, this is an easy way to support blood cancer research and grab a delicious meal. 10% of the proceeds will go directly to the LLS.

February 11: Blake's first ever Bengal Ball competition; expect to see teams from each grade, as well as a teacher team, and an all male teacher half-time performance!

February 14: Dance for a Chance, Blake's first ever winter dance, on V-Day to boot! The dance will run from 8-11pm with all ticket sales donated to the LLS. Tickets will be sold in the spiral staircase from January 27-February 6. Seniors can bring outside guests age 20 and under; suggested attire is dressy casual.

February 18: Mamma Lucia Night in Olney, 5-10pm, another local favorite. 8% of the proceeds will be donated to our funds.

To make an online donation, you can go to the Blake Homepage. Please send this link to your family and friends! If the goal of \$10,000 is met, Hannah Montana and the Jonas Brothers (or teachers impersonating them) will perform live at lunch at school--but only if you help us to reach our goal. Be a part of this Challenge; save lives.

Tiko Mason, Executive Secretary, Blake SGA



Signature News

The Signature continues to celebrate our energetic Arts and humanities programs.

In January, **the Dance Department** presented a sold-out recital entitled DREAMZZZZZ to an overwhelmingly positive audience. All of the students from beginners in the "Dance as a Fine Arts" classes to our more advanced students in the Dance Company, Ballet Ensemble, and Tappers and Jazz artists gave enthusiastic and artistic performances under the direction of our three excellent choreographers and instructors: Danielle D'Anna, Donna Iriarte, and Angelique Searles-Thompson. The work of these teachers is at the highest level and we owe them so much for all they give to the students and the Blake Community.

The **Choral Music Program** hosted the Indiana singing Hoosiers during Inauguration Weekend to a receptive audience. Thanks to all who came and enjoyed these fabulous event.

On January 23 and 24, **our Stage Company** members and theatre students attended the annual Maryland State Theatre Festival and won many awards. Selected to All-State were: Ashley Larkin, Justin Pereira, Elise Gifford, Ben Schnapp, Sara Nuttle, Tina Wilbur, Colleen Murray, Jacob Perry, Jr., and Becky Joiner. Congrats to these hard-working and talented students. The Company presented two pieces at the Festival including an adaptation of Shakespeare's MEASURE FOR MEASURE written by Isabel Smith-Bernstein and Erin Washburn which was recognized with a Playwriting Award. A full list of awards will be provided in the next newsletter.

The **Forensics Team** had an outstanding meet in early January with several students winning First Place in their categories: Justin Pereira in Poetry, Becky Joiner in Prose, and Daniel Arias in Children's Literature. Stage Company participants scored the highest marks with First Place awards in Readers Theatre including Justin Pereira and Elise Gifford in THE CLASS and Aurelia Akpan, Elise Gifford and Becky Joiner in their entry. In ensemble Acting, Daniel Arias and Nina Marti took First Place in Acting in a Duet Scene. The Forensics Team is still in First Place in the 24-Team Montgomery County Forensics League. The last Qualifying Meet is on February 21st at Blake. This will be the last clash between Blake and Forensics perennial champion, Walter Johnson, which has been the county champion for over a decade.

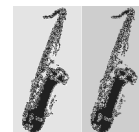
Forensics is a great activity for any student to become involved in. Students may still compete and may do so by coming any Tuesday or Thursday for training, selections, and coaching. See sponsor Michael D'Anna for help.

The **It's Academic Team** also enjoyed a great competition finishing first in the Green Eggs and Ham Competition in early January. Sponsors Kara Mohler, Joe Caulfield and Coach Kevin Keegan helped the team beat out Richard Montgomery on the final question. The team competed against 60 other schools. Our team goes up against Thomas Jefferson's Team

later this winter in the It's Academic TV Tourney. Don't miss it!

The **Blake Beat** has been recognized as the top high school newspaper in Maryland for another year. Under the tutelage of Mr. Kevin Keegan, the students have outpaced several other newspapers to gather this prized award.

The Instrumental Music Program will have their famous Jazz Swing Night in March. Make sure you don't miss this superb event!



Also the **Spring Musical** has been announced and it will be OKLAHOMA! That's coming up in April!



The Signature is still working its wonders here at Blake!



From the Business, Technology and Computer Science Department

Attention Seniors:

Did you take Software Applications to meet your Tech Ed graduation requirement? If you did and earned a B both semesters, you are eligible to receive 3 credits at Montgomery College. Even if you don't plan on attending Montgomery College this fall, you should still take advantage as you can transfer the credit to your college/university. See Mr. Pazulski in A103 during lunch for information on how to take advantage of this.

Underclasspersons:

Join Blake High School as it becomes one of the select schools authorized to teach the new Career Pathway Program, Interactive Media. Students will be exposed to the wide range of career options in the field of digital communications. Topics will include Computer Graphics and Digital Images; Game Development, Programming and Simulations; Audio and Video Podcasting; and Web Design utilizing Flash animations. This pathway program will lead to careers in the IT field such as Website Development and Computer Game Simulations.

REGISTER FOR THE March SAT TEST NOW!

February 10 is the deadline to register for the March 14 SAT test. The best way to do this is online: <http://www.collegeboard.com/>.

Cost is \$45.00, and you can charge this on your credit card. Between Feb 11-24 a LATE FEE applies--extra \$23. If you prefer completing a mail-in registration, pick up an SAT Registration Bulletin from the College & Career Center . The SAT test is not administered at Blake but several nearby high schools serve as SAT test centers. When registering for the test, please include the H.S. Code for Blake: 210959. *It is time for JUNIORS to consider taking the SAT test this Spring. Dates available: March, May & June.*

FEE WAIVERS FOR SAT & ACT AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS MEETING ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The College Board and The ACT both offer waivers for students for whom the payment of fees for the tests presents a serious barrier to college entrance. Eligibility is determined primarily by membership in a family whose annual income falls within predetermined guidelines or for those whose family receives public assistance / lives in subsidized housing. Students should see Mrs. Moore for the Fee Waiver Eligibility Form and registration instructions. Students using a fee waiver can register for the SAT or ACT online with the assigned fee waiver number. *Fee waivers are granted only when the student registers before the posted registration deadline.*

Counseling and Career Center News

Registration for 2009-2010 course offerings will begin the week of February 9th. Counselors will be meeting with all 9th – 11th graders during their English classes to discuss courses and answer any questions. Cards are due back signed by a parent/guardian no later than February 20th to the student's counselor.

FREE SAT Test for Juniors:

- Elect to take the Mock SAT or Mock ACT. Students will give their preference to their English teacher by Feb. 4.
- The test is free.
- Students will take the test on Feb. 27 (during the morning of the half day).
- Students will receive their score reports two weeks later.

Blake Internship Program - Making Career Connections

Juniors are you interested in having a student internship in your senior year?

Blake's Internship Program is designed to give Seniors an opportunity to complement their formal education with career-related experience. An internship is an opportunity for students to spend a part of their school day working at a business site to get career exposure and workplace skills and receive academic credit for this experience.

Some current internship sites are NASA, the National Aquarium, NIH, National Museum of Natural History, Montgomery General Hospital, Montgomery County Police Department, Rockville Economic Development, Center for Arthritis Immunology, Clear Channel, DigiGraph Media, the State's Attorney's Office, Ofori Law Firm, Dr. Harding, and local elementary schools.

In order to compete in today's professional environment, the program helps prepare you to work effectively in the business world after graduation while gaining real-world experience which helps you to make more informed career choices which will lead to higher personal job satisfaction and higher productivity.

Blake High School Interns (BHSI) typically work a minimum of 8 hours per week, or 150 hours per semester of credit, on an approved internship throughout a full academic semester in a strongly mentored, non-paid position, and attend regularly scheduled in-school seminars on Fridays. Students work with and are mentored by professionals in a career area of interest. Interns work with sponsors in the fields of business, government, industry, research, social service, or the arts. As a BHSI you must be able to complete required graduation credits while leaving school on an early dismissal schedule. Interns must also provide their own transportation to and from their internship. You are also responsible for attending all seminars, completing course assignments and projects, and preparing weekly and monthly recordkeeping reports.

There will be informational meetings in February during lunch. Watch for the dates during morning announcements. You may pick up an application from Ms. Ale or on the Blake website under Internship programs. Students wishing to enroll in the Internship Program should complete an *Application*, secure parental/guardian permission and speak with their Guidance Counselor for scheduling approval. If you have any questions contact Ms. Ale in B119 or call 301-879-1358.

Blake Principal, Carole G. Goodman, Chosen as Outstanding Leader

James Hubert Blake High School Principal Carole C. Goodman has been chosen as the Outstanding Leader – Principal by the University Of Maryland College Of Education. Mrs. Goodman was honored at, A Celebration of Achievement, the annual alumni dinner and awards ceremony November 19th at the University of Maryland Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center.

Ms. Goodman has been the principal of Blake High School since it was opened in 1998. Recently she has been the recipient of the Mark Mann Award for Excellence and Harmony in 2004, the William W. Harris Award for Excellence in 2005 and the Edward Shirley Award for Excellence in Administration and Leadership in 2007. Mrs. Goodman, a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, has worked for Montgomery County Public Schools since 1973.

ACT-SO - The Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) is a major youth initiative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Founded in 1978, by the renowned author and journalist, Vernon Jarrett, ACT-SO provides a forum through which African American youth demonstrate academic, artistic and scientific prowess and expertise. Categories of the competition are:

- Science: Biology/Microbiology, Chemistry/Biochemistry, Computer Science, Earth and Space Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Health, Physics
- Humanities: Music Composition, Original Essay, Playwriting, Poetry
- Performing Arts: Dance, Dramatics, Music Instrumental/Classical, Music Instrumental/Contemporary, Music Vocal/Classical, Music Vocal/Contemporary, Oratory
- Visual Arts: Architecture, Drawing, Filmmaking, Painting, Photography, Sculpture
- Business: Entrepreneurship

The competition is on **Sunday, April 19, 2009** from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Applications are due **February 20, 2009**. Please contact the Blake High School ACT-SO liaison, Bernadette White, by email Bernadette.White@mcpsmd.org or 301-879-1310, with questions or for more information. www.montgomerycollege.edu/actso

Advanced Placement exam registration will begin on March 1st. Ms. Bernadette White (Resource Counselor and Mr. Joe DuBoyce (Assistant Principal) will be meeting with students to discuss the registration process.

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid - All seniors should complete the FAFSA to be considered for federal or state student aid beginning January 1, 2009. Be sure to **submit before March 1st** to be considered for **Maryland state aid!** *Some colleges request that the FAFSA be submitted before March 1st, so be sure to adhere to your colleges' financial aid deadlines.*

Paper FAFSA forms for 2009-10 will not be available in bulk for schools. Students will be able to obtain a paper FAFSA by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). Seniors may request up to two copies of the paper application and should receive them in the mail in 3 to 7 business days. A FAFSA online worksheet is available online that students may print out - www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov. Of course **filing the FAFSA online is the preferred & easiest method** of completing the form (www.fafsa.ed.gov). Please remember to **create a pin number in advance for both the student and a parent** (www.pin.ed.gov). This pin number will be used every year that the student renews their application for federal student aid.

NEED HELP COMPLETING THE FAFSA form? - Mark your calendar to attend **COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY** on **February 8 from 1-5 pm** at the MC Takoma Park campus. Parents/students will receive individual assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Internet computers will be made available to file the FAFSA online and financial aid volunteers from local colleges are bilingual. Bring proof of 2007 income & benefits, such as completed tax returns and W-2 forms for both student & parents. Eligible non-citizens must provide their alien registration number. (Snow Date: Feb. 15) For more information: www.go2goal.org or call 866-GO-2-GOAL.

Blake Baseball Player Selected for All-State Baseball Team

Tommy Cunningham has been named to the 2009 Maryland Pre-Season All-State Baseball Team. He is one of only two players from Montgomery County Public Schools named to the 2009 team. All Pre-Season All-State players will be honored at a ceremony at Camden Yards on February 21. Tommy is the 1st Blake Baseball Player named to the Pre-Season All-State team in school history. Last season, Tommy made the All-Gazette team as a sophomore.

National School Counseling Week 2009

“School Counselors: Making a Difference,” will be celebrated from Feb 2nd-6th 2009, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by ASCA, highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

Please refer to the Career Center monthly newsletter for more postings. Scholarships are posted on the Career Center link, as well –

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/blakehs/> Click on: “Career Center”

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

(Please refer to "SCHOLARSHIPS" link from the Blake Career Center webpage for a complete list of scholarship opportunities)

STAR SCHOLARSHIP - Deadline: February 4, 2009 -

This is a competitive African American scholarship for students in Gr. 9, 10 or 11 who have these minimum requirements: Consistently above average grades in previous school year or grades showing significant progressive improvement over three previous marking period, plus one or more of the following: Significant academic accomplishments, significant employment experience/employer recommendation, significant volunteer efforts or community involvement, responsibility in family life (caring for family member, contributing to family income), responsible participation in service-oriented or extracurricular activities. Applications can be obtained from the Blake College & Career Center.

MARYLAND DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS –

Deadline: March 1, 2009 - It's time for juniors with a minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.7 in academic subjects at the end of first semester to apply for the Maryland Distinguished Scholars program. On February 6, 2009 Mrs. Moore will meet with possible candidates to give students applications along with a copy of their transcript and first semester grades. As you may know, the Distinguished Scholar program honors Maryland H.S. juniors who are exceptionally talented academically or in the fine & performing arts. Each award is \$3,000 per year for four years towards tuition to a MD college. Often, colleges will waive admissions application fees for Distinguished Scholars. The grade 11 PSAT scores or SAT test results from January 2009 or before are considered in the selection of Distinguished Scholars. If you feel your student qualifies for the Maryland Distinguished Scholars competition, request an application for Academic Achievement from the College/Career Center. The Blake

faculty will select the top five juniors for the visual & performing arts competition.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK DANCE SCHOLARSHIPS - Applications due: Feb.

17, 2009 - UMCP offers dance scholarships for gifted & talented students who plan to major in Dance. In addition to applications, auditions will be held on March 1, 2009. For application forms: Scholarship Committee, UMCP, College Park, MD 20742, dancedept@umd.edu.

HBCU COLLEGE FAIR @ Albert Einstein HS -

February 18, 2009, 6-8 pm - Open to all juniors, seniors and parents of MCPS. Over 50 Historically Black Colleges or Universities will exhibit at the fair. Ten will offer on-the-spot admission/scholarship interviews for seniors who come prepared with completed application, transcript & SAT/ACT test scores. Please confirm your attendance with Mrs. Moore, kathy.L.moore@mcpsmd.org.

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY Science & Engineering Apprenticeship program (summer) -

Applications due: Feb. 27, 2009 - This program places academically talented H.S. students (at least 16 yrs old, sophomores/ juniors) with interest in science & math in Dept. of Defense laboratories for an 8-wk period over the summer. This is an invaluable experience in the world of scientific research, with hands-on exposure to scientific & engineering practices not available in the HS environment. It is a paid apprenticeship (\$2,000) and the students are assigned a scientist or engineer as their mentor. To apply online or get more information about the program: <http://www.usaeop.com>. Students must submit their transcript (minimum GPA 3.0) and teacher recommendation to the program director for consideration and daily transportation is the student's responsibility. Program runs from June 22 - August 14, 2009.

MARYLAND GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT -

Deadline: March 1, 2009 – H. S. Seniors who have significant financial need should apply for this Maryland grant that may cover up to \$14,300 in college tuition. Income limits are posted on the MHEC website: www.MDgo4it.org. Student must enroll in a 2 or 4 yr college in Maryland, minimum cumulative high school GPA requirement is 2.5 and a completed FAFSA form (www.fafsa.ed.gov) in addition to the Guaranteed Access Grant application must be submitted by March 1, 2009.

DELEGATE & SENATORIAL LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS -

Deadlines vary (usually March 1) -

Continued on page 9

contact senator or delegate directly. If you do not know your Senator or delegate, refer to www.mlis.state.md.us or call 1-800-492-7122 to find out your legislative district. H. S. seniors *Continued from page 8* who plan to enroll in a 2 or 4 yr college or private career school in Maryland may apply. Student/parent must complete the FAFSA by 3/1/09 and contact their state senator or delegate for the application and eligibility criteria. Students must have some demonstrated financial need.

2009 HISPANIC YOUTH SYMPOSIUM - Deadline:

March 28, 2009 - This is a three-day FREE summer leadership program for Latino students in **Gr. 9, 10 or 11** with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. It will be held from June 23-26, 2009 at Towson University (MD). Interested students must demonstrate leadership potential and have significant financial need (free or reduced lunch program). Information about the program & registration can be found on the website: <http://www.hispanicyouth.org/symposium-maryland/student-application-information>. An essay is required and students will learn if they have been accepted to the program by May 2009. Blake H.S. contact person: Melissa Young.



National Honor Society Inducts 49 New Members at Blake High School

The James Hubert Blake High School chapter of the National Honor Society held its annual fall induction ceremony on December 8, 2008. The evening ceremony was open to students and their family members. Forty-nine new members were inducted.

New inductees were: Yonit Addissie, Justine Allen, Thomasina Anane, Rachel Appel, Alexandra August, Adam Boussouf, Miriam Boussouf, Holland Broadus, Jeffrey Brumfield, Megan Buonomo, Nikki Cali, Celeste Campbell, Haley-Drew Carpenter, Jordan Chacon, Emily Cheung, Danny Ching, Cynthia Chow, Dawn Clarke, Kristin Corcoran, Sofia Curzi, Ramatullah Deme, Marie Escobar, Brittany Giganti, Jane Grenaldo, Gabrielle Hall, Max Hedgepeth, Jorge Herrera, Timothy Ho, Todd Holbert, Jiwoo Jang, Becky Joiner, Zoe Ligon, Kaylene Lyons, Ashley Martin, Colleen McMullen, Caitlin Mitchell, Andrew Padgett, Kirsten Petersen, Marie-Estelle Pham, William Prindle, Christopher Riley, Samantha Steinfeld, Emily Stevens, Cindy Tan, Laura Treacy, John Vernon, Christine Weithman, Katie Wright, Ting Ting Zheng.

New members inducted from Spring 2008 were: Paige Gardner, Samantha Kramer, Sarah Lomke, Kristina Sasser.

Candidates for the National Honor Society are evaluated on four criteria: leadership, scholarship, character, and service. Members must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or weighted 4.0. Ms. Beth Shepherd and Ms. Katie Kodan are the NHS advisors.



Academy Update

At the same time that students select their courses for the 2009-2010 school year, they also select a Career Academy affiliation and Pathway to focus their elective course selections. Career Academy Pathways provide an opportunity for students to complete course work related to career themes in preparation for future education and careers. Academy activities expose students to concepts and information that broaden their understanding of workplace opportunities and expectations. The interests, needs and academic goals of each student should determine what pathway they enter and what courses they choose. Students and parents should make the academy and pathway choice, with guidance from teachers and counselors.

Those students who do complete a required sequence of academy courses and a related capstone experience receive academy certification. Learning is most successful when it can be connected to specific, concrete applications. **Capstone Experiences** allow students to apply their academic education to authentic, real-world projects and further develop leadership and teamwork skills.

We encourage parents and students to carefully consider the opportunities that our academies offer for academic challenge and career exploration. Please review the Academy Program information contained in the 2009-2010 Course Registration Book for further details on pathways, courses, and capstone experiences.

Blake High School Gospel choir performed at Festival



James Hubert Blake High School Gospel/Multicultural Choir, Revelations, performed November 22nd at a festival sponsored by the Urban Coalition of the American Choral Directors Association at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. Revelations was the only high school choir to perform. The Revelations choir is directed by Blake teacher Johnathan Dunn.

After-Prom Planning Proceeds Apace!

The 2009 After-Prom Planning team is gearing up for this year's event! Our annual fundraising letter will be arriving in your mailboxes in February. We count on the support of **ALL** Blake families to make this event a success!

Are you aware that **the second largest student attended event at Blake is the After-Prom?** Blake's After-Prom event draws nearly **800 juniors & seniors** and is one of the best attended post prom events in the county! No kidding!

This year's prom will held on Friday, May 8th at the University of Maryland Alumni Center **followed by the After-Prom**, an all-night, fun-filled evening open to Blake juniors, seniors, & their prom dates. The evening is loaded with exciting activities, games, food and music creating an atmosphere which is not only thrilling but also safe and supervised!

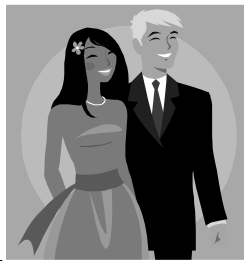
We will again be hosting the **After-Prom at Dave & Buster's in Rockville**. While the venue has a built in dynamic atmosphere, there's plenty of pre-planning that needs to take place prior to the big night! We are still looking for interested parents to join our planning team! Parents of freshmen and sophomores are especially encouraged to get involved now in order to build the long term support necessary to carry on this tradition in the upcoming years.

Please consider joining a committee, attend the next meeting, or send us an email to see how you can get involved! It's a great way to get to know the Blake community and support our school for a worthy cause!

Active Committees: Fundraising, "Race for a Dream," Prizes, Check-in/out, Ticket sales, Decorations, Tee-Shirt Memento, & more.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 3rd at 7:00pm in the Blake Career Center.

For more information about this event, contact the After-Prom Co-Chairs: Laura Matusek: laura_matusek@comcast.net or Dawn Borchers DBorchers@mac.com. Many thanks!



Blake Students receive grant from the Educational Foundation

James Hubert Blake High School Community Based (SCB) Program received a grant for \$280 from the Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation, Inc. The students of the SCB, a special education program, working with Emily Luedtke, SCB Teacher and Beth Shepherd, Transition Support Teacher, received the grant for their work in renewing the greenhouse at Blake High School.

The SCB students are working in the greenhouse this year as a part of their work skills class. The goal is for them to grow plants in the greenhouse that can be used for Sparklers, flower arrangements for Blake staff, or to sell to the staff in the spring. They are also beautifying the courtyard where the greenhouse is housed. Not only are the students learning valuable work skills, but they have also been learning about the structure of plants and the uses for plants in their reading and math classes. The students are assisted in this venture by master gardener and retired Blake teacher, Sue Kuklewicz.



After-Prom fundraising news!

Congratulations to the winner of the Jason Campbell autographed football, Kevin McKenna!! A big thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets, The Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation and Eric Sattler. Over \$300 was raised for After-Prom!

On January 21st, The Blake After-Prom Committee teamed up with **Urban Bar-B-Que** for a very successful dining out night. Urban Bar-B-Que donated 10% of the night's profits to the After-Prom. Thanks to all of the Blake students and families that came out to show their support as well as our friends at Urban Bar-B-Que! We encourage you to support the businesses that support Blake High School!!

**National Association of College
Admissions Counselors**

NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL CENTER
(Fairgrounds)**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009
9:45 AM – 12:45 PM and
6:30 – 8:30 PM**

**Thursday, April 16, 2009
9:45 AM – 12:45 PM**

- Over 300 Colleges and Universities will be present
- Technical Schools
- Counselors will be available to assist you
- General information on college admissions
- Special sessions and presentations about other college related topics

ENTRANCE INTO THE FAIR IS FREE

For more information contact NACAC at (703) 836-2222, or visit www.nacacnet.org/fairs

Please send articles for the March BBN to blakebluenote@yahoo.com, by Feb. 18th.

Save a tree and time! Read the BBN on the listserve and stop hard copy mailings by sending your child's name and graduation year to blakebluenote@yahoo.com.

Mr. Blake

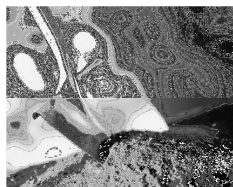
Come out and watch our junior and senior guys compete for the honor of being named Mr. Blake 2009!

February 19th at 7:00 in Auditorium, tickets will be sold at the door

BOOSTER CLUB MULCH SALE SATURDAY MARCH 28

Delivery to your home or Pickup at school

Forms will be available on the Blake website by February 15



Upcoming Class of 2009 Events

Senior Parent Meeting---March 23rd at 7:00 in Auditorium (important information regarding graduation will be given)

Senior Banquet---April 16th at 6:30pm at the Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, MD

For any questions regarding Class of 2009 events, please contact Ms. Jessica Garlick (Jessica_Garlick@mcpsmd.org) or Mr. David Heller (James_D_Heller@mcpsmd.org)

James Hubert Blake High School
300 Norwood Road
Silver Spring, MD 20905

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
SPENCERVILLE, MD 20868
PERMIT No. 502

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MAILING LABEL HERE

PTSA DUES HELP PAY FOR
THIS NEWSLETTER