



BLAKE BLUE NOTE

Volume XI, Issue 2

October 2008

From the President

Monthly Message from your PTSA President

Jack W. Goble

Welcome Everyone

I would like to say thank you to all of you who took the time to speak with your PTSA Board members at Back to School Night. Robina Barlow did an excellent job coordinating this terrific event. I am sure that we did not get to talk to everyone, but really want to hear from you. As many who attended the Table Fair can attest, there was a lot for the PTSA to do. Not only did we coordinate the table at the fair, but we were managing the refreshments, feeding the staff, providing the flowers, and signing up members and volunteers!

Many of you told me that you had things that you would like more information on. I encourage you to bring these questions to our next general meeting which will be held on October 21st. I certainly hope that we will see many of you there. We are always looking for topics that would enable us to bring in speakers our school. If you have any suggestions please feel free to contact me with them or any other questions about how the PTSA can be of service.

Direct Appeal

Many of you were curious about the need for a cash

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Principal's Corner

Carole C. Goodman

The PSAT is given in all MCPS schools on Wednesday, October 15, 2008. Through a partnership with MCPS and the College Board *all* 10th and 11th grade students take the PSAT at no cost to give students test-taking experience and provide schools with baseline data for the SAT as well as information for placement into honors and AP classes. **All 10th and 11th grade students are expected to take the test on October 15** The test really "counts" for the 11th grade but there is a common misunderstanding that the PSAT is only for practice. For 11th grade students, the PSAT is the test that determines who is a merit scholar, commended scholar or achieves honorable mention in the National Merit Scholar program as well as the National Achievement and National Hispanic Scholar programs. These programs open doors for significant scholarship opportunities for our most able students and the test is only given once a year.

Scores are reported to ETS (Educational Testing Service) and parents and students receive a comprehensive analysis report indicating areas of strength and need, in addition to their actual test to review for future planning for the SAT. This information provides the school with important information so we can structure SAT supports and interventions needed for students to maximize their potential on the SAT. In the past, MCPS has paid for 9th grade students to take the PSAT instead of those in Grade 11. High school principals were unanimous in their support of the MCCPTA initiative to fund the test in 11th grade, closer to when students take the SAT, rather than 9th grade. On October 15, we will do an extensive practice test for 9th grade students which will give them meaningful information for future planning as well as test experience. Ninth grade students in geometry and higher math classes are encouraged to take the actual PSAT, for a fee of \$13.00. A check made out to Blake High School may be turned in to Ms. Money in the guidance office. This is optional but is something some families may wish to pursue.

Since one of the MCPS strategic targets is participation on the PSAT, we will be raffling off incentives for students who attend and take the test seriously. It is

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From the President

drive. Unlike Elementary and Middle School we do not send home catalogues with merchandise for you to offer to your friends, neighbors, and relatives. The philosophy in high school is that the students should earn the money that they need to support their clubs, teams, and activities. In choosing not to sell new merchandise we are leaving the students and their sponsors that method of fundraising. By focusing on Direct Appeal the PTSA has made it easy for you to make a charitable contribution. In not tying the funds raised to a product ***you are able to use your contribution as a tax deduction.***

So what do we do with the money? The answer is not simple. The money raised through the drive is used in a variety of ways. The largest portion goes to producing and distributing this Blue Note Newsletter. Some of the money goes to help fund the the Renaissance Student Reward Program, After Prom, Comedy Night, Senior Breakfast, and the Silent Auction. Teacher Appreciation is a very important program for the PTSA. We support the school's hosting of various events throughout the year, including Back to School Night, NEC Choice Night, and College Nights. Funds are made available for unanticipated one time opportunities. A small portion is used for insurance that helps cover you as members when participating in PTSA activities. We also have PTSA scholarships that are given out each year. Traditionally the PTSA also gives the school a cash donation that is used by the school to purchase equipment. In the past this has included many audio-video pieces, computer, and security items. Hopefully, by the time you read this letter we will see the new electronic sign that the PTSA help fund. Budgets are available at the general meetings for your perusal.

Membership

Again this year, your PTSA is emphasizing a collaborative effort between the Parents, Teachers, and Students (and Alumni, too). The emphasis is involvement at all levels. I hope that by now all of you have already chosen to join, filled out your volunteer forms, and signed up for a committee or two. Our goal is a minimum 717 members (but I have asked Barbara Werfel to shoot for 1,000 – many other high schools in the county exceed that number, its time for us to do the same!) – with 1826 students, their parents, grandparents and siblings, a staff of 175, and community members we should be able to do it!

Students

By joining you will have an active voice in what's happening at Blake now and into the future. The PTSA gives you the chance to get more involved in civic and educational activism. I hope to see your membership applications soon.

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Teachers

Thank you. You already give generously of your time, and any of you who choose to become members are going well beyond in your caring for the students at Blake. It is a privilege to be in an organization that counts you as members. We are once again striving for 100% staff membership. We'd love to see you come to the PTSA meetings. The more the merrier!

Parents

Everyone is busy. We don't expect you to be able to make every meeting or help at every event, but it sure would be great! Your PTSA officers and Board Members appreciate whatever time you can give. Just by joining you have made a difference. If you have not returned your membership form, call me. I will pick it up personally. That will save you a little time that can be used to attend one of the great functions at Blake.

Be Involved

I promised you last month a list of Teams or Committees that you can join. In this issue you will find both a volunteer form and a contact list for our team leaders. Please contact them for more details on what their plans are for 2008-2009. You will see that we still have several positions to fill. Please contact me or one of the other officers if you are interested in heading one of these efforts.

It's Never Too Early

It's never too early to start talking about the James Hubert Blake Arts Festival and PTSA Silent Auction. This year the event will take place on April 17th. (Please take the time to let your students' Arts teachers know what you would like to see at the event.) We had some terrific items donated last year, but we have set our sights much higher this year. One of the largest bids was for a stay at a vacation home donated by one of the teachers. I am asking anyone who has a vacation home that they know they won't be using at some time during the year to consider donating either a weekend or week of use. (7 nights in a reasonable hotel @\$150=\$1050 for the hotel– 7 nights at your home should equal \$500+ for all our students' benefit) We are hoping to find a wide variety of items both large and small. Please start thinking now about items that might sell. Fall Sports Team Parents consider making a team basket now, while the kids are still together. Most business look for ways to stay involved with the community. Perhaps you or your employer has something that would help us out.

Anyone who has season tickets to anything that they might not attend one game or performance we can use them. (After April 17th) Anyone who can get autographed items, please pick up an extra one for the auction! We auction both individual items and basket. No item is too small. It can be bundled.

I personally ask my self virtually everywhere I go, is their a way that this person, organization, or service could be of benefit to James Hubert Blake High School or the Silent Auction? If you have any ideas or connections please let me know.



I would like to thank all of the folks who worked so hard on Back to School Night. Whenever I try to list everyone I risk forgetting someone. (If I miss you, no slight is intended – THANK YOU Especially) First, again I will thank Robina for putting this all together, our Team Leaders Barbara Werfel (Membership), Brenda Pullen (Staff Appreciation Dinner), Maura Mc Mullen (Hospitality), Paula Cameron (Eubie Mail), Jennifer Watt, Ann Joiner, Judith Porzel, & Debi Gartland (Parent Peer Group Leaders), Dawn Borchers & Laura Matusek (After Prom), Cheryl Hylton (Race for a Dream) Patrice Kelly (Staff Appreciation) and all the hard workers Carol Ambush, Luisa Archila, Bobette Banks, Kate Berg, Donna Brennan, Orit Chicherio, Lynne Frese, Barbara Girolami, Bill Halpin, Anita Johnson, Walt Ligon, Margie McNabb, Nancy Murray, Christy Norberg, Sue Plafker, , Karen Powers, Clara Raju, Connie Rehman, Edith Salazar, Teresa Sherwood, Annie Whitaker, Donna Whitaker, Joel Whitaker, and students Amber Ambush, Danielle Barlow, Lauren Barlow, Jasmine Pullen.

A very special thank you also goes to the teachers who stayed from 6:30AM until 9:15 PM for giving so generously of their time and to those who raced home to take care of their families only to make it back on time to speak to parents. For those of you who I met for the first time it was a delight. We can never express the true gratitude you deserve for the influence that you have on our children! Thank you.

Additionally the PTSA would like to thank Ted Pazulski's student who helped with our signage, the building services staff for all their assistance, and **every club, organization, sponsor, and vendor** who made Back to School Night such a success.

It's looking more and more like a wonderful year.
Join the PTSA. Get involved!

Jack W Goble, PTSA President
James Hubert Blake High School
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h)301-622-7924
c)202-716-1275

our hope to have 100% attendance and participation among students in grades 9, 10 and 11 on October 15. There is yet another important reason for all 10th and 11th grade students to take the PSAT. The College Board provides us with a program called "AP (Advanced Placement) Potential," which is designed to help schools identify students who are not in honors or AP classes but have demonstrated the potential to be successful, based on their PSAT scores. We are able to access a profile on students which identifies areas of strength and helps us continue to move more students into more rigorous honors and AP courses. This program has been very helpful and has assisted in positive movement upwards for students, armed with objective data that can instill confidence in students who do not see themselves in honors classes.

What can students and parents do to maximize student performance on the PSAT/SAT? Studies show that students who read for pleasure score higher on the verbal part of the SAT. Reading can never be emphasized enough. Prior to taking the SAT, parents need to make sure students participate in some form of SAT preparation and have practice with the test, whether it is the SAT prep course we offer at Blake, a private tutor or course, or working with SAT prep books or computer programs. Students, who take one or more honors level class, score higher on the PSAT/SAT. Students need to be nudged, or pushed in some cases, to take the most rigorous course load that is reasonable for them. This is a key factor in increasing test scores and future opportunities for students.

We have worked as a school to incorporate PSAT/SAT formats into all curricular areas to help students be as familiar as possible with aspects of the test including test-taking strategies. Please read news on our website from the School Counseling Department and the Career Center as they provide you with the most up to date news and information on PSAT/SAT. Your child's counselor, as well as Mrs. Kathy Moore in the Career Center and Ms. Moriah Martin, our SAT coordinator are valuable resources for you and your child as they prepare for their future.

As you are hopefully aware by now, Blake High School won the MCPS Sportsmanship Award for the third time in the six years the award has been given. I am extremely proud of our student athletes, coaches, parents and fans. This effort was spearheaded by our Athletic Director, Mr. Butch Hilliard, who has always made every effort to promote and reward good sportsmanship and academic achievement in our student athletes. If you didn't see the article in the Gazette, the link is:
http://www.gazette.net/stories/09102008/burtnew214018_32504.shtm



3rd Annual Bengal Classic to be held on October 8th at Hampshire Greens!

If you haven't already done so, register at www.bengalclassic.com today! This tournament, sponsored by the Blake Booster Club, is open to all members of the community.

We invite you to join us for a day of fun! This year, we are once again honored to have Mr. Johnny Holliday, voice of the Maryland Terrapins, join us as our special guest! Our very own Blake Jazz Ensemble will entertain the golfers during lunch.

This promises to be an exciting day and we depend on your support to make it a success. How can you help?? Register to play, become a sponsor, buy a family tee sign and/or donate a prize! Not a golfer? Join us for lunch! Lunch is only \$20. We have lots of prizes to raffle off and you could be a winner! Please contact either Laura or Dawn to register for LUNCH ONLY.

Questions?

Contact Laura Matusek at laura_matusek@comcast.net or Dawn Borchers at DBorchers@mac.com

We have been very pleased by student behavior this school year; the students have been wonderful! Positive behaviors are clearly on the increase as we continue to reinforce our behavioral expectations. Students are arriving to class on time, engaged in class and there is even less trash in the halls following lunch. We are off to a wonderful start. That said, please be aware that I continue to remind students about behaviors at school events and would appreciate parental reinforcement. Students are told to let an adult know if they hear of something that could be troublesome, and if a problem should arise, to keep away and allow security and administrative professionals to deal with the issue. Students are also told to have a plan for how they will leave school events and vacate the premises immediately at the conclusion of the event. The end of a contest, performance or dance is not the time to think about calling home for a ride or making post-event plans. The sooner students leave following a school event, the less likely it is that there will be issues or problems. There have been times when students have waited to be picked up over an hour after an event is over, causing school personnel to stay far longer than they should be expected to; we need our parents to work with students to ensure they have a safe and expedient way to get home. The safety of our students is the number one priority and we need everyone's cooperation.

Lastly, 51 Promethean Boards have been installed in 65% of our teaching spaces. This phenomenal teaching tool engages students at a much higher level and is revolutionizing what happens in the classroom and increasing student engagement. Priority was given to classrooms of 9th grade subjects, HSA subjects and graduation requirements. We also tried to maximize exposure to as many students as possible; all should have access to this technology at some point in their day. I have spent a great deal of time popping into classrooms and am thrilled by what I am observing. Students are engaged, eager and clearly enjoying their classes. It is an absolute pleasure to behold! ☺

Help Blake Every Time You Shop @ Target

It's really easy, and all you have to do is use your Target® Visa® or Target® Card. We will receive a percentage of the amount of each purchase in the form of a cash donation from Target through the Take Charge of Education® program. It's quick too!

Just visit www.target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate James Hubert Blake High School.

Don't forget, our ID is **113012**. For more information or for help contact Travonda Green Thomas: Travonda.Thomas@verizon.net



Thank You in Advance for Participating!

With your help, over \$8 million has been donated to local schools from this program.

Redemption Information and Instructions

Non-eScrip families return to your local store anytime between September 12 and October 6, 2008 to receive a **register receipt tape**. In addition to receipt tapes, gather as many **club card numbers** from friends, family and neighbors. Deliver all register receipt tapes and club card numbers to your school fund raising coordinator no later than October 13, 2008.

Registered eScrip families will receive an automatic deposit to their account via regular eScrip payment process.

Your eScrip /Safeway Coordinator is:

TRAVONDA GREEN THOMAS
Travonda.thomas@verizon.net

Fax receipts to: (866) 293-9095

10% Back-To-Schools

Thank you for supporting the eScrip
Back-to-School Program.

Bring in this reward receipt to
your local school, or process
your donation at
www.backtoschools.eScrip.com.

Enter this numberXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1st After Prom meeting October 13, 7:00 pm in the Career Center

Are you aware that the second largest student attended event at Blake is the After-Prom? Blake's After-Prom event (sponsored by PTSA, Boosters, parents with staff support) draws approximately 800 juniors & seniors and is also the one of the best attended post prom events in the county! No kidding!

The "After-Prom" is 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!

As with any successful event there's plenty of pre-planning that needs to take place prior to the big night! We're putting out an all call for lots of good people to pitch in to help plan the 2009 After-Prom. Meetings, organizing, or behind the scenes help--we'll need it all! 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 any of the upcoming meetings, 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!

For more information about this event, contact Laura Matussek at Laura_Matussek@comcast.net or Dawn Borchers at dborchers@mac.com.

Election Day Bake Sale!!

We are hoping for a BIG WIN at the polls! Bakers, buyers, sellers, & voters are needed! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 4th where we'll be hosting an Election Day Bake Sale to raise funds for this year's After-Prom. If you can help please contact: Leigh Leslie lleslie@umd.edu or Nancy Murray, Nancm526@aol.com, 301-989-2563. Thanks!



Dear Parents/Teachers:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another year of A+ BonusBucksSM.

Starting October 3, 2008 through April 2, 2009, **James Hubert Blake High School** will have the opportunity to earn cash through Giant A+ BonusBucksSM Program.

All you have to do is fill out the Registration Card below and:

Bring it to our next PTA Meeting on **October 21, 2008**.

OR

Email the form information to Travonda Green Thomas, Program Coordinator at Travonda.Thomas@verizon.net

OR

Log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus to register online

OR

Dial 1-877-366-2668 to register your card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Giant using your BonusCard earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Giant website. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support.

Please be sure to register your card to benefit **James Hubert Blake High School** using ID # **03625** on the Registration Card below.

Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean the world to our children.

Travonda Green Thomas



Visit www.giantfood.com/aplus or complete this card and mail or drop at the customer service desk to register your card for this school year and select the schools to receive your A+ Bonus Bucks.

You can earn A+ Bonus Bucks from October 3, 2008 - April 2, 2009.

1. Clearly fill in your 12-digit card number below:

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2. Clearly fill in the first three letters of your last name:

--	--	--

3. Fill in the School ID number for your chosen School(s). You may choose up to three schools:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

If you choose more than one school your A+ Bonus Bucks will be evenly distributed among those three schools. Fill in the school ID codes of ALL schools each time you add/change your registration.

You can only select schools that have registered for the program.

Thank You for Supporting PTSA Direct Appeal

Thank you to the families who have contributed as of September 15th. We are at \$4,045 of our \$15,000 goal. Please consider joining the PTSA and making a contribution, for ***without the support of all Blake families the PTSA would not be able to function.***

Eubie Gold Level - \$250 - \$499

Jim Norberg

Friends of Eubie: \$100-\$249

David Bennett

Laura Bennett

Laura Benson & Bill Leishman

Maria & John Breen

Diane & Michael Bush

Mark & Ondine Doore

Karen Dunlap

Tammy & Hal Freeman

Barbara & Paul Girolami

Nancy Doran & Bill Halpin

Arlene & Bruce Kisliuk

Kyleen Kuczarski

Patricia Kenny & Stan Lipowitz

Kathleen Lyons

Maura McMullen

Margie & Ken McNabb

Christy Norberg

Brian & Marcia Riley

Yong Suh

Bengal Supporter: Up to \$99

Dagmar Arnold

Deena Barlev

Robina & Bryan Barlow

Nancy Barton

Sally Beach

Meryl Bloomrosen

Judy Bradshaw

Linda & Chuck Callahan

Paula Cameron

Cynthia Dawes

Garland & Edward DeMarco

Debra Dionne

Theresa & James Dowdall

Heidi & Stephen Giles

Wendy Gill

Anne Grenaldo

Jack Goble & Valerie Martindale

Andrea & John Hawvermale

Marymac Hoffman

Cindi & Rich Holgash

Kathy & Ron Jaffe

Linda & Jeff Kushner
Laura & Joe Matusek
Gregg & Beth Molek
Kalli & Charles Mulchi
David & Susan Ostermeyer
Judy Pearson
Clara & Bhavi Raju
Tony & Lori Rizzo
Michele Setton
Aleta & David Shannon
Elena Steele
Karen & David Weber
Barbara & Bruce Werfel
Julie Williams



PTSA – From the Roots and Reaching Upward

The PTSA's primary goal is to have a uniform voice, and without reaching out to all our members how can we achieve this? By getting to the root of matters and reaching out to the students, the PTSA will have a better understanding of their needs and how we can serve them. The plan is to hold meetings throughout the year to hear students' ideas and issues, as well as educate them on what the PTSA does. We will be holding a **luncheon mid-October for all students who have joined the PTSA, so be on the lookout for invitations in the mail.**

As I write this, Back-to-School Night is only a few days away, and although we are off to a great start I know our numbers will reach far beyond the 150 members we have today, September 15th. I want to thank the parents who volunteered to help at the Membership table at Back-to-School Night: Lynne Frese, Barbara Girolami, Margie McNabb, Teresa Sherwood, Walter Ligon, Bill Halpin, Donna Brennan, Connie Rehman, Anita Johnson, Kate Berg, Christy Norberg, Edith Salazar, Orit Chicherio, Robin Madden, Mary Flynn, and Heidi Kalkofen. I also owe thank to the following students who helped while we were visiting classrooms: Lauren Barlow, Danielle Barlow, and Samantha Steinfeld. I am lucky that so many answered my call for help.

***Have you joined the PTSA? Please do so today –
Thank you!***

Barbara Werfel, Membership Chairperson,
barbwerfel@aol.com or 301-774-8114



Signature Program News

Dance Program Projects

The Dance Company, under the direction of Danielle D'Anna, is preparing "A Salute to Motown" for November 5th at 7:30 pm. As in the past, students in the Dance Company will be choreographing some of their own numbers in the show, and you will have an opportunity to see how creative our dancers are in this program. Other dances will be choreographed by Ms. D'Anna as the Company presents a salute to the music of the many Motown artists who served a generation of eager listeners in the 1960's, 70's and 80's.

In addition, the Musical Theatre Company under the direction of Johnathan Dunn will be presenting several vocal pieces from the era to give you a taste of the sounds of that great time. The class will also participate in the dance portion of the show with a choreographed number from the creative talent of Ms. Donna Iriarte.

So, mark down November 5th, and don't miss the Dance Company "Salute to Motown" at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium.



Instrumental Music Program

On November 8th, the Instrumental Music Program will host a Jazz Music Celebration in the Auditorium at 7:30 pm. Join the students in the Jazz Band for an evening of great sounds from the standard American jazz collection. This program is under the direction of Mr. Brian Damron and Mr. Jonathan Eising.

The Jazz celebration will be followed by a concert on October 30th. The concert will feature the many other bands in the instrumental music program.

Blake Stage Company's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

The Stage Company kicks off the school year Steve Martin's hilarious award-winning comedy, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, on October 17, 18, 24 and 25, in the Auditorium at 7:30 pm.

PICASSO centers on a fictional meeting of two great men of the Twentieth Century at The Lapin Agile Bar in Paris. The Lapin Agile actually existed and still operates, today, high on Montmartre. It is at this watering hole for artists that Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein meet in 1904 to discover one

another and engage in funny conversations and hilarious arguments over their passions in life: the arts, science, and of course the members of the opposite sex. This is a heady play that plays fast and furious with the desires and minds of both men, but also engages us on the purpose of art and science for all of us. Along the way, art critics, exciting women, and the local bartender all chime in with their views. And since this is a gathering of two of the great men of the Century, another visitor from the future appears to place his spin on the universe of art and science. He just happens to be an American rock and roll star. This Steve Martin comedy is one of the most popular plays in America, and you will find it quite amusing, too. Students in the play include: Justin Pereira, David Tuttle, Ashley Larkin, Aurelia Akpan, Sarah Lomke, Elise Gifford, Zach Goldberg, Graham Flessas, Max Sabelhaus, Daniel Arias, Erin Washburn, Isabel Smith – Bernstein, Samantha Kramer, Becky Joiner, Jessica Michek, Jacob Perry, Neel Madan, and Olka Forster. Technical students include: Tina Wilbur, Lauren Hubbard, Lily Johnson, Matt Glisson, Colleen Murray, Ben Schnapp, and others.

The show program is a wonderful way to advertise a local business. Prices run from \$40 for a quarter-page ad to \$100 for a full-page ad. If you'd like to place a high-visibility ad for your business, please contact Mr. D'Anna. We need and greatly appreciate individual donations as well. ☒

The Acting Company's HAMLET

The Acting Company, under the direction of Artistic Director Michael D'Anna, will be presenting HAMLET on November 20, 21, 22 and the 25th at 7:30 pm in the Black Box Theater.

The story of HAMLET concerns the assassination of Hamlet's father, the King of Denmark. Hamlet is disturbed by the ascension of his uncle to the throne as well as the marriage of his mother to this uncle. In a state of melancholia, his father's ghost appears to Hamlet to ask for revenge on the uncle as his murderer. Hamlet's journey to seek revenge for his father's murder is one of literature's and dram's great tales.

The Acting company fills out many of the great roles in the play with both David Tuttle and Erin Washburn taking turns as Hamlet. Neel Madan plays Claudius and Jessica Michek and Olka Forster play Gertrude the Queen. Polonius is played by Aurelia Akpan and Isabel Smith-Bernstein plays Ophelia. Hunter Goble takes on the important part of the gravedigger many important parts in the play including Justin Pereira as Laertes and Jacob Perry as Horatio with Graham Flessas as Hamlet's Father's ghost.

Join us in November for this wonderful presentation of Shakespeare's great tragedy, HAMLET. ☒

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

TALENT SHOW

OCTOBER 1ST

BENGAL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 8TH

YOM KIPPUR (SCHOOLS CLOSED)

OCTOBER 9TH

PSAT

OCTOBER 15TH

MSTA CONVENTION (SCHOOLS CLOSED)

OCTOBER 17TH

BLAKE STAGE COMPANY PRESENTS –
PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE

OCTOBER 17TH & 18TH

PTSA MEETING

OCTOBER 21ST

BLAKE STAGE COMPANY PRESENTS –
PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE

OCTOBER 24TH & 25TH

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONCERT

OCTOBER 30TH

Support a Tradition of
★ Excellence ★

The J.H. Blake Stage
Company

Corporate Sponsors Contribute \$500 and Up
... Listed as a Corporate Sponsor on the Title Page in the Show Program;
Receive ten Reserved Seat Tickets; Guests of Honor at Benefactor Night
Reception
Show Angels Contribute \$100 - \$499
.... Listed as Show Angels on Contributors Page; Receive four Reserved
Seat Tickets; Invited to Benefactor Night
Show Benefactors Contribute \$40 - \$99
..... Listed as Benefactors on Contributors Page; Receive two Reserved Seat
Tickets; Invited to Benefactors Night Reception
Show Patrons Contribute \$10 - \$39
.... Listed as Patrons on Contributors Page. Invited to Benefactors
Reception

Name _____ Phone _____
(Listing for Program. Please Print)
Address _____ Zip _____
Contribution _____ E-Mail _____ Return to:
Michael D'Anna at J.H. Blake High School 300 Norwood Road Silver Spring, MD 20905

Before you run
off to the store
to purchase
Halloween costumes and supplies...



For more information,
contact your eScrip Coordinator below:

Contact Name
TRAVONDA GREEN THOMAS

Contact #
(240) 313-6000
travonda.thomas@verizon.net

Group ID #
6520522
JAMES HUBERT BLAKE HIGH
SCHOOL

Visit "my eScrip"
to make sure all your
debit/credit cards
are registered,
then take a look at
the merchant list
and use your
registered cards to
maximize
your participation!

Support your child's
group or school.
Register your
grocery club card,
credit/debit cards
at:



Counseling Department

Important SENIOR Information

Wed 9/24 – Counselors will be meeting with Senior's during English classes to discuss student's transition out of high school. Each student will set up an individual appointment to meet with their counselor for their "Senior Commitment" conference.

Seniors and their parents should be completing their "Brag Sheets". They can be printed off the Blake Guidance webpage, click on the link at the bottom *LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL – College bound Packet* or can be completed online through Naviance. Brag Sheets should be turned in to the counseling department *due the first week of October*.

Seniors, or any other students who need review resources for the High School Assessments, should go online to take extra practice tests through the MCPS website. (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/hsa/>)
College and Career Center Information

COLLEGE REPS VISIT THE BLAKE CAREER CENTER - Throughout the fall college admissions representatives make appointments to visit & recruit Blake juniors & seniors. These meetings are held in the Career Center and students may attend if they bring their agenda book to Mrs. Moore at least one day in advance to obtain a pass. A list of colleges that have already made appointments can be accessed from **Naviance**: <http://connection.naviance.com/blake>. All seniors have been assigned an individual password to enter Naviance, but if forgotten, please contact your counselor or Mrs. Moore and we'll reset it. The Guest password for Blake H.S. students is: **210959**. Click on "**visit schedule**" to see a current list of colleges visiting Blake so far (subject to change).

REGISTER FOR THE NOVEMBER 1 SAT TEST NOW! **September 26** is the deadline to register for the **November 1, 2008 SAT test**. The best way to do this is online: www.collegeboard.com. Cost is \$45.00, and you can charge this on your credit card. After Sept. 26 but before Oct. 10 a LATE FEE applies--extra \$23. 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.

CONSIDER TAKING THE ACT ASSESSMENT - **October 3** is the LATE deadline to register for the **October 25, 2008 ACT test (late fee: +\$20)**. The best way to register is online: www.actstudent.org A few mail-in registration packets are available in the College & Career Center. Students can choose between two test options- the ACT Assessment or the ACT Assessment Plus Writing, which includes a 30-minute Writing test (recommended). The cost is \$31.00 + writing test (optional) is \$15.00 more, which can be charged on your credit card. Be sure to include the H.S. Code when registering: 210959.

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 below 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. Students using a fee waiver can register for the SAT or ACT online with the assigned fee waiver number.

UPCOMING COLLEGE FAIRS:

Greater Washington, DC National College Fair - Monday, September 29, 2008 @Washington Convention Center, Washington DC from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., & 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

College Expos Fair – Tuesday, October 7, 2008 @ Discovery Sports Center, Gaithersburg, MD 9:45-12:45 and 6:30-8:30 pm. Blake will take interested seniors to this event from 10:00-12:00. Students must complete the permission form and return it to the Career Center by October 3 to participate. Valuable evening workshops offered on financial aid, athletic recruiting, and the importance of early college awareness. Parents of sophomores, juniors & seniors are encouraged to attend this fair with their student during the **evening hours!**

Washington DC Performing and Visual Arts College Fair - Sunday, November 2, 2008 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington DC from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hispanic College Fair – Wednesday, November 5, 2008 @ Universities at Shady Grove Conference Center , Gaithersburg , 9:30-12:30, MCPS high school field trip for MCPS Latino juniors & seniors. Permission forms required one week in advance; free bus transportation.

Baltimore National College Fair - November 11-12, 2008 @ Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore , MD. / Nov. 11 = 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Nov. 12 = 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ASVAB (ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY) is a career exploration test administered free to interested tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students. Blake H.S. will offer the **ASVAB on November 6, 2008 at 7:30 a.m.** The test helps identify the student's interests and aptitude in the following areas: verbal, math, science & technical skills. When the individual scores are interpreted, students learn how their interests & skills relate to the demands of more than 400 occupations, helping them to identify suitable career options. The ASVAB is an excellent career exploration tool and we encourage students to take it to determine their strengths. Taking the ASVAB in no way involves a commitment to the military. **MCPS policy: ASVAB results are released only to the student and not to the armed services.**

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP at Blake - The Financial Aid Workshop will be held on **November 19, 2008 at 7:00 pm.** Parents of **seniors** should plan to attend this event in the amphitheatre. Our speaker will be the Director of Financial Aid from Montgomery College, Melissa Gregory. She will discuss the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and answer all your questions about how to find money for college. FAFSA worksheets will be available for parents to take home and begin completing. The completed **FAFSA** should be **submitted** between **January 1 and March 1, 2008.**

PSAT REGISTRATION - This year, the PSAT will be administered on **Wednesday, October 15** at all Montgomery County High Schools. Students in grades 10-11 will take the PSAT at **no cost** through a partnership between MCPS and Montgomery College. The PSAT is a practice test for the SAT Reasoning Test. Ninth grade students can take the official PSAT for \$13.00 or a free unofficial practice test. It is administered only once during the school year and consists of two 25-minute critical reading sections, one 30-minute math section, and one 30-minute writing skills section. **Only students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in their JUNIOR year** will be considered for the **National Merit Scholarship Program, the National Achievement Scholarship Program** or the National Hispanic Scholar Awards Program. ☒

Blake High School Awarded MCPS Sportsmanship Award

James Hubert Blake High School has been awarded the 2007-2008 Montgomery County Public School Sportsmanship Award. This prestigious award is given to one MCPS school each year. The sportsmanship award is a reflection of the Blake community- a community that strives to provide excellence and sportsmanship, both in the classroom and through interscholastic athletic competition.

The award also provides a \$2000 monetary component that will be used to continue to make Blake High School a place where sportsmanship is not just a phrase but an expectation for all who participate in or attend their athletic contents. This championship award has been given out by MCPS for 6 years and Blake High School has won it three of those years.



Booster News

We're off to a great start to 2008-09. If you didn't see our display of gear at Back-to-School Night, be sure to catch up with the Boosters at Homecoming. We'll be setup at the stadium on September 26th at 7 PM accepting memberships and showing off our great Blake Bengal Booster gear.

The Booster Club is looking for a few good parents interested in reviving our Bengal Gear program. A part of the Bengal Wear program would be pricing and designing a limited number of Bengal clothing and fan items, which will compliment the items sold through the on-line school store. The biggest part of the Program would be stocking and selling the items at a few designated Booster events, sporting events, Back-to-School Night, a pre-holidays sale, etc. You decide.

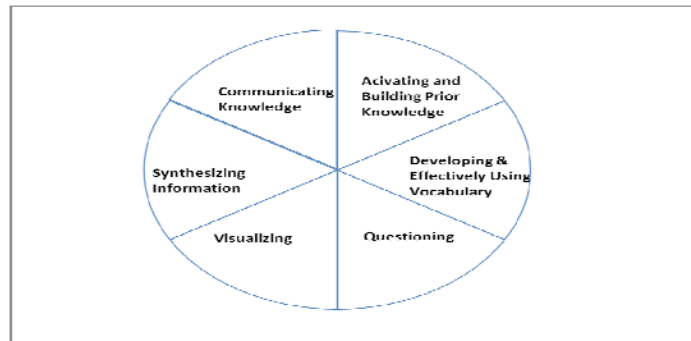
Call or email me if you'd like to help with this. Mark 301-651-7828, mark@wannen.com.

Literacy Committee Rolls Out Literacy Toolkit

Faculty received a Literacy Toolkit September 10th at staff development training. We will be working all year to incorporate the critical thinking and learning strategies included in the notebook. Our students will benefit as we “get on the same page.” If we can teach students to activate and build prior knowledge, develop and effectively use vocabulary, question, visualize, synthesize and then communicate their knowledge, they will be prepared for the rigor of college and the challenges of the workplace. All of these skills are involved in the reading, thinking, learning and writing they do each day. Please encourage your students to read and write each day. The more they read, the better prepared they will be.

Judy Pearson, NBCT, Literacy Coach

Literacy Toolkit – Critical Thinking and Learning Strategies



Accreditation for Growth News

Parent Survey

Parents—we have an important opportunity for involvement in the AFG process that will only require 15-20 minutes in front of your computer—we need all parents to complete the parent survey. This survey will provide us with valuable results that will guide us in our self-assessment of the AFG standards listed below. **To complete this survey, visit the Blake High School website and click on AFG.** The left tool bar will list a link to the parent survey. Click on this link, complete the survey, and submit your results. Thank you all so much for your help and support in this process.

Update

Blake High School in its self-study year of the Middle States renewal process, known as Accreditation for Growth (AFG), held its first AFG planning team meeting on Thursday, September 11. Twenty-two people serving as representatives from the staff, parents, business community, and students began revising the Blake High School mission statement. In groups of 4-5, they analyzed the results of a questionnaire that was given to all professional and instructional support staff during pre-service days. During that time, each staff member wrote their responses to questions centered on the five components of a mission:

- Audience (whom we currently serve)
- Action (what we currently do)
- Aim, (the current purpose for which we exist)
- Means/Function (how in broad terms we will accomplish this purpose)
- Identity (what makes our school unique.)

The planning team analyzed a compilation of the responses for frequency, intensity, and clarity of words and phrases. Each group also included student, business, and parent perspectives in their final synopsis. The next step for the planning team is to write a draft of a mission statement, the core beliefs, and the profile of a Blake graduate using the ideas from staff, students, parents, and the business community. We will then use these documents to guide us in our self-study year as we examine the results of the survey and other pieces of data in the AFG standards. If you are a parent and are interested in joining in this planning team in its infant stage,

please contact Jeff Newby at Jeffrey_J_Newby@mcpsmd.org or Moriah Martin at Moriah_A_Martin@mcpsmd.org before the next planning meeting on **Thursday, October 16**.

Another opportunity for involvement is available through the action teams that meet once a month at lunch (11:00-11:30). Each action team is devoted to an individual AFG standard. They are as follows:

- Governance and Leadership
- School Improvement Planning
- Finances and Facilities
- School Climate and Organization
- Student Life and Student Activities
- Information Technology and Resources
- Student Services
- Assessment and Evidence of Student Learning
- Educational Program
- Health and Safety

Each action team will examine the results of the student, parent, and staff surveys on the particular standard with which it has been charged. They will analyze these results under the lens of the mission statement, core beliefs and profile of graduates that the planning team will finalize using the stakeholder input collected throughout the fall. If you are interested in joining one of these teams, please email Jeff Newby or Moriah Martin. Thank you for your involvement in this process! ☺

Eubie Mail – Your Blake Connection. Sign Up Today!

Find out what is happening in the Blake Community before it happens. It's easy as easy as opening your email and It's FREE!! We E-Deliver for You as Blake news becomes available! Even better, you get timely reminders of key events.

Over 800 members receive the PTSA's free weekly electronic newsletter, Eubie Mail. Stay current and connected school activities and notices between monthly issues of The Blake Blue Note. Contact the Eubie Editor at: eubiemail2003@yahoo.com or for your FREE subscription to Eubie Mail, send a blank email to: Blake_High_School_PTSA-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The Academy Corner

The new school year finds the Blake Career Academies continuing our mission to connect students with career visions and opportunities. Our focus this year will be on increasing the number of students who achieve academy certification. Certification requires that students complete three courses in their elected pathway and a culminating capstone experience. Capstone experiences allow students to apply their academic education to authentic, real-world projects and further develop leadership and teamwork skills. Our goal is to connect our current seniors with meaningful experiences related to their future careers, such as internships, research or performance projects, leadership of major school initiatives, or college and AP courses. Staff and career professionals mentor students as they demonstrate their applied learning in these capstone settings.

Career exploration and preparation is an ongoing academy goal. This year, these activities will be imbedded in pathway course content and curriculum so they can be more relevant to student needs and future goals. As always, a vital component of our academies is our business and community connections. These partnerships provide our students with unique career exploration activities, including guest speakers, job shadowing, and networking with experts (and future employers) in career fields. Many new business partnerships have been forged —most notably with the Associated General Contractors of Metro DC in support of our new Construction Technology and Management Pathway and with Northrop Grumman in support of our Engineering Pathway. Look for more details about these and other Academy programs in upcoming Blue Note newsletters.

If you would like to become an active voice in our academy programs, we welcome your participation on our Academy Parent Advisory Council, which meets monthly before the general PTSA meetings. Please contact the Academy Coordinator, Barbara Jeweler, 301.879-1369 for further information. Barbara_P_Jeweler@mcpsmd.org

Blake Beat Named #2 Student Newspaper in Maryland

The Towson University Journalism Department has named James Hubert Blake High School's student newspaper, *The Beat* as the second-best student newspaper in Maryland based on issues from the 2007-2008 school year.

The judges' comments noted that *The Beat* "shows that the best newspapers tailor news angles to meet the needs and interest of a specific audience," and that features articles were "kept short, readable, and easily digestible for students who already have heavy homework reading loads." The judges also commended *The Beat* for "addressing topics such as voting, countywide school news, and gas prices from a student viewpoint."

Beat staffers also finished among the top three entries statewide in four of the six individual award categories. Sacha Vega won First-in-the-State honors in Feature Photography for her Ultimate Frisbee photograph, while James Lanning and Ilan Oresky won First-in-the-State honors for sports writing for their coverage of the Lady Bengals' run to the regional state girls' basketball championship. Kirsty Groff took Second-in-the-State honors for Best News Story (Community gathers to remember alumna Mady Byrne), while Maya Barlev won Third-in-the-State honors Best Features Story (Four years after shooting, Nwosu uses experience to help others).

The 2007-2008 *Beat* staff was led by Editors-in-Chief Maya Barlev (now at Haverford) and James Lanning (now at NYU). *The Beat* was the top-ranked student newspaper in the state in the 2006-2007 Towson University Journalism Department rankings and finished second in the state in 2005-2006. *The Blake Beat* is advised by journalism teacher Kevin Keegan. ☒

Signature Program Seeks Parent Help!

The Blake Signature program needs a few parents who might be effective writers to help support our large and wonderful Signature Program in the Arts and Humanities. More than ever, Blake High School is looking for funds to help support our students in our elective program.

There are many grants offered by many different entities including the government, arts councils, and private industries and corporations. They offer many grants, but the process for applying for these monies is time intensive and our teaching staff can help, but often does not have the necessary time to apply for the array of grants available.

So, if you are a Blake parent, and you have some time because you just "have some time," please consider volunteering as a grant writer for the Blake Signature Program. You will work with Michael D'Anna, the Blake Signature Program Coordinator (and a former English teacher) on the grants. We are looking for parents who can write narratives as well as help with other elements of writing grants. Work could take place at home or here at Blake.

Please contact Michael D'Anna at 301-879-1327 if interested or e-mail him at Michel_D_D'Anna@mcpsmd.org (there is no "a" in the first name of the e-mail!) If you have the time to help your public school and want to provide us with a wonderful proactive contribution, please get in touch with Mr. D'Anna. ☒

Getting Upromise college savings for your kids: Smart



Getting bonus money for their schools: Brilliant

Upromise is a free service that lets you earn college savings just for doing the things you do every day — buying groceries, filling the tank, shopping online, eating out, booking travel, you name it.

In addition to saving for college, you can also raise money for our school. For example, our school can earn up to \$30 in Bonuses whenever you and your family and friends participate in select Upromise activities for the first time. This money is over and above the college savings going to your account.

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For more information visit upromise.com/schools. Or contact our program coordinator: Lynne Frese at 301-879-4635 or lynne.frese@verizon.net.

The Blake Music Department presents

Things That Go Bump in the Night

a FREE Concert featuring

**The Blake Wind Ensemble,
Chamber Orchestra, Percussion
Ensemble, and our special guests:
The Olney Concert Band**

*Your favorite
scary music
from the stage
and screen!*



Thursday, October 30 7:30PM

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