

BLAKE BLUE NOTE



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Principal's Perspective

By Carol Goodman

Welcome to the start of a new year at James Hubert Blake High School. We anticipate welcoming approximately 1,850 students this year and invite every student and parent to be a part our school community. We have an extremely busy and exciting year ahead of us.

One unique thing about this year as we are entering our second self-study year for the Middle States Accreditation for Growth process, referred to as AFG. This is an important reflection process as we prepare for a visit from an independent team of educators who will spend three days with us in the fall of 2009 to determine if the goals we set for school are appropriate, measurable and we are making appropriate progress. During this year, parent and student input will be critically important and we will invite people to participate in surveys and focus groups to gather important information and input. Mr. Jeff Newby, Social Studies Resource Teacher and Mrs. Moriah Martin, Staff Development Teacher, have volunteered to be AFG Co-Internal Coordinators and will lead us through this important but somewhat overwhelming process. You can expect to hear updates and information from them throughout the year.

I am delighted that our administrative team is intact from last year. Ms. Beth Thomas continues as the ninth grade administrator and will be working with the 9th Grade Academy. Mr. Joseph Du Boyce is responsible for students in grade 10 as well as coordinating honors, AP and rigorous programs for all students. Mr. Rudy Tyrell has administrative responsibilities for students in grade 11 and programs for students with academic needs. Mr. Christopher Berry has administrative responsibilities for grade 12 and the academy coordination as well as the master schedule and acting principal in my absence.

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From The President

WELCOME EVERYONE - New Students, New Parents, New Teachers, Returning Students, Returning Parents, Returning Teachers, Administrators & Staff!

For many of you who have been to events at Blake High School you know that the PTSA is very active in all activities at the school. We can't do it without you. *We are asking that everyone join us this year.* We need your help and your support. Each year we take on many projects at the school. We have a loud and consistent voice advocating for your students, and we love to see the community come together.

It's the 2008-2009 school year and your PTSA is excited to get this year off and rolling. I am happy to say that we have a solid core of experienced officers on board to lead the way. Joining last year's Executive Committee is Walter Ligon, our new Treasurer – many thanks to Diane Bush for her service over the last two years. She will be changing seats to take a major role in the After Prom Committee. We still have a seat or two to fill on the Board of Directors so I will wait until next month to introduce them.

It looks like this is going to be another big year for Blake. There will be many opportunities for parents to learn how the school works from the inside! This summer some parents were invited to participate in the School

And speaking of committees... I am going to call them "teams," because "committees" sounds way too much like work (too bureaucratic to teams, so I reiterate I will be calling them teams and every committee chair-Team activity.) We are trying to do a better job letting you know how much time a particular job requires.

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Principal's Perspective

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Mr. Mike D'Anna is the Signature Program Coordinator and Ms. Barbara Jeweler is the Academy Coordinator. We are extremely fortunate to have professionals of this high caliber working on behalf of the students at Blake High School.

We have a number of both veteran and new teachers joining our staff. We are so fortunate to have such a talented, creative and energetic staff that dedicates themselves to students and their learning. I am certain parents will be as impressed as I am at Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, September 17, 2008, when you get a chance to visit your children's classrooms and meet with their teachers. More information will be coming but parking is always at a premium so carpooling is strongly encouraged, as well as planning for an early arrival.

Our Academy programs are now well established and we are very excited about the implementation that began two years ago. Students in grades 10-12 are aligned with a career academy of their choosing. We surveyed students and responded to their feedback and have changed the academy period structure to include more imbedded information in academy related classes. This year there will be an increased focus on the organization and monitoring of capstone experiences for our seniors. Ms. Jeweler has done an incredible job spearheading this effort with support from Mr. Butch Hilliard, Business Partnership Coordinator, Mr. Berry as academy administrator and the other highly invested staff who are heading up the academies and those planning academy activities. This is a total school effort that is designed to ensure academic success for all of the students at Blake High School.

It is the culmination of much work and information around our Smaller Learning Communities federal grant that we received four years ago.

Our 9th Grade Academy continues to be extremely effective. The team approach definitely resulted in increased eligibility and positive transitions to high school. Student feedback was very positive and we will continue to refine and develop the processes and structures. The structures that have been put into place are designed to ensure high school success and a smooth transition for students. High school is a big change for 9th grade students and their parents on many levels. For some students, learning to function more independently is a challenge so we have many processes and people in place to monitor their progress including frequent grade reports, interim reports for every ninth grader, and one administrator and two guidance counselors who only deal with issues of ninth graders. They will also be exposed to concepts for the upcoming academies and have many opportunities for career awareness and focusing activities.

Ninth grade students who participated in High School 101 this summer had the opportunity to get a jump start in their transition. Ms. Jeweler and Mr. Hilliard created a phenomenal transition program that focused on reading and math while exposing students to many aspects of high school life. Blake alumni were hired as leaders and a number of Blake staff including teachers, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Flach and Mr. Harper participated in the process as well. The groups took a full day field trip to see the University of Maryland or Johns Hopkins as for some students, how can college be a goal if they have no idea what a college campus even looks like? It was a spirited, highly positive experience for everyone.

Encourage your children, regardless of their grade level, to get off on the right foot this school year by practicing good work and study habits from day one. Homework is important, as are deadlines, asking questions, being self-advocates and putting forth one's best effort. Success breeds success and students who keep up, but ask for help when they need it, ultimately feel more invested in school. Our goal is to proudly post the name of every student on the honor roll. We will do our best to provide regular communication to both students and parents. In your summer mailing, you received a list of who to contact with issues or concerns; I urge you to keep it for future reference. Each teacher has an email address, which is often the easiest way to reach them, but in many instances phone calls and/or conferences are the best communication tool. Please check the school website for accurate email addresses. Parents and students will be issued a PIN number to access student grades on-line and keep up on student academic progress.

Over the past year, we have seen a rise in student suspensions and have made a commitment to be more proactive and work to prevent issues and problems that accelerate to the point where students are suspended from school. Research shows that suspension is an effective deterrent for the student who values their education. However, for students who get into a behavioral cycle where they are suspended frequently, their academics suffer and the behaviors do not abate. We are asking parents to work closely and cooperatively with us to break this cycle and support students so behaviors are appropriate, safe and conducive to every student experiencing school success both academically and socially at Blake High School.

From The President

(Continued from Page 1)

There is a way for anyone who has 3, 5, 10, or 50 hours to get involved. You can work at home, at school, or throughout the county! I am asking you now, and when I see you, to please get involved. Do it for all our students.

Bum...bum...bum...bum... and the other shoe drops. We are also asking for financial support. Each year the number of activities grows and so does the need for funding. For many who cannot give their time the easiest way to support is financially. We send the news letter to every Blake household (unless they have chosen to receive it electronically) regardless of whether they have joined the PTSA, at a cost of nearly \$10,000. Most folks don't know that the PTSA has been funding the school's Renaissance rewards program. We love to give scholarships to deserving graduates who are going into education or public service. Whenever possible there is also a gift from the PTSA to the school. Then there's After Prom – your PTSA coordinates the best and safest event in the county. Good clean sweat at our fund raisers helps to bring in some of what we need, but we have to ask you to contribute what you can to the Direct Appeal. We never ask your children to go sell stuff door to door. The suggested donation is \$75.00, but **any amount** is appreciated and recognized. When you fill out your membership form, \$20 for the first member and \$5.00 for the second, you can add in the \$75 and it makes a very nice round number. We are a 501(c) 3 so your contributions are tax deductible. (We will also gratefully take donations from any business looking for that one last tax break.)

We had some great successes last year and hope to build on them.

The Ninth Grade Parent Peer Group took focused advocacy to a new level. The NAACP Parents Council tackled some tough issues. The PTSA Student members asked some very enlightening questions, and gave some very good feedback. Our silent auction was enjoyed by all, the Race for a Dream was not only a great fitness activity, but a cause with a great message, and we held our first ever used books sale (books – kids it seems a natural!).

As your PTSA President I am at your service. I often say that “any day that I don't spend three hours on PTSA is an easy day.” Your Vice President Robina Barlow gives that much or more. Susan Murphy is your PTSA Secretary and is always available at the meetings. Walter's new, so go easy on him! You will see my contact information on virtually every communication we put out. Do not hesitate to bring your issues, concerns, or compliments forward so that we can do the best we can for all our kids.

Jack Goble
PTSA PRESIDENT
jackwgoble@yahoo.com
301-622-7924

Principal's Perspective

(Continued from Page 2)

We were very fortunate to have gone through “Tech Mod” this summer. This is the MCPS program where all computers are upgraded and/or replaced with brand new equipment. Students will be thrilled to see brand new flat screen monitors and much faster computers for their use. We also are very fortunate to be part of a phase-in of Promethean Boards for instructional use. There boards are a phenomenal, interactive resource that engages students in learning at an extremely high level. (Incoming 9th graders who attended

Banneker MS had the opportunity to experience them.) Four have been delivered prior to the start of school, with a total of approximately 50 coming. The priority will be given to 9th grade and HSA subjects but the goal is for every student to get to experience the benefit of this technology. If you would like more information, the following website is a wealth of information about this technology.

http://webtech.cherokee.k12.ga.us/tech/training/promethean_board.htm

One of the annual rites of summer in MCPS is the refinement of the School Improvement Plan or SIP. This is the management plan document is developed with input by staff, students and parents and serves to guide instruction for this school year and long-term planning. The goals must be measurable and focus on student achievement. We have simplified this process to two clear goals with many measurable objectives for each goal. The goals areas follows:

Goal 1:
Graduates of Blake High School will have engaged in a rigorous educational experience and received support to enhance their academic achievement.

Goal 2:
Graduates of Blake High School will have developed the skills necessary to become productive and contributing members of their communities.

One of the many ways we will work on accomplishing our goals for student success is with an increased focus on literacy skills. Staff will continue to receive on-going training of ways to address literacy in all curricular areas to raise student awareness of how to

analyze text and maximize understanding.

We had two major construction projects at Blake this summer; the first being the construction of a new science lab. We are very pleased with this state of the art new lab as it will benefit so many of our students. In addition, there was a major renovation of the amphitheater to make it a more functional and useable space. The amphitheater will benefit the entire community as it is now a much more flexible space. In addition to these projects, if our new electronic sign isn't up by the opening of school, it is our hope that it will be up and functioning by Back to School Night. We have been saving for three years to purchase this sign and appreciate the support of the PTSA, Boosters and community in our effort to provide more accurate communication to the greater community about what is happening at Blake High School.

Advocacy for student involvement continues this year, particularly for freshmen. Activities are announced daily on our award winning "Eubie TV News", but are also posted on the school website under "Daily News." The web page address is: <http://mcps.k12.md.us/schools/blakehs/> Students who are involved in sports or extracurricular activities are more invested in school and tend to do better academically and enjoy school more. Most students find it easier to stay organized when they have activities that help structure their time. Ninth graders tend to be more reluctant to join; if they can drag a buddy along it really helps. There is a great deal going on and new opportunities pop up continually. It's the best way to make new friends and feel more connected to school.

This will be a very busy year, particularly for seniors and their parents. College visits and the

application process can be overwhelming at times. Please use the expertise of Ms. Kathy Moore, our College and Career Information Coordinator, and our outstanding counseling department when wading through the process. We are strongly committed to providing as much information and assistance as possible to ensure that our students have the best possible opportunities for their post high school plans, be they college, the military or the work force.

Please read the "Blake Blue Note" very carefully each month for information about parent meetings as well as the many activities that go on at Blake. For parents new to Blake, we welcome you and hope you will volunteer in whatever capacity works best for you. Our PTSA and Booster Club provide a multitude of ways to get involved, plus it's a great way to meet other parents. High school students sometimes won't admit it, but they like seeing that their parents are involved and invested in what happens in their school life. We welcome your involvement and hope to see you volunteering and at the many games, concerts, plays, meets, matches, and performances that make the high school experience even more meaningful for your children. Have a great school year!

Booster Club News

Welcome Back!

Membership.....

in the Blake Booster Club is open to all. The Booster Club supports the athletic program at Blake through memberships, donations and various fundraising activities. Since 1999, the Booster Club has raised in excess of \$200,000 for additional school equipment needs. Boosters has funded the scoreboards in the gymnasium, football stadium and track/field

September Events

SEPTEMBER

15th Blake Blue Note Deadline
16th PTSA Meeting
17th Back to School Night

Homecoming/Spirit Week

22nd Pajama Day; Battle of Classes 7-9 pm
23rd 80s Day & Powder Puff Football Game
24th Animal Day & Hall Decorating 2:10 – 8 pm
25th Mr. Blake Contest
26th Class Color Day; Homecoming Pep Rally & Homecoming Football Game 6:30 – 8:30 pm
27th Homecoming Dance 7:30 – 11:30 pm

29th Early Release Day
30th Rosh Hashanah – Schools Closed

OCTOBER

1st Interim Reports Mailed Home
8th Bengal Classic Golf Tournament

All articles for March events and recognition are due by September 15th. Send them to Sara Watson and Travonda Green Thomas at: blakebluenote@yahoo.com

hockey field. We've funded the construction of baseball dugouts and baseball/softball press boxes.

We have three membership classes - the Bengal Silver membership of \$100 or more gets you a great Bengal Stadium Seat and Bengal Golf Umbrella - The Bengal Black membership of \$50-

99 gets you the golf umbrella – and the Bengal Blue membership of \$25-49 gets you a great Blake Bengal car decal. Blake coaches and staff are also invited to join for \$10 and will also receive the Blake decal.

GOLF!

The **Third Annual Bengal Classic Golf Tournament** will be held on Wednesday October 8 with a 9:00 AM Shotgun Start at Hampshire Greens Golf Course. A great gift for the golfer(s) in your family. Entertainment, food and prizes galore!! If you can't make it, we'd love to have you sponsor a long drive or closest-to-the-pin contest, or sponsor a hole with your family or business name on a tee sign! Registration is available on-line at the School Store website below. Choose 'Bengal Classic' in the box on the left side of the page. <http://stores.colorworkspromotions.com/blake/>

Concessions

The Booster Club raises a significant amount each season of the year through food and drink concessions at the Stadium, Gymnasium, Track/Field Hockey Complex and Baseball and Softball Stadiums. This only happens because you help. Please consider volunteering to help with concessions this fall at football, soccer, volleyball and field hockey. We are currently looking for parents interested in helping at varsity football games at our own Friday Night Lights!

We'll be working extra hard to try and replace Dave Hylton, our master chef the past 4 football season, who passed away early this year. Dave did the work of 3 most of the time. If you have concessions experience, we could use some help on the grill or French fryers. Email blakebooster@comcast.net if you'd like to help.

And a big thanks to these folks who gave up a Saturday morning last month to help get the stand cleaned up and ready for the home football opener on September 5th.

*Kathy Clark
Dan & Maura McMullen
Donna Deane
Ellen Zaika
Steve Hartman
Rhonda & Bill White & son Jacob
Laura Matusek
Robin Madden
Julie Elie
Gay Kimble*

Other Fundraisers

Besides concessions and the Golf Tournament, Boosters holds a Mulch Sale every spring. We are currently looking for help with the organizational side. Ken Salins has done a fantastic job for our first three years. We're looking for someone to take on the coordinator's job. Ken will still be available to consult to make this happen again.

Back-to-School Night

We'll have a table at Back-to-School-Night in the cafeteria Table Fair. Come by and introduce yourself and let us know how you'd like to help.

Mark Wannan

301-593-0013
blakebooster@comcast.net

Blake High School Receives Sherry Unger Award

James Hubert Blake High School has been selected as the Sherry Unger Award winner for a service learning project. More than 100 students from Blake made 800 sandwiches which were donated to DC Central Kitchen. This event took place on January 17th after the 7th period exam. This community service project was started by the SGA and Leadership Class under

the direction of teachers Erinn Rigney and Dustin Jeter.

Baby Bengals - Blake Preschool Has Openings

Blake High School Child & Adolescent Development Lab Preschool is now accepting applications for the 2008-09 school year. Children must be four years old by the beginning of this September because the kindergarten cut-off next year is the same date for five year olds. The Blake preschool program will begin October 2 through the first week of June 2009. Classes meet Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in two separate sessions morning and afternoon. Morning session is 9:15-10:50 am and afternoon session is 11:45-2pm. Tuition for the morning is \$300/year and afternoon is \$450/year and both are paid as \$50 with the application and October and February payments. Our preschool is unique in that the high school students plan and teach the MCPS Pre-K curriculum to the children with the aid of an experienced teacher. Applications may be downloaded from the Blake HS website, by calling Blake (301)879-1337 and leaving a message, through the Blake HS main office or email Beth_L_Kauffman@mcpsmd.org.

Blake High School Internship Program

The Blake High School Internship Program is looking for Sponsors for the school year 2008-2009. 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.

Blake High School Interns typically work either 8 or 12 hours per week, which is 150 or 225 hours per semester of credit, on an approved internship throughout a full academic semester in a strongly mentored, paid or 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.

If you know of a business that may be interested in having a Blake High School Intern please contact Ms. Ale at 301-879-1358 or e-mail Nancy_E_Ale@mcpsmd.org.

We are specifically looking for internship opportunities for students interested in, **Marine Biology, Art, Business, Government Legislature, Law, Medicine, and Psychology**. If you would be able to help with any of these areas please contact Ms. Ale.

Course Fee Change

Due to the prohibitive service charges that the service provider was going to implement, Blake HS has discontinued the online payment service for course fees. ALL COURSE FEES MUST BE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE SCHOOL, CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL, AND DELIVERED BY YOUR STUDENT TO HIS/HER TEACHER

Grocery Bonus Bucks for BLAKE

Don't forget you must REGISTER for the Giant and Safeway/eScrip program every year. Registration for these

programs will cost you nothing and earn Blake significant amounts of money.

To register for Giant, go to:

<http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/>

Use James Hubert Blake HS Group # School Id: 03625. The 2007-2008 Program Runs Oct. 5, 2007 - Apr. 3, 2008.

To register for the Safeway program, go to:

<https://secure.escrip.com/jsp/supplier/registration/step1.jsp>

Use James Hubert Blake HS Group # 6520522. Renew your elections for Safeway/eScrip between August 1st and November 1st each year. The eScrip program requires that families renew their Safeway (or affiliate) club card every year. After Nov. 1, once the customer does renew, their purchases will again begin crediting from that point forward for contributions. Log on to www.escrip.com or call 1-800-801-4973 to renew.

To Read about the eScrip program go to <http://www.escrip.com/>.

Signature News: The Blake Arts Program Continues to Stand Out!

The Signature Program in the Fine Arts and Humanities continues to remain the backbone of Blake High School and a fine First Semester of Activities has already been planned. On October 1st at 7:30 pm, **the annual Blake Talent Show** will present some of the school's best talent in singing, dance, and instrumental music. Don't miss an evening in which contestants perform for cash prizes. Audience participation is a factor, so come and vote for your favorite act! Tickets may be purchased in the Main Office the

week of September 29th. Check the website for more information.

The Instrumental Music

Department came back early in August to work on routines for the fall which will be displayed at home football games. The band, under the direction of Brian Damron and Jon Eising also looks forward to an early "Jazz B and Celebration" on Saturday, November 8th at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium.

The Dance Department

welcomes back teacher Angie Searles-Thompson this year, and she will be splitting time between dance and P.E. She rejoins fellow teachers Danielle D'Anna and Donna Iriarte. The first big dance event will be a presentation by the Dance Company on November 6th at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium. Artistic Director Danielle D'Anna and the students select an artist to concentrate on for each of these recitals. This year, the Dance Company Recital will celebrate **The Music of MOTOWN!** Past recitals have featured the music of Ray Charles, Elvis Presley, and Madonna.

The Vocal Arts Department

welcomes a new class this year, the Revelations Gospel Choir under the direction of Johnathan Dunn. Look for some wonderful work by this class as well as the advanced choirs under the direction of Shirley Letcher.

The Musical Theatre Company

under the direction of Mr. Dunn and Mr. Michael D'Anna will also be presenting a musical on December 5 and 6 and the 12th and 13th. Possibilities include *Brigadoon*, *South Pacific* or maybe *Crazy For You*. The Company will also present a cabaret dedicated to the music of George Gerschwin on January 29 and 30th in the Black Box Theater.

The Visual Arts Department

will utilize the school Art Gallery to

exhibit work by Blake teachers as well as the various classes. New Resource Teacher, John Overman, heads up the department this year with returning veterans Nancy McIntosh, Sara Hartenstine, and Louise Runion. They are joined by new staff members Katja Jimenez and Mary O'Neill – Wood. Look for the exhibits which change monthly!

The Media Arts Department will be prepping all year for the annual showcase at year's end. However, they do a great job everyday broadcasting the news and developing feature stories for Friday showings. Check out Eubie News to keep up with the goings-on at Blake! The department is led by Susan Knott and Sara Hartenstine.

The Blake Theatre Department under the guidance of Natalie Roots, John Ovington, and Michael D'Anna is planning a series of portfolio nights at the end of each semester as well as some productions by the various performance companies. The Acting Company looks to present *Hamlet* on November 20 and 21 in the Black Box Theater. Later, in January, the Company will be presenting a series of originally written plays on February 5 and 6.

The Blake Stage Company will present comedian Steve Martin's hilarious and award-winning comedy, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* in late October with performances on October 17, 18, 24 and 25. Show times will be at 7:30 pm. *Picasso* involves a meeting of Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso in a famous French Bistro whereby they hilarious trip out onto their fantasies and discover key scientific events (Remember E=MC Squared?) and the Cubist Movement. There is also a surprise heavenly visit from a rock star of the future, who rather "shakes things up." You'll laugh yourself silly at this play. Tickets will go on sale around October 6th.

Great Homecoming Week Ahead!

School may have just started, but the Blake Student Government Association has been hard at work all summer planning for what promises to be an unprecedented Homecoming. The week's festivities take off on Monday the 22nd with the Battle of the Classes, where students compete in activities like a dance-off and sumo wrestling (new this year!). Junior/Senior Powder Puff Football will be on the 23rd, the game in which girls play and guys cheerlead. The Pep Rally and Homecoming Varsity Football Game will be on the 26th. This year's theme of the Hallway Decorating Competition on the 25th is *World Cities* and the theme of the dance on the 27th is *Atlantis: Journey to the Sunken City*. When getting dressed that week, remember the Spirit days:

Monday: Pajama Day
 Tuesday: 80s Day
 Wednesday: Wacky Tacky Day
 Thursday: Animal Day
 Friday: Class Color Day
 (Seniors: Blue, Juniors: Black, Sophomores: Silver, Freshmen: White)

To sign up as participants in the events, students should contact their class sponsors:

Gr. 12: Ms. Garlick
 (Jessica_Garlick@mcpsmd.org)
 Gr. 11: Ms. Gelb
 (Christina_R_Gelb@mcpsmd.org)
 Gr. 10: Mr. Wilson
 (Chad_Wilson@mcpsmd.org)
 Gr. 9: TBA

If we want this year's Homecoming to be the best yet, everyone should be a part of it! Don't be afraid to catch the Bengal Fever and enjoy Homecoming 2008! For more information on Homecoming and other SGA projects, visit www.BlakeSGA.org.

Great Changes in the Blake Visual Arts Department

The Visual Arts Department is going through some significant changes here at Blake which will bring more opportunity and greater community outreach. One major change will be addition of two new teachers, Mary O'Neill-Wood and Katja Jimenez. Ms. O'Neill-Wood will be teaching photography and will be part time. Mrs. Jimenez will be full time and will be teaching fundamentals of art and digital art. We are excited to have both of these experienced teachers aboard.

Over the summer one of the art rooms was converted to a digital art classroom to accommodate changes in the art curriculum and a general shift to digital media in the industry. This new room will meet the demands for a progressive and modern facility that uses digital media to produce fine arts, photography, and graphic designs. The classroom will also have the new Adobe Master Creative Suite that was purchased as part of the technology modernization in the school. The department has also increase enrollment in traditional media arts including AP Drawing, AP Design, and a AP 3D Design class.

One of the goals for the visual arts department this year will be to reach out to the community through student internships, art displays and involvement in local and national competitions. We also are gearing up for a greater participation with businesses in around the Blake community. Students Robert Bennett, and Ryan D' Amico, for example, worked over the summer in art internships with MCPS "I TV" and have benefited from these art experiences in special effects and media production. This and may

other internships and work experiences are available to students interested in the arts, graphics and digital arts. It is our hope that local businesses continue to make opportunity for students as interns. If any parent has a particular need for graphics, web page design, digital arts or any fine arts work by students either as interns or side work please do not hesitate to contact me or the internship coordinator Nancy Ale at Nancy_E_Ale@mcpsmd.org.

I would like to publicly congratulate art students Brendan Lipton and Daniel Narwagaba for their involvement in MCPS poster design competitions at the end of last year. Brendan took first place in the MCPS Recycling poster competition in June and won money for the school that is being used to promote energy conservation here at Blake. Daniel took second place in the Energy Conservation Competition sponsored by Montgomery County.

John Overman
Art Department Chair

Support our talented Blake Musicians! Buy Sally Foster!

"If school is starting, that means the holidays will soon follow! Get ready for the holiday rush **NOW** by purchasing high quality gift wrap and gift items from the **Blake High School Music Department** during their **5th Annual Sally Foster sale, August 12 – September 18, 2008**. Shop from a wonderful assortment of premium gift wrap,

gifts for everyone, bath and body products, and chocolates so good they've been served at the White House! When you shop, **50%** of your purchase goes directly to the Blake Music Department! Funds raised will be used for much needed equipment, music, uniforms, and more! You can also shop online at **SallyFoster.com** between now and January 15, 2009, and the Music Department will receive the same 50% profit from your purchase! During online check out you will be asked to designate who you would like the proceeds from your sale to go to. Please click on "I want to enter a group account number or search for a group to give credit to." When prompted enter the Blake High School account number: **597793**. Thanks for supporting the Blake High School Music Students! It's going to be another great year at Blake!" Questions?? Contact Beth Molek at greggbeth@juno.com.

Bengal Classic: Calling all golfers...and Terps fans!!

It's time to register for the 3rd Annual Bengal Classic!! This year's fundraising golf tournament, sponsored by the Blake Booster Club, will be held on Wednesday, October 8th at Hampshire Greens. Last year, we raised over \$7000 for Blake and we've set our sights even higher this year! All proceeds will benefit Blake Athletics.

We invite all Blake families- past, present and future 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! Two lucky golfers will be selected to play in Johnny's foursome!

This promises to be an exciting day and we depend on your support to make it a success. How can you help?? Round up a foursome, become a sponsor, buy a family tee sign and/or donate a prize! And don't forget to **SPREAD THE WORD!** Not a golfer? Join us for lunch or volunteer to help out on the day of the event.

Seven Blake Students Earn College Credit in Business

On May 28, 2008, seven Blake students were the first high school students in Maryland to pass the Principle of Marketing CLEP exam, qualifying for them to earn three college credits. The seven Blake students were Graham Berger, Jeff Wellman, Layla Lynn, Brandon Swain, Aaron Wong, Ken Manjo, and Valery Nguyen.

Save Trees and Time! Get Blake Blue Note By Email!

You can save your PTSA money and time by signing up to get the Blake Blue Note by email! You'll also get it sooner than those who get paper copies in the mail. Just send a message with your children's names, your email address and your zip code to blakebluenote@yahoo.com. Thanks!

**HEAR THE JAZZ
ENSEMBLE PLAY AT
THE BENGAL
CLASSIC!!**

Blake High School PTSA 2008-2009 Volunteer Program

Name: _____
 Telephone: Daytime (____) _____ Evening/Cell (____) _____
 Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____
 E-mail Address: _____

____ I would like to receive Blake news and information via e-mail. Please add my e-mail address to the list for the PTSA electronic newsletter, Eubie Mail.

Below are the PTSA committees. Please (v) check the areas where you can volunteer. Remember—Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they just have the heart.

Questions? Contact Maura McMullen, Volunteer Coordinator at (301) 989-0257 or e-mail her at McMullens2@verizon.net All help and volunteers are appreciated!!

COMMITTEE/TEAM	DESCRIPTION	Chair	Planning	Activity
9th GRADE PARENT PEER GROUP				
10th GRADE PARENT PEER GROUP	Parent Peer Groups meet to discuss issues specific to their students. These groups advocate for the students in the designated grade.			
11th GRADE PARENT PEER GROUP				
12th GRADE PARENT PEER GROUP				
AFTER PROM (May)		Help coordinate After Prom activities and fund raising		
BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT (September)	Welcome parents to the school, distribute information, coordinate with PR & membership committees, organize and staff table fair.			
BOOK SALE (October)	Coordinate used book sale			
BUDGET	Review PTSA fund raising & spending initiatives and practices			
BUSES (May)	Help coordinate buses used for graduation			
BYLAWS	Review Bylaws and keep current			
COMEDY NIGHT (February)	Coordinate a Comedy Show fund raiser			
COMMUNICATIONS	Support all Committees/Teams publicity & solicitation efforts			
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	Advocate for school and PTSA within the community			
COMMUNITY ANTIQUE/MORE SALE	Coordinate a community antique sale & flea market			
DATA ENTRY	Work with other committees on data entry needs			
DIRECTORY (August)	Help edit school directory or sell advertising in Directory			
DIRECT APPEAL (August/September)	Secure funds through direct solicitation			
DIVERSITY ISSUES	Represent constituent cultural communities to the PTSA & MCPS			
EDUCATION & CURRICULUM	Work with county & school on curriculum			
EUBIE MAIL	Write & Coordinate information input for the electronic newsletter.			
FOUNDATION EXPLORATORY	Working group for Blake Alumni Foundation			
FUND RAISING	Overall Fund Raising coordination within the PTSA			
GIFTED & TALENTED	Educate and involve parents in gifted & talented opportunities			
GRADING & REPORTING	Inform parents on grading & reporting issues			
GRANTS	Research and write grants of use to PTSA and Blake HS			
GROCERY & RETAILER RECEIPTS	Coordinate parent participation in various retail loyalty programs and source new programs			
HOSPITALITY	Shop for food and/or attend and assist with event planning.			
LEGISLATION	Contact state legislators about key issues that affect the students and the Blake community.			
MEMBERSHIP	Help build a solid foundation of diverse PTSA members			
MS LIAISON: BENJAMIN BANNEKER	Represent the PTSA & School Programs and Activities to the Consortium Middle Schools			
MS LIAISON: BRIGGS CHANEY				
MS LIAISON: FARQUHAR				
MS LIAISON: FRANCIS SCOTT KEY				
MS LIAISON: WHITE OAK				
NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL	Gather and coordinate article submission prior to deadlines edit			
NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION	Assist with publication and distribution of newsletter.			
NOMINATING	Put forth candidates for officer positions at year's end			
ORIENTATION/STUDENT ACTIVITIES	Provide assistance, hospitality, and activities at various school functions including orientation.			
PARENT OUTREACH	Advocate PTSA programs and membership to parents			

PROGRAMS	Recommend & coordinate special programs for Blake students and parents, i.e., driving awareness, substance abuse, parent-to-parent workshops.			
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Serve as liaison to the local media and publicize Blake PTSA activities, teacher and student awards, and alumni activities.			
RACE FOR A DREAM (May)	Coordinate charity race			
RAFFLE	Coordinate fund raiser			
REFLECTIONS	Coordinate the Reflections Fine Arts competition.			
SILENT AUCTION (April)	Plan & coordinate event, solicit donations, catalogue/database, decorations, food, cashiers, baskets or staff tables the day of the auction.			
SOS	Parent power pool. Folks willing to fill in anywhere if available!			
SPECIAL NEEDS	Educate and involve parents in special needs program and attend meetings.			
STAFF APPRECIATION	Donate time, food, gifts, etc. for monthly appreciation of all Blake Staff.			
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP	Explore issues and activities with PTSA Student Members			
STUDENT RECOGNITION & RENAISSANCE	Assist Blake guidance department with set-up of 2 student recognition breakfasts/programs. Select student for PTSA scholarship; nominate individuals for community awards.			
TEACHER MEMBERSHIP	Explore issues and activities with PTSA Teacher Members			
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Assist volunteer coordinator in volunteer placement and recruitment			
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION	Reward volunteers throughout the year and help to coordinate culminating event			
WEBSITE	Develop & maintain the PTSA web site on the Blake Home Page			

Office Help (i.e., copying) Circle all that apply Mornings Afternoons Anytime
Classroom Help Circle all that apply Mornings Afternoons Anytime
Tutoring List subject(s):

_____ **Please contact me about an idea that I have about how my company or organization can partner with James Hubert Blake High School PTSA. We have resources/manpower/facilities that we can share/donate.**

Thanks for Volunteering!!

Please return this form to Blake High School Office—PTSA Mailbox, or mail to

**Blake High School PTSA
 300 Norwood Road
 Silver Spring, MD 20905**





3rd Annual
Bengal Classic



Save this Date . . .

October 8, 2008



Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual Bengal Classic !!!

Hampshire Greens Golf Course, Silver Spring, MD.

9:00am Shotgun Start – Scramble Format

- ✓ Sponsored by the Blake Booster Club to benefit Blake Athletics.
- ✓ Special Guest - **Johnny Holliday**
- ✓ Visit www.bengalclassic.com for more information and to register online!
- ✓ Receive a free gift for all new golfer referrals!
- ✓ Round up your foursome and spread the word!
- ✓ Register before 9/17 to receive the early bird discount!

Questions?

Laura_matussek@comcast.net or DBorchers@mac.com



HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL TWO Rocks Blake Community and Disney

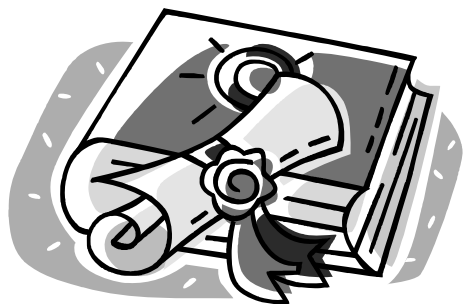


The summer production of *High School Musical 2* was a fabulous success as the Blake Stage Company presented the first complete production of the show anywhere. The World Premiere featured a visit by executives from the Disney Theatrical Division in New York City who spent time with the cast and crew after the July 15th performance and gave tremendous praise to the adult staff, cast, crew, and pit. Later, in July, director Michael D'Anna traveled to New York to meet with Disney execs on future partnership opportunities between Blake and Disney. Although nothing is definite, yet, Disney is thinking about piloting two of their newest shows through the Blake Stage Company. Can you say *Aida* and/or *Aladdin*?

Kudos for this show go to Johnathan Dunn who sequenced a piano score for a combo and who played and musically directed the show. The dance under the leadership of Danielle D'Anna received high praise from Disney. Several students assisted with the dance routines including Ashley Haymaker, Jacob Perry, Jaqueline Richard, and Veronica Spolarich. The tech under John Ovington was whimsical and fun.

Michael D'Anna was the overall artistic Director and wishes to thank the all the students who invested summer vacation time in the project, and a huge hats off to the fabulous adult team who brought this terrific show to life.

Yearbook News



The yearbook staff thanks you for all of your support last year and we would like to inform you of a slight change in AD sale procedure for this year. All ads will be sold and created online! You will be able to upload your own pictures, add your own text, and design your own AD by either using a template provided by Jostens or by creating your own. More information will come home with your senior and be printed here in the Blue Note

WELCOME BACK! From the College & Career Center **Get Ready, Get Set for the 2008-09 School Year**

To keep you aware of important testing dates, special programs, college visits/fairs and other news, the Blake College & Career Center provides a monthly newsletter. These newsletters are available on the Blake website, under the “Career Center” link, www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/blakehs.

Be sure to read the newsletter carefully and refer to it as needed throughout the year, as information will not be repeated in subsequent issues. Additional details and application forms for all newsletter items are available from Mrs. Moore, the College & Career Information Coordinator.

The College & Career Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students are always welcome to stop in during lunch or after school, but during class, a pass is required from a classroom teacher. Individual appointments during the school day can be made in advance only with the classroom teacher's consent.

Beginning in September several college admission representatives will be visiting. Scheduled college visits are posted on [Naviance/Family Connection](#), which is accessible from the Blake Career Center webpage, or you can go directly to the website: <http://connection.naviance.com/blake> (guest password: 210959); click on “visit schedule.” All seniors were trained on Naviance last December and individual passwords were assigned. If students have forgotten their password, see Mrs. Moore or their counselor. As a reminder, the daily schedule of college visits will be announced each morning on Eubie TV and posted on the dry erase board in the hallway opposite the College & Career Center. To visit with particular college recruiters, students must bring their agenda book to Mrs. Moore in advance to obtain a pass to attend. Parents are always welcome --just be sure to stop in the main office first to pick up a Visitor's Pass.

The Counseling assignments for 2008-09 are as follows:

Gr. 9	Mr. Flach	Teams 9A & 9B
	Ms. Reynolds	Teams 9C & 9D
Gr. 10-12	Ms. Gelb	A – Bri
	Ms. Hayes	Bro – F
	Ms. Gelb	G – Haug
	Ms. Rossini	Hawk – Ko
	Ms. Smith	Kr – Pa
	Mr. Tolbert	Pe – Thomas
	Ms. White	Thompson - Z

Administrator assignments:

Gr. 9	Ms. Thomas
Gr. 10	Mr. DuBoyce
Gr. 11	Mr. Tyrell
Gr. 12	Mr. Berry

Important Fall DATES – Mark your calendar now!

- Sept. 19 - Registration deadline for Oct. 4 SAT (www.collegeboard.com)
- Sept. 16 - Late registration deadline for Oct. 4 SAT (late fee + \$22)
- Sept. 19 - Registration deadline for Oct. 25 ACT (www.actstudent.org)
- Sept. 24 - Senior Commitment meeting (in school, Gr. 12 English classes)
- Oct. 1 - Seniors turn in “Brag Sheets” to Counseling Office
- Oct. 7 - College Expo field trip, Gr. 12, 10-1, Discovery Sports Ctr., Germantown, MD
- Oct. 15 - Blake's College Night for Seniors, 7:00 pm
- Nov. 2 - DC Performing & Visual Arts College Fair, Walter E. Washington Convention Center
- Nov. 5 - Hispanic College Fair field trip, Gr. 11-12, Universities at Shady Grove, Rockville, MD
- Nov. 6 - ASVAB Career Exploration test, Gr. 10-12, 7:45 am (Career Center)
- Nov. 19 - Blake's Financial Aid Workshop, Gr. 12, 7:00 pm

SSL Hours...YOU MUST HAVE THEM COMPLETED TO GRADUATE!!!

Don't wait until the last minute... Get started NOW!!!! You will have between 10-75 SSL hours to complete before you graduate. (See list below)

There are a variety of simple ways for you to earn SSL hours:

1. If you participate in a club or activity that either raises cultural awareness or donates proceeds from an event to charity.

Examples: International Night, A play or musical that collects donations for charity, A sports team that collects donations for charity, etc.

2. Are thinking of being a student aide in your junior or senior year?? You can earn up to 10 SSL hours per semester. Educorps also earn SSL hours.
3. Do you have a community or recreation center or library near your home? They always need after school volunteers.
4. Mr. Jeter and Ms. Rigney have a variety of opportunities.... See them or the SSL Bulletin Board in the Downstairs B Hallway!!! You can also look online at: www.mcpsssl.org <<http://www.mcpsssl.org/>>

Complete the Service, Turn in the form, earn the SSL hours and.....GRADUATE!!!!!!!!!!!!

***If you earn more than 260 SSL hours before you graduate, you earn a Certificate of Meritorious Service and a purple tassel. ***

How many SSL hours are required for MCPS students to graduate?

Students graduating before 2011 are required to complete 60 SSL hours before graduation. Beginning with the Class of 2011 students will complete seventy-five (75) service learning hours for graduation.

For students who enroll in MCPS after 6th grade, here are the requirements:

Students who enroll in MCPS for the first time in Grade 7 will complete 65 SSL hours before graduation.

Grade 8 : 55 SSL hours

Grade 9 : 45 SSL hours

Grade 10 : 35 SSL hours

Grade 11 : 20 SSL hours

Grade 12 :10 SSL hours

Must all SSL activities be done with nonprofit tax-exempt organizations?

Exceptions to the nonprofit, tax-exempt SSL rule are for-profit assisted living facilities/nursing homes.

Students may earn SSL hours in these facilities with an MCPS Form 560-50

<<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/pdf/560-50.pdf>> Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity approved in advance of the service. All SSL hours must be performed directly with the residents/clients/patients.

Can SSL hours be earned with nonprofit organizations that are not listed at the Website www.mcpsssl.org <<http://www.mcpsssl.org/>> as pre-approved?

Yes. Approval of MCPS Form 560-50 <<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/pdf/560-50.pdf>> ; Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity is required in advance of any service with organizations not already listed as providing pre-approved service opportunities.

What is Accreditation for Growth [AFG]?

AFG is a unique accreditation process that uses strategic planning as a vehicle for growth and improvement in student performance and in the school's capacity to effect that growth.

The AFG protocol seeks to focus on the outputs desired in student performance.

In the AFG process, the following 5 questions will guide our inquiry...

- What should students know, and how should they be able to use what they know? What content, process skills, and work habits should be the priorities?
- How well should students perform and what does excellent performance look like?
- How will assess and evaluate student performance?
- How well do students currently perform? What is the actual quality of their work?
- What will we do to improve student performance?

AFG Process

This school year [2008-2009]

Blake's 'self-study' year
 Analysis of school using the 12 AFG standards
 Formulation of school goals based on analysis

Next Fall [Fall of 2009]

Visit from AFG Validation Team [5 person team]
 Review adherence to the 12 MSA Standards
 Review adherence to the requirements of AFG
 Review quality of the self-study process
 Review the content of the improvement plans
 Offer an accreditation recommendation

Opportunities for involvement—

- Participation on an action team
 - Teams will meet from 11-11:30 am once a month
 - Each team will be responsible for 1 of the 12 AFG standards
- Participation on the planning team
 - The planning team will meet once a month after school
 - The planning team will gather input from the action teams to complete the 'self-study' process

If you are interested in being a part of an action team or the planning team, Jeff Newby and Moriah Martin will attend the September PTSA meeting to explain more about these opportunities. You can also email them at Jeffrey_J_Newby@mcpsmd.org or Moriah_A_Martin@mcpsmd.org.

Blake High School Students Win Recycling Poster Contest

James Hubert Blake High School students Brenden Lipton, Grace Lee, HeeJung Song, Timmy Ostermeyer and Heather Young were winners in a Recycling Poster Contest sponsored by the Montgomery County Public Schools Division of Maintenance. These students were recognized for their accomplishments at an awards dinner on May 20th in the Executive Office Building in Rockville.

Blake High School received a reward check for \$350.00 which will be reinvested in the school green team recycling program. The school will use the money to purchase shredders and additional classroom recycling bins.



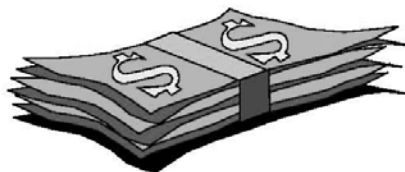
**CALLING ALL FAMILIES! TEAMS!! CLASS OFFICERS!! CLUBS!!
 SHOW YOUR BENGAL PRIDE!! BUY A TEE SIGN TO BE DISPLAYED**

How will you be able to pay for college?

DON'T MISS

Blake High School's

**FINANCIAL AID
WORKSHOP**



November 19, 2008

Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Guest Speaker:

Melissa Gregory
Director of Financial Aid
Montgomery College

Find out everything you need to know about financial aid:

- Information on state and federal aid programs
- How to fill out the FAFSA financial aid form correctly

Seniors & their Parents should attend!

Attention: 12th Grade Students & Parents

Join the Blake School Counseling Department for

COLLEGE NIGHT



Wednesday

OCTOBER 15, 2008

7:00 pm

Guest Speaker: Jill Medina

Associate Director of Admissions

OBERLIN COLLEGE (OH)

- What goes on in the college admissions office? How are application packets reviewed?
- What exactly are colleges looking for in a prospective student?
- When should a student consider applying "early decision?"
- Why arrange a college campus visit prior to applying?
- Should a student apply for a college even if they don't know how they will pay for it?
- What are the advantages of a liberal arts education and the unique offerings at a place like Oberlin? What kind of student would NOT be suited for Oberlin College?

Following Ms. Medina's presentation the Counseling Staff will review the college application process (transcript requests, deadlines, forms/envelopes required, "brag sheets," recommendation requests, etc.)

Plan to Attend this Important Event!

[Sponsored by the James Hubert Blake HS Counseling Department (301) 879-1324]

MCCPTA Needs You!!!



MCCPTA has over 25 committees, which cover issues and support local PTAs. Many of these committees need additional members—any PTA member can join one of the committees below. To find out more about MCCPTA committees contact the chair or visit our website www.mccpta.com.

Grading and Reporting: Follows the implementation process of the new grading policy. Issues include grade computation, report card format, standards based grading, on-line grade reporting. Meets monthly for updates and/or to provide feedback to MCPS. Chair: Beth Kennington, bkenn@starpower.net, 301-216-2181.

Training: Organizes spring and fall countywide trainings. Advises local PTAs, attend local PTA meetings if needed to assist locals. Organizes mini-trainings, trains MCCPTA Board members so they can help locals, prepares/updates training materials and guidebooks. Chair: DeBora King, dkndc@msn.com, 301-879-9511.

Middle School: Follows middle school issues including MS reform. Reports on these issues to Board and Delegates for comments and/or actions, provides feedback to MCPS. 3-4 meetings per year. Chair: Ellen Paul, epaul@foxhall.com, 301-897-0022.

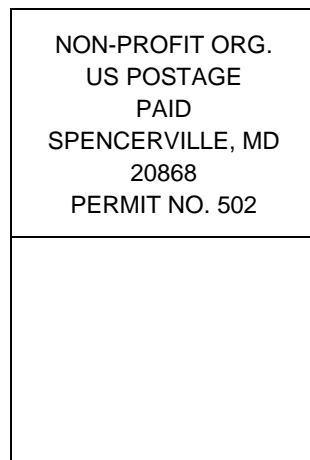
Counseling and Guidance: Works on issues such as guidance curriculum in ES, role of counselor in secondary schools, staffing ratios. Reports on these issues to Board and Delegates for comments and/or actions, provides feedback to MCPS. Monthly meetings; alternate morning and evenings. Chair: Ann Gallagher, agm@saltywaters.org, 301-320-3182.

Membership: Provides support to schools with their membership campaigns, helps PTAs share membership ideas, tracks membership numbers to identify needs. Works to help PTAs promote membership to all parents; may produce additional Public Service Announcements this year. Chair: Susan Stavenhagan, s.stavenbury@comcast.net, 301-260-8660.

Special Events Committee: Organizes the Presidents/Principals Dinner. Solicits supporters for the dinner. Selects recipients of MCCPTA awards and assists in the selection of awardees for other organizations. Helps with the hospitality aspect of other smaller events such as the legislative dinner. Chair: April Keyes, keyesa@sec.gov, 301-515-8249.

Operating Budget: Collects input regarding PTA priorities to draft into position statements and priority resolutions. Follows the MCPS budget development process and county/state fiscal situation. Prepares information on the recommended MCPS budget to help explain to MCCPTA members. Assists with testimony writing. Chair: John Hall, jfh1000@yahoo.com, 301-762-5028.

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PTSA DUES HELP PAY FOR THIS
NEWSLETTER

Eubie Mail: It's FREE! We e-Deliver it to you!

Send an email to: Blake_High_School_PTSA_subscribe@yahoo.com

Within 2 weeks you will receive an acceptance
Confirmation that you've been added.

Eubie Mail:

It's FREE!! We E-Deliver for You!

Over 800 members receive the PTSA's free weekly electronic newsletter, Eubie Mail. It's a good way to stay connected between monthly issues of The Blake Blue Note.

To contact the Eubie Mail Editor now, go to: eubiemail2003@yahoo.com

For your FREE subscription to Eubie Mail, send a blank email to: Blake_High_School_PTSA_Subscribe@yahoogroups.com



Shopping at Target means more money for our school

We've discovered a terrific way to raise funds for our school. 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 easy. Just visit target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. Don't forget, our ID is 113012.

So, if you're going to Target anyway, please consider using your Target Card or Target Visa. Big thanks to those who are already doing their part to make a great school even better. Grandparents, alumni, neighbors and friends can take part too – be sure to let them know!