



Blake Blue Note

June 2009

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

From the President

Monthly Message from your PTSA President

Jack W. Goble

I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. -Gilda Radner

Goodbye Again...

My time as PTSA President has run its course. I would like to say once again how honored I have been to work with lots and lots of terrific people. My daughter is a rising senior, so I will be around helping, but it's time for some new folks to take the lead. Many of you know that there are more than fifty teams/committees in the Blake PTSA. Each one has a leader to whom I, and you, owe a tremendous debt. These are the good people, doing the good work for OUR children. They give unselfishly to help all. From me a heartfelt THANK YOU!

I am not going to list everyone who has contributed (Mistakes are inevitable), but we do need to recognize the leaders. Firstly, I would like to thank those officers and Board of Directors who are moving on – thanks to Susan Murphy, Secretary; Walter Ligon, Treasurer, Mimi Browne & Sharon Mosely-Ramsey, NAACP Parents

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Message from the PTSA President
- 1** The Principal's Corner
- 5** Signature News
- 8** Career and Counseling News

Principal's Corner

Carole C. Goodman

This month's Blue Note is traditionally the transitional one. For parents of graduating seniors, it will be one of the last communications mailed to you from Blake; while for parents of in-coming ninth graders, it is one of the very first.

Saying good-bye to the class of 2009 will be very difficult for us at Blake. They have been an exceptional class; a very special group; smart, talented, hard-working, funny and all around great kids. The Senior Banquet, Prom and After-Prom were great examples of the kind of events that are models for upcoming classes. Students were well-behaved and had a terrific time while keeping safe and exercising good judgment. I'm very proud of them.

Graduation is Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at DAR Constitution Hall. The senior class advisors and class officers have worked extremely hard to ensure a wonderful graduation day for our graduates, their family and friends. The last eight graduation ceremonies have been outstanding in every way, I am certain we will continue the tradition we have established.

There is another group graduating, this June, as well. Many parents of seniors will also be transitioning from Blake. There are so many people who have given so freely of their time over the years, many going back over twelve years, the year before the school was even open. I thank the outstanding parents who truly have made a difference by their unwavering support for our school community. We will miss the phenomenal parents of graduates who have been pillars of support through the years. While the direct tie may be gone, I hope our alumni parents will continue to come to school events, as if you should get a bit nostalgic and missing high school, you are always welcome.

Continued on Page 3

Council Representatives; Clara Raju, MCCPTA Delegate. Additionally, thanks to Dawn Dolan for her work as our Northeast Consortium Coordinator. Please also thank those who will continue on to lead the PTSA in the future - Robina Barlow, former VP and incoming President; Bill Halpin, MCCPTA Delegate; Lee Ann Doerflinger, Northeast Consortium Coordinator; and hopefully Diane Bush, NEC Representative.

Just as important, I have to say goodbye to all those senior students and parents who will be leaving Blake this year. You may not have the need to be here every day anymore, but we hope that you will stay in our community supporting the Bengals sports teams; coming to concerts, art shows, & plays; getting involved in the Blake Alumni Foundation and voting for county initiatives that support our students.

Time to Say Hello...

On May 19th, the general membership elected our current Vice President Robina Barlow as you new PTSA President for 2009-2010. Having worked with Robina for the last two years I can assure you that she will work vigorously to provide our students with the best opportunities available. We also elected newcomers Beth Blevins, Vice President (you all know Beth from her work on Comedy night), Brenda Pullen (our Back to School Night Teachers' Dinner team leader) as Treasurer, and Ginger Ager (our Arts Festival Food coordinator) as Secretary. If you have interest in being a Delegate to the county PTSA, a Cluster Coordinator for Northeast Consortium, or an additional Vice President please do not hesitate to contact Robina or me.

For some of you this is your first Blake Blue Note. Welcome to James Hubert Blake High School. The community at Blake is dependent on parent involvement. There are lots of ways that you can get involved. Sports Boosters. PTSA. Band Boosters. Theater Parents. Team Parents. Ride Sharing. After School Activities. Homework Helpers. Within the PTSA we have a variety of teams needing you to step up and get involved. I have included a list of possibilities at the end of this article. The new Board will probably create and delete some of these teams. Please pick at least one and return half to your PTSA – either pass it along to an officer, send it to school, or return it to the school office.

To all of those folks who have given so generously to our efforts – stay in touch!

Jack Goble,

President, James Hubert Blake PTSA 2007-2009

jackwgoble@yahoo.com

c(202) 716-1275

Another year has come and gone and the Blake Student Government Association owes many heart-felt thank yous to the PTSA, Administration, Principal Goodman, and the Blake students and community for this year's successes.

The SGA hosted Blake's most successful blood drive ever April 22 thanks to Inova Health Systems and the generosity of students and staff—over 102 registered donors helped this great cause!

As the year winds down, the SGA Environmental Committee is still hard at work planning for the first annual Earth Night, which will take place June 5 from 7-9pm in the cafeteria. The Night will feature dinner catered by a local organic producer, carnival-style presentations on different environmental issues, prizes, and an Environmental PSA video produced by Eubie TV. Be sure to come out for this environmentally friendly and fun event!

Blake High School was awarded the 2009 Marriott Spirit to Serve Community Service award May 5. The award recognizes volunteers, groups and schools whose efforts have provided outstanding service to Montgomery County. Blake was honored thanks to the efforts of the SGA, Leo Club, STAND, Students for Social Justice, NHS, and other service organizations for activities including but not limited to various school supply, food and toy drives; local clean ups; a sandwich making project that delivered over 1,000 sandwiches to DC Central Kitchen; two Blood Drives with INOVA Hospital; the Nike Reuse a Shoe Program; Walk for the Homeless; and making and selling bracelets for the Students Taking Action Now: Darfur group. Blake SGA organized the Pennies for Patients campaign in which students helped numerous individuals afflicted with blood cancers and educated the school community about blood cancers and the services of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. They sponsored a Bengal Ball Tournament, Dance for a Chance and organized three restaurant nights. These efforts raised over \$12,000.

The SGA would like to especially thank SGA sponsors Erinn Rigney and Dustin Jeter, the SGA Executive Board, as well as this year's officer team:

Presidents Alexander Blocker & Ethan Soodak
Vice Presidents Travis Rogers & Claire Murphy
Treasurer Michael Powers
Executive Secretary Tomiko Mason

The SGA also congratulates next year's elected officers:

President Jennifer Lien
Treasurer Linda Powers

Dates for SGA 2009-2010 staff interviews for the remaining unfilled positions will be announced soon. Position descriptions can be found at www.BlakeSGA.org. All are encouraged to apply!

--Tomiko Mason, Executive Secretary, Blake SGA

For parents of in-coming 9th graders, there are a number of things we suggest to make sure your child has a smooth transition into high school. The summer before high school is an excellent time for students to work on their Student Service Learning hours (SSL). Our SSL coordinator Ms. Erinn Rigney may be accessed by the school website for suggestions and information. Ensuring students read regularly, in addition to their summer reading assignment, is the very best way to build vocabulary skills and eventually help them meet their maximum potential on standardized tests as well as in the classroom. Nothing is more of an indicator of school success than kids who read for pleasure. Please encourage your kids to read.

We offer a unique summer program that is an incredible opportunity for in-coming 9th grade students. "High School 101" is an opportunity for in-coming 9th grade students to get a jump-start academically and socially to all aspects of high school. There are four one week sessions running from July 6 until July 31 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:15 pm. I strongly encourage in-coming 9th graders to participate in the program, particularly those coming from private schools, who may not know as many of their in-coming classmates. Additional information can be found on our website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/blakehs/>

When we ask current 9th graders what they would tell new 9th graders, it always follows a few themes including: "Do your homework." "Keep up with your work." "Get involved in school activities; sports and clubs." "Get to class on time." "Follow school rules." "Tell an adult if you are having a problem." "Ask for help when you need it; your teachers really want you to do well." If our in-coming students heed this advice, they are sure to have a smooth transition and positive and productive high school years.

The final exam review day for 9th, 10th and 11th grade students is Monday, June 8. Exams are mandatory and two hours in length for English, math, science, social studies, foreign language and some computer classes. Exams start Tuesday, June 9 for periods 1 and 2, **Wednesday, June 10, school is closed for graduation**, Thursday, June 11 periods 3 and 4, Friday, June 12 periods 5 and 6 and Monday, June 15 period 7 and make up exams. Make-up exams are by appointment only and continue on Tuesday, June 16. Students are not expected to come to school when they do not have an exam. Students who are not attending graduation are encouraged to use June 10 as an exam review day. It is extremely difficult to honor requests for students to take

exams early as teachers will be in class and will not have two hour blocks of time to monitor student exams. The exam schedule is included in this issue of the Blake Blue Note.

An important packet of information will arrive in homes the first week in August for all returning and new students. It will include important information about calendars, activities, bus transportation, fees, testing dates, accommodations information, PTSA information, free and reduced meal information and a host of other important items. Please keep the packet for reference throughout the year.

Fall sports practices begin on Saturday, August 15. Orientation for in-coming 9th graders is Thursday, August 27. Students will board the buses and participate in a half day program where they will go through their actual schedule, learn about activities and get a sense of what they can anticipate at Blake High School. On August 27 there is also an informational meeting for 9th grade parents at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. The first day of school for students is Monday, August 31, 2009.

Summer reading information is on the Blake website; I strongly urge students to begin this important process early in the summer and not put it off until the last minute. Summer reading is an MCPS requirement and a way to reinforce the importance of reading to our students.

And so with the ending of this school year, we continue, graduating our ninth class and looking forward to welcoming the class of 2013. Have a safe, relaxing and happy summer; the fall will be upon us before we know it!

⌘

Blake Teacher Receives Excellence in Teaching Award from Johns Hopkins University

Fred Katz, a business education teacher at James Hubert Blake High School, has been chosen to receive the *Excellence in Teaching Award* for the Carey School of Business at Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Katz has been on the faculty of Johns Hopkins Carey Business School for seven years teaching graduate business courses in their Masters of Science in Marketing and Masters in Business Administration (MBA) programs. Mr. Katz will be honored at a Cary Business School Awards Ceremony on May 14th at the Berman Auditorium in the Downtown Center in Baltimore.

Magical Journey 2009! After the After-Prom

By all accounts, Blake Juniors, Seniors and their prom dates had a great time at the After-Prom at Dave & Buster's! It seemed that every game, table and corner of the facility was filled with students enjoying the evening. It's hard to say if any one activity was the hit of the night. During their arrival and throughout the night, our 733 guests were entertained by Magician **George Bradley**. He performed some amazing magic tricks and gave out gift cards to lucky recipients. The game room was swarmed with students playing on the video games and machines. The food buffet of chicken tenders and mini burgers as well as cookies and brownies was a huge hit!

The photo keychain makers turned out over 500 individual or group shots. The tattoo "parlor" was busy all night as well! All the tables-pool tables, casino tables and even shuffleboard were well-utilized. As lucky winners were announced during the night, students eagerly reported to the prize area to see what they had won. Of course, no one went home empty handed! Whether it was a night of memories, a photo, a prize, a can of OLE Energy Drink or a t-shirt, Blake students took a Magical Journey at After-Prom '09!

It took a village

The true success of any event lies in its people. Many thanks to all parents, contributors and helpers for taking a proactive role in creating a safe and memorable night for our teens! From those who put forth their time and/or talent to the 170 families who made a financial donation, all were equally needed to host this event. The many volunteers who helped out on the night of the event were invaluable! A list of our donors (families and businesses) appears in this issue as well. A very special thanks to our t-shirt sponsors- **Class of '09, Fitzgerald Auto Malls and Shoppers Food and Pharmacy**. Thank you to **George Bradley**, Magician Extraordinaire, for donating his time, to the **Arrendell family** for their very generous donation of prizes, and to alumni Dad **Paul Burleson** for his donation of many cases of OLE Energy drink! Congrats to the winner of the t-shirt design contest- Class of '09 member **Brendan Lipton**! The following Blake staff members played a part in our event! Thanks to: **the Building Services staff, Mr. Berry, Ms. Garlick, Ms. Gelb, Mr. Harper, Ms. Hartenstine, Mr. Heller, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Knott, Ms. McIntosh, Ms. O'Donnell, Mr. Overman, Ms. Padilla, Ms. Pumphrey, Ms. Wepasnick, Ms. White, Ms. White-Prillman, and Ms. Vargo** for lending a hand. We would also like to thank **Mr. Hyman** for supporting our pizza sale week after week!

Planning Committee

None of this would have been possible without a dedicated group of volunteers who attended monthly meetings and toiled behind the scenes! Those committee members whose youngest child is a graduating senior are marked with a *. THANK YOU all for your dedication to the students at

Blake High School!

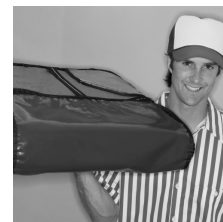
Co-Chairs- Dawn Borchers* and Laura Matussek*
Activities (partially funded by a Montgomery County Under 21 Grant)- Eric Sattler*
Check-in and tickets- Laura Matussek and Dawn Borchers
Communications- Paula Cameron*
Decorations and signs- Nancy Murray* and Mary Flynn
Dine Out Nights- Leigh Leslie and Julie Ramirez*
Fundraising- A group effort!
MCPPG rep- Heidi Kalkofen
Pizza Sale Coordinator- Maura McMullen and Paula Cameron
Prizes- Billie Martin*, Dawn Borchers and Laura Matussek
Race for a Dream chair- Lisa Lomke*
T-shirt contest- Dawn Borchers and Theresa Cali
Treasurer- Diane Bush
Volunteer Coordinators- Maura McMullen and Eric Sattler

We encourage you to get involved with After-Prom 2010! We are looking for energetic and enthusiastic individuals who are interested in carrying on the legacy of this event! Any amount of time that you can help out is appreciated! See you at Back to School Night!!

The After-Prom committee sold Pizza Boli's pizza after school once a week as part of our fundraising plan. This extremely popular fundraiser would not have been successful without the many volunteers who helped during the year:

Robina Barlow, Dawn Borchers, Diane Bush, Paula Cameron, Jack Goble, Laura Matussek, Maura McMullen, Nancy Murray, Cathy Clark, Mary and Bob Flynn, Gay Kimble, Ginger Ager, and Eric Sattler

Thanks so much to Pizza Boli's for being the Official Pizza Supplier of the Blake After-Prom Committee! The pizza was always hot and ready for pick up when we needed it. Pizza Boli's is located at the corner of Old Columbia Pike and Fairland Road. 301-384-8900.



A Warm Thank-You from a Grateful Parent...

I want to express my appreciation for the Blake After-Prom, and for the volunteers and organizers who make it happen. It shows a caring and commitment to my child's welfare that so much thought and effort is put into creating an experience that kids will want to have. This is an outlet for youthful exuberance and after-prom adrenalin that is safe, fun, and memorable. It is also thoughtful and special that the seniors have the opportunity to spend this time with the junior class, with whom they have shared classes for three years or more, and the juniors can see off their senior friends. Kids don't feel cheated by having gone to After-Prom at Dave and Busters; instead they feel special. I can't help thinking about the less savory activities that were the after-prom goal for some at my high school, and the way such things are hyped even in "family-friendly" television shows. I am so grateful that I don't have to worry about that for my daughter and her friends. Keep up the good work, for my daughter next year and for all the students at Blake.

Valerie Martindale, Mother of a Blake Junior

AIDA Comes to Blake: Cast and Crew Members Welcome!

The Blake Stage company will house a Musical Theatre Summer Institute at Blake from June 29 thru July 25th as they partner with Disney Theatricals once more to present the new edition of Elton John's and Tim rice's sensational Rock Musical *AIDA*.

The Institute will also feature students from other high schools who will be participating. This includes performers from Wootton, DeMatha, Paint Branch, Sandy Spring Friends, and Kennedy High Schools.

The Institute will be in its first year and will fall under the leadership of Michael D'Anna who directs our outstanding stage company as well as Johnathan Dunn who is the school's musical director extraordinaire. John Ovington will provide instruction for technical students seeking to build a resume for college or the professional world. The Institute will provide in-depth training in vocals, acting, dance, design, and performance for every student. Pre-shows to *AIDA* will be given in order to show-off the development of every student in this institute.

The cost of \$400 is far less expensive than any summer program in the state. Students will work six hours per day at a cost that is less than \$3 per hour for all the time set aside in classes and performances combined.

We still need more cast and crew members. Students may write Mr. D'Anna for more information at: Michel_D_D'Anna@mcpsmd.org or call at 301-879-1327. While we would love to wrap up who will be involved and who will not be involved in our Institute by June 8th, please note that we will take students all the way up to the institute's start. Proceeds from the Institute will support other Blake Stage Company programs.

Performing Arts Institute for Middle Schoolers

The Blake High School Performing Arts Institute offers students in grades 6 thru 8 an opportunity to develop their skills in all of the performing arts. We'll be concentrating on acting, vocalizing, dancing, performing, and design during each two-week session. Sessions will end with a performance of work students have developed over the duration of the institute.

The Institute is planned by Blake staff members Michael D'Anna and Johnathan Dunn and will be led by professionals in the field. Our rates are lower than any other summer offering and we plan to develop a better program.

Sessions will be held in June from June 29 – July 10 and then July 13 – July 24

If interested check the Blake Website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/blakehs/> or write Michel_D_D'Anna@mcpsmd.org for a registration form.

Signature Honors Outstanding Students at Arts and Humanities Festival

Congratulations to the Outstanding Students in the Signature Program of Blake High School recognized at the recent Arts and Humanities Festival. The honorees included:

Colleen Murray of the Theatre Department
Alexander Taub of the Instrumental Music Department
Anna Baker of the Choral Music Department
Danielle Carter of the Dance Department
Laura Brady of the Visual Arts Department
Ben Schnapp of the Media Arts Department.

All the honorees received cash awards as well as the honor of having their names added to our Arts and Humanities Plaque in the Trophy Case which recognizes our top Signature students at each year's Festival of the Arts.

Race for a Dream Great Success

The 5th Annual Race for a Dream 5K Run/3K Walk was held on Sunday, May 3, 2009. Even though the rain dampened the course, it didn't dampen the spirits of the dedicated runners and walkers who came out to support Blake's After Prom. I would like to thank everyone for coming out to support this important event and to recognize this year's chairs, as well as our volunteers and alumni parents, without whom the day could not be possible.

I would like to thank Janice Hylton, who was in charge of our corporate sponsors. She did a fantastic job soliciting donations again this year.

Thank you to Blake staff Susan Knott and John Overman, who worked to get this event advertised on our website and on Eubie TV. And thank you also to Sarah Lomke, who manned a student registration table during lunch, and who sent Race for a Dream invitations to all 800+ of her Facebook friends.

Chris Schenk, was kind enough to take over the logistics of the Race Course again this year. Erinn Rigney, was the keeper of the Race for a Dream closet, and also drummed up student participants through the SGA, along with helping to make sure things ran smoothly the day of the race. Thank you both!

Kelli Ostrow, thank you for once again managing the first aid/water station. Your expertise is invaluable.

Thank you to Margie McNabb who took over registration duties this year, with the help of Debbie Stuart.

Thank you, Diane Bush for agreeing to be Race Treasurer again this year.

Jenny Toy took care of our prizes again. Thank you for handling this important detail.

Lisa Hedgepeth once again brought us bananas and oranges from Safeway and Marcie and Stuart Kramer woke up at the crack of dawn to pick up bagels from Panera. Thank you.

Victor Toy volunteered for clean-up detail again this year. It's a thankless job, but we really appreciate your help.

Stephanie Evers once again took over the parking logistics and kept all the participants safe.

Thank goodness for our wonderful Boosters. Without them, we'd have no decorations! Thank you Laura Metusek for making this happen. And thank you to Mark Wannan for once again providing water to our runners and walkers.

Thanks to *Fractured Prune* in Cloverly for donating six dozen of their amazing just-out-of-the-oven donuts for the race volunteers. This is the 4th year they have generously provided donuts. A special thanks to *Fractured Prune's* community-minded owners, Janice and Kevin Bland, for keeping up the tradition this year.

Thanks to the *Safeway* in Cloverly for donating the bananas and oranges and to *Panera* for the dozens of bagels they both provided for the last five years.

And of course there are those precious former Blake parents, who want to keep on helping. Kathie Stobie, you are amazing. You provided our volunteers with donuts the morning of the Race and helped remind me of important details that I'd missed. Thank you to Paul Burleson, announcer extraordinaire, who reprised his role again this year; and thank you to DJ Ben Schnapp, who did a terrific job at the post-race festivities.

We cannot forget to thank our sponsors:

- State Farm Insurance Corporate Office
- State Farm Agent Cindi Scafide
- Pacers Running Stores
- I Drive Smart
- Round House Theatre
- Katelyn and Emily Toy

Please support the area businesses that support Blake High School.

The generosity of the community has been wonderful and paired with the unfailing support of Blake's principal, Carole Goodman, Blake's PTSA, and the Blake Boosters, it made for a successful fundraising event.

Thank you all for everything.

Lisa Lomke, Race for a Dream Chairperson



Blake Booster Club

We are looking for a few good volunteers!

We value our parents here at Blake High School. Without you, we would not be able to accomplish all that we do in the Booster Club. Over the years we have been able to purchase larger, better scoreboards for the gym, football and track stadiums, and build dugouts and press boxes. We support the Athletic Department in the maintenance of the extensive athletic fields at Blake. We contribute funds each year to the After Prom Event and National Honor Society, the Blake Beat newspaper, and many other ways.

This is a critical year in the life of our Booster Club. Several very key volunteers will be leaving this June as their youngest child graduates from Blake. We need several new or seasoned volunteers to step in and take over some of the duties these parents have performed in the past. Now is the time to step in and leave your mark at Blake.

The following positions are critically in need:

- Back to School Night – One or two parents to organize Blake’s presence at the Back-to-School Table Fair. Blake spirit wear is usually offered as an incentive for donations to the Booster Club. With the help of another 5 volunteers, set up and organize the table with signage, Spiritwear and Booster Club membership forms.
- Volunteers Coordinator – set up volunteers for concessions for each sporting event. Pick a season or team and be sure parents are properly trained and aware of their duties and are notified/reminded in advance of their scheduled service.
- Bengal Golf Tournament – this is a huge undertaking best suited to a small committee of volunteers. Coordinate small sub-committees that take on small parts of the overall task; sign-making, food, prizes, etc
- Concessions Stock Manager - Year-round shopping at Sam’s or Costco for the concession stands - Prep the football or gymnasium stand each week - multiple volunteers working as a team would suit this job - maintaining inventory – equipment purchases. The Football Concessions crew is very strong with returning crew ready and able to work all of the 5 or 6 home games. You would just keep the stand running smooth and stocked. The actual concessions work is done by the Crew and by various groups of team parents.
- Mulch Sale – After the Golf Tournament and Concessions, this is our largest fundraiser in the spring. The coordinator supervises a group of parents and administrators who work to be sure the Sale is advertised, staffed with drivers and students.
- Treasurer - Maintains the books and bank account of

the Booster Club. Working knowledge of QuickBooks is a plus. Pays bills and deposits sales and donations. As a member of the Booster Board – reports bi-monthly the financial results of Booster Club operations.

- Membership Director – organizes the Fall Membership Drive – prepares the Booster Mailing (sent with the school mass mailing in August), determines new membership incentives and levels (we’ve given stadium seats and umbrellas in the past), maintains membership lists and the Booster email list.

WE REALLY NEED YOU AND WE NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER!! Our next (and last) meeting of the year is June 1 at 7 PM in the Amphitheater. PLEASE COME.

If you can’t make it and still want to jump in with both feet, leave us an email at Blakebooster@comcast.net. Or even better call me at 301-651-7828. We’ll talk about where we can best use your talents and energy.

Blake Music Boosters

Did you know that there’s more than one Booster organization at Blake?

Our musicians at Blake have enjoyed being part of the Roaring Bengals Marching Band which marched down 5th Avenue in New York for the largest St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the world; performed in New Orleans at the Nokia Sugar Bowl; lead the parade in Jacksonville for the Minolta Gator Bowl; joined numerous small ensembles like the sax quartet, brass quintet, Dixieland Band, string quartets, woodwind ensembles, and have found rewarding places in our large ensembles like the Blake Chamber Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, and Wind Ensemble.

The Blake Music Departments (instrumental and choral) are supported by the Blake Music Boosters. We provide fundraising and administrative support for the music departments.

Our goal is to make sure that our students have the music, instruments and equipment they need and to allow our wonderful Music Teachers to focus on teaching!

Music Boosters support the purchase of new instruments, repairing existing instruments, purchasing costumes and more! We are looking for new ways to raise funds for our fabulous musicians and we need your help. Look for more information over the summer – or contact blakemusicboosters@yahoo.com for more information.

Counseling Center News

Current 11th, 10th, 9th and incoming 8th graders: Course selection letters were mailed home. Please review the letter carefully and contact your counselor if there are any mistakes by Friday, June 5th.

Seniors:

Make sure that you speak with Mrs. Moore, the college/career coordinator regarding your college or career plans. We want to know what every graduate will be doing next year!

Good Luck in all your future endeavors!

Juniors:

This summer is the time to complete your SSL hours. Please do not wait until your senior year to complete your required community service hours. In fact, do more than the minimum – shoot for 260 SSL hours to earn a Certificate of Meritorious Service upon graduation. College admission officers are impressed by students who give back to the community and get involved.

In the fall you will be focusing your time and energy on researching and applying to colleges, so get those SSL hours done over the summer. If you have any questions or need suggestions, see Ms. Rigney in Room B230 or view

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>.

BIG CHANGES for Fall 2009 admissions to University of Maryland College Park. UMCP has moved up the application date for admissions to November 1st. This priority deadline is for all Honors, Special Programs and Merit Scholarships. Applications will be available on their website around mid-July. www.umd.edu. There is also a new part one application, choose 2 out of 6 essay questions (300 words per essay). This will replace the “niche” questions.

Over the summer you should contact your Counselor to make your “Senior Commitment Appointment”. At this appointment you will be going over colleges that you’re interested using Naviance, learning how to ask for recommendation letters from teachers, transcript requests, and how to apply to the colleges through Blake HS. Please email or call your counselor directly for an appointment. You can prepare over the summer by completing the Student and Parent Brag Sheets on Naviance and brainstorming a list of colleges, (doesn't have to be your "final" list).

Register for the SAT or ACT for the Fall Testing.
www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org

Sophomores:

Start thinking about preparing for the PSAT for the October testing. You may qualify for scholarships based on your scores from this test.

Freshman:

Introduce yourself to your new counselor for the 09-10 school year.

Christina Gelb -- 10th-12th A - Bri and G – Haug

Jeannette Hayes -- 10th-12th Bro - F

Nancy Rossini -- 10th -12th Hawk - Ko

Jean Smith -- 10th-12th Kr - Pa

Kim Tolbert -- 10th-12th Pe-Thomas

Bernadette White -- 10th-12th Thompson-Z

Incoming Eighth Graders:

College and Career Center

Summer is a good time for SAT prep! Classes will be offered by Montgomery College Workforce Development & Continuing Education at four different locations in Montgomery County. For class schedule, registration form and other details, visit:

www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/ce/satprepclasses.html.

Classes are held Monday through Thursday during the month of July and the cost to Maryland residents is \$275.

KAPLAN offers SAT Prep at Blake HS this summer – 12 classes at 2:00 pm on Sundays for \$699 (a \$400 savings off the regular price) 7/12-10/4/09 or 12 classes on Saturday & Sunday at 10:00 a.m., 8/15 – 9/27/09. Instructional sessions are 2.5 hrs; 4 test sessions at 4 hrs in length.

Register online at www.kaptest.com/college or call 1-800-KAP-TEST. Session one class code is SABT9033 and session two class code is SABT9067.

For the self-motivated student, here are some free SAT or ACT practice sites:

<http://www.number2.com>

<http://www.collegeboard.com>

<http://www.actexampracticetests.com>

Attention parents of Sophomores and Juniors

Please make sure your students take advantage of the upcoming summer months to prepare for the SAT and ACT. MCPS is providing two **free** online prep resources that students can use at any time to prepare for both the SAT and ACT. One resource is the College Board course—please note it will only be available through June. The other source is Final Prep. To access these resources, visit the MCPS homepage,

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, and click on the

“students” tab. The link for these resources is in the top left hand corner. Directions for how to access the sites are

Continued on page 9

clearly stated. Students can pace themselves through the online course, but encourage them to set goals for themselves such as 1-2 hours per week for SAT/ACT Prep. REALITY CHECK website helps H.S. students realize the need for a "career" - This website allows high school students to explore the costs involved with living on your own and stresses the need for a career. They will learn about occupations that interest them and the salaries relative to those careers. Visit "Reality Check" at <http://www.cdr.state.tx.us/realitycheck/start.htm>.

Are you ready for college? Here's a website that will help you find out: www.knowhow2go.org.

HS 101

This is a great way to ease fears of the first day of High School. HIGH SCHOOL 101 is designed to help incoming Blake students transition to high school. The one-week program will prepare students for the academic and social challenges of the high school environment. Students receive daily preparation in reading and math skills and participate in workshops that foster connections between students and Blake staff. Activities provide students with an opportunity for goal setting and self-inventory in preparation for a successful high school experience.

SESSION 1: July 6 – July 10
SESSION 2: July 13 – July 17
SESSION 3: July 20 – July 24
SESSION 4: July 27 – July 31

[NOTE: Sessions offered through High School 101 are not for credit.]

Daily Schedule: 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Monday through Friday

ELIGIBILITY Students currently in 8th grade who will be attending James H. Blake High School in the fall of 2009 are eligible to participate in this program.

TRANSPORTATION School bus transportation will be available (pick-up and drop-off) at Northeast Consortium elementary, middle and high school sites.

FEES Cost is \$ 65.00 per one week session. Students may attend more than one session. Tuition assistance is available to eligible participants.

ENROLLMENT: Applications and directions for enrollment are available in the Blake Main Office or on the Blake website:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/blakehs/HS101/index.htm>

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Barbara Jeweler, Academy Coordinator 301.879-1369 or Butch Hilliard, Athletic Director 301.879-1333.

Blake Beat Named #1 Student Newspaper in the USA

James Hubert Blake High School's student newspaper, The Beat was named as the best high school newspaper in the USA in a contest run by Weekly Reader and the Association of Educational Publishers. The award is based on the judges' evaluation of the December 2008 edition alone.

This year's Beat staff has been led by Editors-in-Chief Tiko Mason and Kelly Shih; Associate Editors Ryan Arrendell, Alex Blocker, Talia Chicherio, Christina deGraft-Johnson, Nick Foley, Melissa Goldberg, Amelia Holgash, Ian Nyanin, Andrew Padgett, Molly Wallace, and Erin Washburn; Director of Computer Operations Justin Pereira; and Directors of Photography Steven Sites and Sacha Vega.

Other members of the 2008-2009 Blake Beat staff are Bronte Abell, Brittany Beecroft, Laura Brady, Megan Bush, Morgan Cali, Anna Ching, Louisa Clarke, Jasmine Cogdell, Merissa Dyer, Rui Fu, Shannon Gale, April Hartman, Isaac Hirsch, Kylie Horn, Patrick Howe, Ben Hostetter, Linda Hwang, Arieyl Jones, Christine League, Sarah Levitt, Christine Lien, Brendan Lipton, Maureen Madden, Ben Martin, Jeremy McDonald, Hannah Mellman, Kirsten Petersen, Luan Pham, Joey Samowitz, Jay Sharma, Melanie Spaid, Hayley Steffen, Samantha Steinfeld, Suzanne Walls, and Jonathan Yuen.

The AEP also recognized The Beat as the nation's top high school newspaper in 2006.



The Blake Beat is advised by journalism teacher Kevin Keegan.

AFTER-PROM 2009 - PARENT DONATIONS

Thank you to the following Blake families who generously donated to the After-Prom.
 Donations from Blake families and the community are vital to the success of our event!

<u>EUBIE \$100 +</u>	<u>BENGAL \$75</u>	<u>SILVER \$50</u> <u>(continued)</u>	<u>BLUE \$35 (continued)</u>
Bartell	Barrington	Martin	Larkin
Berger/Sweeney	Corcoran	McGugan	Leidman/Stanfill
Bong	Deschler	McManus	Levillain
Bush	Ferra	Metzger	Levitt
Coll	Frame	Miliszaukas	Lipshultz
Damskey	Gamez	Padgett	Livesay
Dunlap	Hoffman	Pena	Murray
Elie	Johnson/Challingsworth	Plafker	Obando
Fischetti	Lyons	Prather	Pistolessi
Fisher	McCrone	Rehman	Pressley
Fling	McKenna	Rickford	Price
Grenaldo	Poe	Robledo	Ramsey/Butler
Hacker	Purich	Rogers	Robichaud
Hawley	Reed	Steele	Russell
Hostetter	Russell/Kalkofen	Toledo	Sasser
Hughes	Smith	Wetzel	Sasser
Joiner	Spence-Gale		Sitz
Kerner	Suh		Steele
Kisliuk		<u>BLUE \$35</u>	Stratigis
Leslie/Curdts		Arancibia	Wallace
Levillain	<u>SILVER \$50</u>	Austin	Washburn
Ligon	Atatsi	Baker	Werfel
Marshall	Blocker	Baker	Whitaker
Matusek	Brennan	Barnett	White
McIntyre	Callahan	Berg	Wilbur
McMullen	Carr	Bessel	
McNabb	Clark	Carter	<u>OTHER</u>
McNamara	Clark	Catucci	Avalos
Munson	DeBernardis	Dawes	Berg
Norberg, C.	Dionne	DeBalzo/Kennedy	Chapman
Norberg, J.	Dowdall	DeMarco	Foley
Parker	Escobar	DiPasquale	Hayes
Peko/Spicer	Exis	Dysland	Howe
Perry	Flynn	Engle	Katzman/Ando
Prindle	Freeman	Fuchs	Marinucci
Romano	Giles	Gates	Mellish
Romig	Hawvermale	Gottlieb	Newman
Schmidt	Hedgepeth	Gratton	Porzel
Shaw	Holgash	Hartman	Rizzo
Stevens	Ingeholm	Hudson	Rosen
Tatnall	Kimble	Hylton	Sigwalt
Taub	Klingner	Johnson	Steinman
Wannen	Macy	Kerrick	Watt
Zebrowski	Madden	Kramer	

THANK YOU

AFTER-PROM 2009 BUSINESS DONATIONS

Many thanks to the following businesses who supported After Prom with their generous donations!

Please support them and let them know important their help is to the success of After Prom.

AFI Silver Theatre
Borchers Mechanical Services
Blake Boosters
Blueberry Gardens
Calverton Swim Club
Chipotle Mexican Grill
Class of 2009, J.H. Blake High School
Cloverly Safeway
Dr. Larry Cohen, DDS
Cold Stone Creamery
Cricket Book Shop
Cuba de Ayer
David Eskow, DDS PC
Drs. Mennitt & Daly, P.A.
Fairland Animal Hospital, Inc.
Fitzgerald's Lakeforest Motors, Inc.
George Bradley, Magician
Giant Food, Burtonsville
Giant Food, Colesville
Hoover-Fisher Florist, Inc.
Knights of Columbus, Olney
Ledos Pizza - Colesville
Lions Club of Olney
Luxuria Salon and Spa
Mamma Lucia of Olney
Music Boosters, J.H. Blake High School
Olney Grille
Olney Rotary Club
PBE Hillandale, LLC
Pizza Boli's
Sears Tuxedo
Seibel's Restaurant
Shoppers Food and Pharmacy
Syphany LLC D/B/A/ Subway
Tiara Galleries & Gifts
Tracer Inc., Barbara Damskey
Urban BBQ
Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation

Band Meeting – June 9th, 7:00pm

Join us for a very important meeting for all band students and parents. We will be discussing the benefits of being in band, fundraising, the spring performance tour to Disney World, Marching Band, The Music Booster Club, and more. Don't miss this vital gathering.

Take a moment and remember why being part of the Blake Band Program is so important...

Ironically, it is often the continuation of musical studies that serves as the transitional key to success. Being a member of a music ensemble ensures instant acceptance in a respected organization at the onset of each academic year. A group of supporting friends is already established with a firm sense of "belonging".

There is more to it. As a parent, you need to know that:

- There is a high correlation between positive self-perception, high cognitive competence scores, healthy self-esteem, total interest in school activities and the study of music.
- College Admission officers give special consideration to students who are part of their high school music programs, have continued music for four years, and have a diverse educational experience.
- The longer and individual studies music, the higher his/her scores tend to be on both the verbal and math portions of the SAT examination.

We have an award winning tradition at Blake with numerous community performances, superior ratings at festivals, trophies and accolades from numerous organizations; and recognition from the State of Maryland. The dedicated student musicians and supporting families are what makes our program special here at Blake.



Parents of seniors!

If your last child is leaving Blake (sob), and you are on the list to not receive the BBN by mail, please send a message with your child's name and zip code to blakebluenote@yahoo.com so we can take you off the list. Thanks!

Especially for incoming 9th grade parents: Subscribe to Eubiemail - the Blake listserve -- and stay informed! Send a message with your name and your student's name and grade to eubiemail2003@yahoo.com

If you would like to receive the Blake Blue Note by eubiemail and not get a hard copy in the mail (save trees, time and postage!) please send your child's name, zip code and your child's graduation year to blakebluenote@yahoo.com.

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

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MAILING LABEL HERE

PTSA DUES HELP PAY FOR
THIS NEWSLETTER