



# Blake Blue Note

March 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**

“Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.” ...[Albert Camus](#)

## SILENT AUCTION

Its Silent Auction time and your PTSA needs your help. Any new item great or small will be appreciated. We are really hoping to find some folks who would donate their vacation homes for a week or weekend when not in use. (You set the parameters) Businesses or services that need to reach the Blake community have a terrific opportunity to help the PTSA. Each club or team can create a basket or service that would benefit the winning bidder. Ask your civic organization, local lodge, church, or scout troop if they might consider sponsoring an item or basket. Crafters and Artists we would love to have your handmade items. (All the better if they have a Blake or Bengal theme) Students if your artwork can be reprinted we would love to include it. A donation box will be found in the main office at Blake or you can contact me at 301-622-7924 for pick up.

Proceeds from the auction go to help fund year end PTSA activities including Scholarships, Staff Appreciation,

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## Principal's Corner

Carole C. Goodman

MCPS has rolled out a new initiative called *Seven Keys to College Readiness* which is a K-12 trajectory to get all students on track for college. It is a guide and not an absolute, but by analyzing data, they are able to determine predictors of success. There were few surprises for me as I was pleased to see that the high school keys were very much a part of our school culture and our School Improvement Plan. The goal is to have all MCPS schools looking at how beginning at kindergarten, they can get student ready for college.

The Seven Keys are:

- Advanced reading in Grades K-2
- Advanced reading MSA in Grades 3-8
- Advanced math in Grade 5
- Algebra 1 by Grade 8, “C” or higher
- Algebra 2 by Grade 11, “C” or higher
- 3 on AP exam, 4 on IB exam
- 1650 SAT, 24 ACT

A great deal more information will be forthcoming and there is a Parent Academy Workshop scheduled at White Oak MS for NEC parents on Wednesday April 22 from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. to answer parent questions.

A challenge with the long month of March, prior to Spring Break, is keeping students from getting mid-winter doldrums, particularly student-athletes whose season is over. Parents need to remind students that there is no good time to slack off during the school year; it is critically important for students to pace themselves and continue to get their work done and practice good work ethics and study habits. Even seniors who have already been accepted into their colleges need to remember that colleges monitor those later grades in senior year. In extreme cases, students have lost their admission status based on poor grades due to shutting down and thinking once they are in to a

School Gift, and the Renaissance Student Rewards program. It also generates the money needed to start next year's PTSA and pay for the year end and the new year's newsletter.

### ARTS FESTIVAL

On April 17<sup>th</sup> Blake High School will be holding its annual Arts & Humanities Festival. Mark your calendars now. Most of the schools performing groups, visual artists, and musicians will be showcasing their works. Your PTSA encourages you to bring the whole family out to this free event. The above mentioned Silent Auction will also be featured at this event. We hope that you can bring a crowd of folks to see the FANTASTIC work done by our students and teachers, as well as, people interested in the OUTSTANDING bargains to be found at the auction.

### CONSORTIUM or NO CONSORTIUM

The county, the school board, and the Northeast Consortium have been reviewing the efficacy of both the Down County and Northeast Consortium. While the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) Report on the Cost and Performance of Montgomery County Public Schools' High School Consortia made conclusions based on budgets and performance criteria, they failed to seek input from the primary stakeholders; YOU, YOUR KIDS, OUR TEACHERS, OUR ALUMNI, or the local community in general. While the time has not come to flood the County Council with letters supporting or critiquing the consortia, I am encouraging you to start having the conversation. Talk with other parents, administrators, teachers, community members, and local officials on how the NEC has helped your child. Alumni parents – success stories might really help! At the very least we need to voice that our voices were not heard, and that even in a time of high economic strain people need to part of the process.

The whole report can be found at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/csltmlp.asp?url=/Content/council/olo/reports/2008.asp>

Some questions that you might consider...

1) Is the consortium "worth it"? Has the investment of time and money paid off for our students?

2) How have the signature programs changed and evolved since the beginning of the consortium? Are students still attracted to those programs?

3) Have we met the goals of academic achievement and demographic integration that were set when the NEC was formed?

As your PTSA leadership we would like to know your opinions on the consortium please let us know. Hope to see you at another terrific Blake High School event very soon!

Jack Goble, President, Blake PTSA  
[jackwgoble@yahoo.com](mailto:jackwgoble@yahoo.com)  
h) 301-622-79824 c)202-716-1275

### HELP WANTED

**Graduation Buses still needs:**  
Organizer & Scheduler

**Silent Auction Committee still needs:**  
Organizers - 4 two hour meetings + tasks as determined  
Solicitors - as much time as you can give  
Mailers - 5 hours or so  
Advertising - 5 hours or so  
Basket Makers - 5 evenings before the event  
Set up - 5 hours on the day of the event  
Table Workers - ideally 2 1 hour shifts at the event  
Checkout Clerks - 3 hours at the event  
Runners - 2 hours at the event  
Co-Chair in waiting - as much time as possible so that you can run it next year  
Laura Miliszauskas at [lmiliszauskas@twgemail.com](mailto:lmiliszauskas@twgemail.com)

**Arts Festival Still needs:**  
Dinner Captain - 10 hours planning and pick-ups  
Dinner Servers - 2-4 hours at the event  
Dinner Cleaning Crew - 2 hours after event  
Jack Goble at [jackwgoble@yahoo.com](mailto:jackwgoble@yahoo.com)  
Please contact me [jackwgoble@yahoo.com](mailto:jackwgoble@yahoo.com) for any of the listed positions or Laura Miliszauskas at [lmiliszauskas@twgemail.com](mailto:lmiliszauskas@twgemail.com) for Auction details.

### Calendar – March 2009

3	Tri-M Music Honor Society Recital
13	Swing Night VIII
17	PTSA
20	Fashion X
24	Spring Festival Concert
28	Mulch Sale
29	Campout for Homelessness

college or university they are done. Keeping kids motivated and on track is extremely important as we look towards the latter portion of the school year.

As you should be aware, beginning with the class of 2009, passing the HSA's with a minimum combination score of 1602 is a graduation requirement. For students who have not been able to meet that requirement, the state has implemented a "Bridge" program which allows student to demonstrate mastery in HSA subjects through projects in those subjects where they did not pass the HSA. For some students this can be a daunting task. Blake has one of the highest success rates in MCPS through this process, thanks to Assistant Principal Chris Berry's organizational skills and a cadre of extremely dedicated Resource Teachers, Special Education teachers and paraeducators as well as our Literacy Coach who work closely with the students to be sure they are able to successfully complete the projects. Last month two officials from MSDE came to observe the HSA classes in action at Blake and they were extremely impressed. They remarked that our model should be what everyone is following across the state, to not only get the students through the projects, but to ensure they master the material. We were very pleased by their feedback and I was asked to share this information at the Board of Education meeting in February.

While we are very pleased that our students needing to do Bridge projects are being successful, the best possible thing for students is to pass the HSA tests the first time they take them in Algebra, English 10, National State and Local Government (NSL) and Biology. Our pass rates are good, but ideally every student will pass on the first try. They need to take the tests very seriously and it is our hope that parents will reinforce this message as many students take the tests for the first time this spring.

The goal of our Smaller Learning Communities grant is to have students affiliate with one of four academies to help personalize their high school experience and assist students in focusing their future course selections around their talents and interests. A great deal of planning, surveys and discussion went into identifying academies that were of the highest interest to students. We were extremely pleased to see how evenly students selected academies, which is a good indication that the process has successfully identified our students' career interests and goals. This is a fluid process and does not preclude a student from taking a course outside of their academy or changing their mind. The academy structure provides opportunities to hear speakers and

students to pursue a balanced but rigorous course of instruction. Students need to take, at a minimum, one class that may be a stretch for them. Students need to be challenged to reach beyond what they may consider their potential. Often students opt for on-level classes because they see it as a safer bet to get a higher grade and GPA (grade point average.) This needs to be questioned, both by school personnel and parents, if the student has the potential to do more, even at great effort. We are short-changing the A/B student in on-level classes who is comfortable and chooses not to take the risk to try an honors or Advanced Placement course. Most teenagers are risk-takers; the challenge is to dare them to take some academic risks in order to grow, and experience the satisfaction of accomplishing something difficult. The grade of a B in an honors or AP course is weighted the same as an A in an on-level course in the weighted GPA. Colleges and universities look at both weighted and unweighted GPA's and look more favorably upon students with a more rigorous course load.

One by-product of encouraging students to take more challenging courses can be student overload. It is critical to determine which honors/AP courses and how many are reasonable for students to take. The workload in honors and AP courses is greater and harder than in on-level courses and students need to be prepared to meet the challenges. Students who are not particularly motivated, don't do homework or don't go for extra help when needed are jeopardizing their academic success. Many students are highly successful taking all honors course; some do better with a balance of honors in areas where they are most interested and motivated and on-level courses where they may be less motivated or find the subject matter more difficult. The balance is an important part of student success. There needs to be discussion with students, parents and counselors to plan for a rigorous but realistic course load.

I mentioned this last month but student course selection is important from the school perspective, as it determines staffing for the next school year. Schools are given a set number of teaching positions based on our student population for the next school year and we hire teachers and assign classes based on our students' registration selections. When students change their minds later, it can have a negative domino effect on class size. Students need to make second and third choices of electives, as we can only offer classes when we have enough interested students to run the course. Sometimes we need to make hard choices when small numbers of students choose certain classes and we do not have the staffing to support

every course every student would like to take, particularly in the upcoming tight budget year. Priority is given to team-taught and inclusion classes which are capped at smaller class sizes to ensure the best learning environment for students who need support. In addition, Advanced Placement courses are a priority; we make a concerted effort to run those courses even when numbers may not quite justify this. We are committed to offering a challenging and appropriate academic program for all of our students.

A small number of our students seem to go through the motions but go home and do not feel connected to school. Some have not made friends in the way they expected to which compounds the feeling of not being connected to school. Newly entering students, who came to High School 101, Summer Institute and/or try out for a fall sport, seem to have an easier adjustment because they have established some connections by the time the school year begins. Parents can help with student engagement by letting us know if your child does not seem to be connecting at school, as in many cases this also impacts their academic success. The more information we have, the better we can work to make sure students have supports in place to help them get involved in school life and the many positive benefits of a high school experience. Guidance counselors, grade level administrators, teachers and other school staff are an important resource in helping with school connectedness for all students.

If students say they never hear about school activities, then they are tuning out and not watching our award winning and highly engaging "Eubie News" each morning, or not reading the also award winning monthly issues of "The Blake Beat." The daily "Eubie News" as well as the Blake Beat is posted on our school website at: <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/blakehs/>

Lastly, I want to thank Blake parents for sending us such terrific students. The many people who tour our school never fail to comment on how friendly, well behaved and nice our student population is. They are truly the reason that even in my 35th year in MCPS; I still enjoy going to work each and every day. I hope you enjoy these last days of winter; let's hope spring isn't too far off!

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### **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Swing Night**

On Friday, March 13, 2009, at 8:00PM the Blake cafeteria will be transformed into a gorgeous Jazz Club reminiscent of the clubs in New York, Kansas City, Chicago and New Orleans. The Eubie Blake Jazz Ensemble will take you on an amazing journey through the history of jazz, performing standards from the 30s, 40s, 50s, and beyond. The night will be filled with music, dancing, food and fun. This year's selections will include the music of Dizzy Gillespie, Cole Porter, Benny Goodman, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Neal Hefti, Sammy Nestico, and so much more. A full Italian dinner, beverages, and dessert are included in your admission price; and provided by Eat a Little Something Catering and the French Confection Bakery. Also, don't forget to invite all of your friends, and take the dance floor during this amazing evening. All proceeds from the evening will benefit the award winning Blake High School Instrumental Music Department. The doors open at 7:30PM and the music begins at 8:00. We hope to see you at this swingin' event.

Tickets are now on sale for \$25 per person. This event does sell out, so order your tickets early. For more information, reservations, and tickets, please contact us at **301-879-1339** or [blakemusicboosters@yahoo.com](mailto:blakemusicboosters@yahoo.com)

#### **Two Blake Students Nominated for Honor Society Scholarships**

**Elizabeth Gipson** and **Micaela Perez Ferrero**, members of the James Hubert Blake High School National Honor Society, have been selected to compete in the National Honor Society scholarship sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Advisors for the Blake NHS chapter are Ms. Katie Kodan and Ms. Beth Shepherd.

## Blake Signature News

Our Signature Program continues to impress everyone with a wide variety of student presentations and achievements. In case you missed it, the students in the Blake Stage Company participated in the recent Maryland State Theatre Festival and took away the most awards of any school group. In particular, Blake garnered the most students to be selected for All-state Status. This means that their work and achievements in theatre are at the top in the state:

Justin Pereira who is currently working in Olney Theater's production of "The King of the Jews"; Jacob Perry won the State Acting Scholarship and has been offered (as a junior) a scholarship to George Washington University; Sara Nuttle who is an outstanding scenic artist and stage manager; Elise Gifford who is a Classical Acting Award recipient; Ashley Larkin who is a State Song Competition winner; Becky Joiner who won the Tech Portfolio Award for her presentation in the Business of Theatre; and Ben Schnapp who also received a scholarship to George Washington University and won the State Technical Student of the Year Award.

To date, Stage Company members have won over \$100,000 worth of scholarships, and we expect to possibly double that amount by the end of April. So, you can see that our Stage Company is a place to be involved!

The Instrumental Music Program's Jazz Swing Night is an evening that is not to be missed. Make sure you get your tickets, now! It's on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Later, on the 24<sup>th</sup>, look for the IMD to present a concert at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium.

**The DANCE DEPARTMENT** held an exciting recital in January and is readying classes for the end-of-year recital in May. Meanwhile, you may have seen many dancers from our program on the COUNTY CHAMPION BLAKE POM SQUAD which beat everyone at every competition this year. The Squad, led by dance instructor Danielle D'Anna, trounced traditional rivals Sherwood, Quince Orchard and Magruder with a great routine that featured the best choreography seen in the county this year. Chelsea DeBarnardis won First Place Captain in all meets.

Our outstanding Visual Arts Department continues to utilize our art gallery every month with art shows. Check the Blake website for days the gallery will be open for you to come in and see the incredible work of our many art students. John Overman heads our VA Department.

Our FASHIONISTAS at Blake have their moment in the sun at our annual FASHION X Show scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> in the Auditorium. Be sure to come and see the clothes lines designed and modeled by many Blake creative artists. Our fashion classes continue to grow at Blake with two periods dedicated to this popular art form.

Our MEDIA ARTS DEPARTMENT is ramping up for their annual Showcase in May. This year, a consortium showcase is being planned to include NEC schools in the event. This should heighten interest all over the NEC Community.

The Vocal Music Department recently saw a wonderful production of *Brigadoon* under the direction of Mr. Johnathan Dunn and Mr. Michael D'Anna. This class project really outshone many extracurricular productions that could be seen at other schools. The show featured outstanding singing performances by David Tuttle, Justin Pereira, Sarah Lomke, Ashley Larkin, Jacob Perry, Becky Joiner and Danielle Barlow.

Last, but not least, look for our all-school production of Rogers and Hammerstein's classic musical *Oklahoma* in late April and early May. We have an outstanding cast that includes: Jacob Perry, Justin Pereira, Sarah Lomke, Ashley Larkin, Samantha Kramer, Elise Gifford, Jeremy Baker, Uche Ogodi, and Graham Flessas in the wonderful show that plays through romance, love, menacing villains, and funny con artists as the great state of OKLAHOMA comes into being. Show dates are April 24, 25, and 30 and May 1 and 2.

**We're still hopping with excitement about the arts and humanities at Blake HS!**



## The Signature Encourages Students to Sign-up for Our Courses

Blake High School is a comprehensive high school founded on the principles of a methodology centered on the study of the arts and humanities. Because of that, we have developed a wide scope of courses in our electives programs to enrich our students as well as give each student precious CORE VALUES that the arts and humanities provide to every person involved with these courses.

Our Principal, Carole Goodman, took care to hire the best teachers to present our elective courses, and our staff is truly amazing. Despite this, the funding crisis in MCPS now challenges Blake's commitment to the arts. The SOLUTION is easy and is in the HANDS of EVERY STUDENT AND PARENT: that is --- make sure that you take the arts or the humanities in YOUR ELECTIVE CHOICES. In particular, we urge you to look at the arts courses in: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Dance, Theatre, the Visual and Media Arts. Without student sign-ups, our program could lose courses and teachers that really enrich the school experience.

Remember how taking ARTS CLASSES HELPS STUDENTS: They score significantly higher on both the verbal and math SAT; the College Board confirms that arts students are more "College Ready"; vocabulary skills and reading comprehension skills are significantly higher; problem-solving abilities are higher; collaborative skills are better; and the academic and social development of the arts student is higher.

Why would anyone at Blake not want to take an arts elective? It's obvious that the Arts and Humanities are a KEY TO SUCCESS --- personal success and academic success. See you in an Arts and Humanities Class next year! Maybe two!!!



## "It's Academic"

### It's Academic Team Wins!

James Hubert Blake High School **It's Academic** team, led by junior captain **Isaac Hirsch** with senior starters **Alex Gran and Hameed Khan**, advanced to the Washington-area semifinals Saturday by defeating Thomas Jefferson and Dominion in a quarterfinal game that will air on WRC-TV 4 at 10am on April 11.

Blake now takes on B-CC (six-time DC champs on It's Academic) and Rockville (four-time DC champions, and defending champs) in the Metro semifinals April 25 at 10am.

The team, which also includes junior **Paul Sausville** and is coached by Kevin Keegan, Joe Caulfield and Kara Mohler, also finished first out of 36 teams at the Green Eggs and Hammond quiz bowl tournament at Hammond High School in Howard County.

### Blake SGA

Blake SGA will host its first annual Campout for the Homeless March 29. Students will raise money and awareness for the prevalence of homelessness in the local community by staging an all-night Campout on one of the Blake fields. More information to come.

Thanks to the generosity and spirit of the Blake Community, the SGA raised **over \$10,000** dollars for the Pennies for Patients Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fundraiser! The SGA especially wishes to thank students and staff who participated in the events and weekly challenges, Mrs. Goodman and the administration, the PTSA, building services, and the security team for helping to make this year's Challenge the most successful in Blake history!

Since the goal of 10,000 dollars was met, **Ms. Rigney, Mr. Oliver, Mr. Schenk and Mr. Kelley will perform a live Hannah Montana/Jonas Brothers concert** in the auditorium in early March!

-- Tiko Mason, Blake SGA Executive Secretary

## News from the School Counseling Office

### **MARYLAND GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT** -

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

### **DELEGATE & SENATORIAL LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS** - Deadlines vary (usually March 1)

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

### **OCEAN CITY JOB FAIR** - Saturday, **March 7, 2009**,

9:00-2:00 - Students seeking employment at the beach this summer should attend this fair run by the O.C. Chamber of Commerce at the Convention Center, 40th St. and Coastal Highway. 12,000 seasonal workers will be hired in almost every type business. Visit the virtual job fair at [www.jobfair.oceancity.org](http://www.jobfair.oceancity.org).

### **LEADERSHIP MONTGOMERY: YOUTH COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS** -

Application deadline: **March 13, 2009** - Five \$1,000 scholarships available to Montgomery County high school seniors who have completed a minimum of 260 student service learning activities, regardless of their academic accomplishments. Download application: [www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org](http://www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org).

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S LEADERSHIP**

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM** applications are due on **March 15, 2008**. This is a very competitive MCPS humanities program for rising seniors who have demonstrated leadership, outstanding academics (min WGPA 3.5), and the maturity & ability to learn outside the classroom. Just 15 students will be chosen for this honors internship program during their senior year. Contact: Kim Jones, [kim\\_d\\_jones@mcpsmd.org](mailto:kim_d_jones@mcpsmd.org) & visit the website: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/leadership](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/leadership).

### **BERNIE SCHOLARSHIP** - Deadline: **March 20, 2009** -

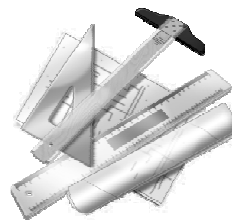
This scholarship is for high school seniors who live in HOC housing with a family income of less than \$45,000/yr. Eligible students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and residing in Montgomery County. Scholarship applications are available from the Blake Career Center. Award amount: \$4,000. For more information: [www.berniescholarship.org](http://www.berniescholarship.org).

### **MONTGOMERY COLLEGE DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES INFORMATION NIGHT** - **March 24, 2009**,

7-9 pm - If you have a documented disability and plan to attend Montgomery College to earn a certificate, degree or transfer to a four-year college, please attend this important event. Location: MC Rockville campus, Technical Center Building (TC), Room 136. Topics include: application process, documentation required, course placement, college expectations and accommodations available at Montgomery College. For more information: 240-567-5058 or [www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss).

### **2009 HISPANIC YOUTH SYMPOSIUM** - Deadline:

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



### **NORTHRUP GRUMMAN ENGINEERING**

**SCHOLARSHIP** - Deadline: **March 31, 2009** - A scholarship of \$10,000 will be awarded to a HS senior in each of the 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. Eligibility criteria: Maryland resident, U.S. citizen, graduating HS senior, will attend college full-time in accredited engineering program, minimum SAT score of 1700 (out of 2400) or ACT score of 27, minimum cumulative GPA  $\geq 3.5$ . Application: <http://www.es.northrupgrumman.com/engscholars/>.

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**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM (CAP) INFORMATION NIGHT - March**

**31, 2009**, 7-9 pm - Do you have potential to succeed in college, but your writing, reading, and study skills need improvement? If you plan to attend MC to earn a degree, certificate or transfer to a four-year college, come to the CAP Info night for students with learning disabilities. Location: Montgomery College, Rockville campus, Technical Center Building (TC), Room 136. For more information: 240-567-5058 or [www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss).

**SPRING COLLEGE NIGHT PROGRAM @ Blake-**

Wednesday, **April 1, 2009**, 6:30 pm - This program is geared for Juniors and their parents to learn more about the college admissions process and trends, how to search for colleges, SAT/ACT testing & score choice option, NCAA Clearinghouse for athletes, campus visit/interview tips and much more. Sophomores are welcome if they want to get a head start.

**MCT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION BILL TEEL SCHOLARSHIP**

- Deadline: **April 3, 2009** -MCT Members who will attend an accredited college, university, or other institution of higher learning during the 2009-2010 school year are eligible to apply for the \$1,500 scholarship by downloading and printing an application at [mctfcu.org](http://mctfcu.org). **MONTGOMERY COUNTY COLLEGE FAIR field trip** - Blake Juniors are invited to attend this MCPS field trip during the day on **April 16**. Permission forms will be available in early April for students to sign up. Five buses will be taking students to the fair that morning for a \$5 fee. This event is held at the fairgrounds in Gaithersburg and evening exhibits will be held on **April 15** from 6-8 pm for parents and students to attend.

*Counseling Office - Continued from page 7*

**COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY Summer Science & Research Program**

(STAR) June 24-July 21, 2007 Pre-college enrichment program for rising juniors from disadvantaged backgrounds introduces students to the world of science, research & technology. **FULLY PAID** four-week program. Must be nominated by teacher. **Application deadline: May 1, 2009**. Information in Career Center. Questions: Vernon Hurte, Ph.D. 757-221-2300 or email: [vjhurt@wm.edu](mailto:vjhurt@wm.edu). Brochures & application can be downloaded from the web at <http://www.wm.edu/multiculturalaffairs/starprogram.php>.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SUMMER COMPUTER CAMP**

- The computer science department at The George Washington University will offer a summer camp for high and middle school students in early July 2009. Full details see: <http://www.cs.gwu.edu/highschool/>

**VOLUNTEER FOR COLUMBIA LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND**

- June 26-June 26, M-F, 8:45-3:15 - This is a great opportunity for high school students (16-18 yrs old) to serve as counselors to children who are blind. Volunteers assist campers with recreational activities such as swimming, arts & crafts, computer instruction and field trips at the Catholic University campus. This is a rewarding way to earn meaningful student service learning hours. Applications can be found in the Blake Career Center. For more info: [www.clb.org](http://www.clb.org) or 202-454-6422, Jocelyn Hunter, manager.

**GOVERNMENT SUMMER JOBS**

- Apply Early! Applying for summer positions within the government is now done online. Visit <http://www.studentjobs.gov/> & <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/> to see job listings and apply. A "resume builder" is built into the program to store your resume for application purposes. Some clerical positions/internships with the Dept. of Health & Human Services are listed on: [www.hhs.gov/jobs/](http://www.hhs.gov/jobs/). These positions are competitive so start completing the paperwork early. Some student employment/intern programs exist within NIH (paid/unpaid): <http://www.nih.gov/>.

**FAA JOBS FOR H.S. GRADS**

- Federal Aviation Association is taking applications for air traffic controller school. This is a great career and they could reach a salary of over \$100,000 with benefits in about 3 years! Only a high school diploma is required to apply and credit is given for college on the exam. For more information go to: [http://www.faa.gov/jobs/job\\_opportunities/airtraffic\\_controllers/](http://www.faa.gov/jobs/job_opportunities/airtraffic_controllers/). The key is to apply NOW. FAA rarely has an open application such as this and that the jobs are coveted. It should be noted that choosing a site like Anchorage or Indianapolis to train is a likely acceptance into the training program - after-which you can transfer anywhere in the country that has a tower.



## ***Festival of the Arts & Humanities - PTSA Silent Auction***

We want to invite you to participate in honoring **James Hubert Blake High School's 11th Year Anniversary**. This year's **Festival of the Arts & Humanities** promises to be an exceptional event! The Blake High School Parent, Teacher, Student Association will be hosting its **Annual Silent Auction and Dinner** during the Festival on **Friday, April 17, 2009**. We would appreciate your support in making this evening a huge success. Last year we were able to raise in excess of \$8,300 with the support of the Blake families and surrounding community and we are looking to surpass that amount this year.

We would like to invite you to attend the Festival and ask for your support of the PTSA Silent Auction. Proceeds from the Auction help us to support and maintain Blake's high standard of excellence. Here is how you can help:

Please contribute an item to be auctioned individually or bundled in a themed basket. (Please see the reverse side for a list of basket possibilities.) Enclosed, please find a Donation Form and remember your item is a tax-deductible contribution. When you donate, you or your business will be recognized in our program and you will be listed as a sponsor in the PTSA newsletter, *THE BLAKE BLUENOTE*.

Advertise your business and/or put in a brief "kudos" to your son or daughter on how they are doing in the evening's program. We will be distributing copies to Blake families and others in the community who attend the auction. The costs are: \$30 for a business card, \$50 for a quarter page ad, and \$100 for half page ad.

We need to receive all donations by **April 3rd, 2009**. \* Your support is greatly appreciated — *Thank You!* Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Jack W. Goble                      Laura L. Miliszauskas  
President, Blake PTSA      Silent Auction Chair  
[jackwgoble@yahoo.com](mailto:jackwgoble@yahoo.com)      [lmiliszauskas@twgemail.com](mailto:lmiliszauskas@twgemail.com)

\* *except by special arrangement for perishable items.*

### **Ideas for baskets:**

Art Supplies Basket (include items such as scissors, colored paper, crayons, markers, stickers, rulers)

Baking Supplies Basket (pans, cake mixes, cookie mixes, molds, paint brushes for coloring cookies, food coloring liquids or powdered, parchment paper, measuring cups/spoons)

Beach Basket (frisbees, towels, sand molds, flip flops, beach balls, sun glasses, sun screen)

Blake Booster Basket

Book Basket (youth or adult)

Chocolate Lover's Basket

Coffee Lover's Basket (mugs, different coffees, kitchen towels)

Cuddle Time Basket (blanket, teas, music)

Deck & Garden Basket (bulbs, flower pots, watering pot, outdoor candles - citronella)

Errand Day Basket

Golfing Basket

Gourmet Food Basket

Italian Feast Basket (pasta, sauces, mushrooms, cook book, olive oil, spices)

Movie Time Basket (dvds, popcorn, snacks, candies, sodas)

Music Basket (cd's, ipod, I-tune cards)

Parents Night Out (gift certificate for free babysitting, dinner, movie, ice cream after show, etc.)

Pet Lover's Basket

Scrapbooking Delight

Smile for the Camera (disposable camera, film, teeth whitening, etc.)

Southwestern Food Basket (seasonings, salsa, chips, dinner gift certificates for Chipotle)

Spa Basket (neck wrap, lotions, candles, soft music)

Stationary Basket (writing paper, note cards, pens)

Theatre Basket (tickets, coupon for free babysitting, gift certificate for dinner before show)

### **Booster Club Mulch Sale March 28<sup>th</sup>**

We need volunteer drivers with pickup trucks or vans for mulch delivery that day. Our day starts around 7:30 or 8:00. Coffee and donuts, pizza and drinks for lunch are provided. We deliver mulch throughout the Consortium area that day. We delivered 4000 bags comprising 200 separate orders in 2008. Please email me at [blakebooster@comcast.net](mailto:blakebooster@comcast.net) to volunteer.

Download and print the order form from the Blake HS home page or via the Boosters website

[www.leaguelineup.com/bengalsboosters](http://www.leaguelineup.com/bengalsboosters).

### **Race for a Dream**

Volunteers are needed for the 5th Annual Race for a Dream, May 3rd. The money raised will benefit the After Prom, an all-night fun-filled evening loaded with exciting games, activities, food, and music. Please consider volunteering for any of the following committees: Publicity, Registration, Race Course Decorations, Parking, Logistics, Clean Up Team.

This is a great way to get involved in the Blake community while helping to support a safe post-Prom environment for our children. For more information, please contact Lisa Lomke at [stoneg8mom@yahoo.com](mailto:stoneg8mom@yahoo.com) or (301) 649-3563, evenings.

### After-Prom News!

#### **BLAKE'S AFTER-PROM CELEBRATION**

**Friday May 8/9, 12:30am-5:00am**

**Location: Dave & Buster's, White Flint Mall**

**Back by popular demand!**

Prom season is almost here, and along with that comes the 2009 version of the After-Prom! The night will surely be an adventure for the Class of '09, Blake juniors and their prom dates! There will be free video games all night long, a casino, the ever-popular photo keychain booth and a special guest that will make you think twice! We'll have lots of food and some terrific prizes! Students who stay until 3:30 am will receive the Blake After-Prom T-shirt designed as a wearable memento just for the occasion! Our goal is to have everyone stay until the end because excitement abounds all night...and the very best door prizes aren't given away until the very end!

**Transportation news:** Bus transportation from the Prom to the After-Prom will be offered this year. Prepaid reservations are required. The cost is \$15 per ticket. Contact Laura Matussek-[laura\\_matussek@comcast.net](mailto:laura_matussek@comcast.net) for more information.

**Money Matters:** It takes a little hard work, planning and a lot of "green" to entertain, feed and supervise over 750 students all night! While we are still working hard on fundraising efforts (pizza sales, spirit buttons, dine out nights), we are counting on your financial support! Our fundraising letters were mailed to all Blake families in February. Please send in your tax deductible contribution before **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Any amount is appreciated.

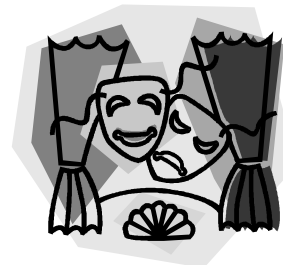
**Help from the Corporate Dollar:** Many corporations realize that strengthening community programs is a benefit to all. Some offer their support on a matching basis (Verizon, Choice Hotels and Marriott, to name a few). Check with your Human Resources Department to find out how to double your donation! Contact Laura Matussek- [laura\\_matussek@comcast.net](mailto:laura_matussek@comcast.net) with questions.

**T-shirt sponsors needed:** Attention Blake business owners! We are still in need of several sponsors for our t-shirt giveaway. Your business name will appear on the back of the shirt and will be worn all over town! What a great way to support Blake and advertise your business at the same time! Contact Dawn Borchers-[dborchers@mac.com](mailto:dborchers@mac.com) for more details!

**Thanks to our volunteers!** Many thanks to the many parents and student who have volunteered their time at the Tuesday pizza sales, basketball concessions and the letter stuffing party! We will need many more volunteers

on the night of the event so be sure to sign up when sending in your donation! Blake parents are the BEST!!

Laura Matussek and Dawn Borchers, After-Prom Committee Co-chairs



#### **Blake High School Forensics Team News**

The **Blake Forensics Team**, under the direction of teacher **Mike D'Anna**, is a division of the Blake Stage Company comprised of students who want to improve their public speaking skills. There are three qualifying MCPS Forensics competitions throughout the year that allow students to compete in a wide array of speaking categories: informative, persuasive and extemporaneous speech, duet acting and readers' theatre, as well as five individual categories: poetry, children's literature, prose, dramatic and humorous interpretation. Blake is still in First Place in the Forensics League in their fourth year of competition. The last qualifying meet will be Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup> at Blake High School. Winners in our last meet included:

In Persuasive Speaking: **Erin Washburn**

In Prose Interpretation: **Kelly Hanlon and Becky Joiner**

In Dramatic Interpretation: **Nina Marti and Kira Williams**

In children's Literature: **Daniel Arias and Justin Pereira**

In Humorous Interpretation: **Erin Washburn**

In Poetry: **Justin Pereira**

In Dramatic Interpretation: **Nina Marti**

In Readers Theater: **Becky Joiner, Elise Gifford and Aurelia Akpan, Justin Pereira and Elise Gifford**

In Ensemble Acting: **Daniel Arias and Nina Marti**

Blake HS Booster Club's

# Spring 2009 Mulch Sale!

**Saturday, March 28, 2009**

Benefits Blake Athletics

**3 Cubic Feet Bags of Shredded Hardwood Mulch**  
**\$4.00/Bag (Orders received on or before 3/21/09)**  
**\$4.25/Bag (Orders received 3/22/09 to 3/27/09)**

**Deliveries Available** in the Northeast Consortium Area: **\$10.00**  
Or Pick-Up at: Blake HS 9 am – 1 pm  
(Please order in advance even if you choose the Pick-Up option.)

**Order Options** (Make checks payable to: Blake HS Booster Club)

1. Send this form and either check or credit card payment information to  
**Blake HS Booster Club, c/o Anne Grenaldo –**  
**14313 Shoreham Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20905.**
2. Deliver this form and payment to the main office at Blake.  
Questions? Call Anne at (301) 384-5560 or [Agrenaldo@comcast.net](mailto:Agrenaldo@comcast.net)  
Please consider a donation to Blake Athletics with/without a purchase.

<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>	

___ bags @ \$4.00each <small>(by 3/21)</small>	\$	<b>Circle one:</b>  Check  Credit Card	<b>Circle one:</b>  Delivery  Pickup
___ bags @ \$4.25 each <small>(late)</small>	\$		
\$10.00 Delivery Fee	\$		
Donation	\$		
Total	\$		

Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/>	Card Number <b>AND</b> Expiration Date
Billing Zip Code	Signature

Team, Club or Activity Supported:
<b>THANK YOU for supporting BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL</b>



# JAMES HUBERT BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL



## PTSA & Booster Club BASKET AUCTION & RAFFLE EVENT

300 Norwood Road • Silver Spring, MD 20905 • 301-879-1300

### DONATION FORM

Blake High School PTSA  
501C3 Non-Profit Tax ID# 52-2107345

#### DONOR INFORMATION:

NAME (Business or Individual): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### DONATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

VALUE of Service or Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Comments/Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

*Any questions? Contact Jack Goble by e-mail [jackwgoble@yahoo.com](mailto:jackwgoble@yahoo.com) or Laura Miliszauskas by email [lmiliszauskas@twgemail.com](mailto:lmiliszauskas@twgemail.com). Thank you.*

Return this form and donation by **April 3rd, 2009 to:**

Attn: Jack Goble, PTSA, Blake High School, 300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring MD 20905

Please attach any business cards, brochures, etc. that you would like to accompany your donation and be on display at the auction. Thank you for your support!

# Race for a Dream

5<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run / 3K Walk To Benefit Blake's  
After-Prom And To Promote Teen Driver Safety

## Sunday, May 3, 2009

James Hubert Blake High School  
300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring

### Registration

\$10.00 through May 1, 2009

\$20.00 on Race Day — Register Early!

Additional donations are greatly appreciated

Race day registration begins at 9:00 am

Race starts at 10:00 am



### Course

The fun run will take place on the campus  
of Blake High School, rain or shine

### Food, T-shirts, Awards, and Prizes

- T-shirts for the first 250 participants
- Refreshments after the race
- Awards and prizes for the top three female and male runners

### Become a Sponsor

- Participant Sponsor — give your donation to a runner/walker
- Race Sponsor — All contributions are welcomed

For more information on becoming a Race sponsor,  
please contact Janice Hylton at [Janice.Hylton@nreca.coop](mailto:Janice.Hylton@nreca.coop)

To volunteer, please contact Lisa Lomke at [stoneg8mom@yahoo.com](mailto:stoneg8mom@yahoo.com)



# Race For a Dream 5K Run/3K Walk Registration Form

One form per runner/walker

Sunday, May 3, 2009 • Registration 9:00 am • Race 10:00 am • Race Entry Fee \$10.00 if received at Blake on or before May 1, 2009 • \$20.00 on Race Day • Make checks payable to Blake High School PTSA/Race for a Dream • Mail to: Race for a Dream • Blake High School • 300 Norwood Road • Silver Spring, MD 20905 or turn in at Blake's Main Office

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Runner [  ] Walker [  ] Race Entry Fee \_\_\_\_\_

**Liability Waiver MUST be signed before submitting registration form. You will not be allowed to participate if it is not signed!**

I know that running a race is a potentially hazardous activity and that I should not enter and run/walk unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running/walking in this event, including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including high heat and/or humidity, traffic, and the conditions of the course, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the organizers of the Race for a Dream, Blake High School, and all the sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. Further, I grant permission to all the forgoing to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings, or any other record of this event for legitimate purposes.

Participant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Parent or Guardian signature necessary if participant is under 18.

## Participant's Sponsors

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Raise additional funds through donations that sponsor a participant. Make checks payable to Blake High School PTSA/Race for a Dream.

Complete Name	Mailing Address	Phone	Email	Donation

**Blake High School Presents**

# Swing Night VIII

Featuring the

## Eubie Blake Jazz Ensemble



**When:** Friday, March 13  
Doors: 7:30 pm; Music 8:00 pm

**Where:** The Cafeteria of James Blake High School  
300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

**Enjoy Music, Dancing, Food and Drink**

**Don't Miss:**

- **Full Italian Dinner with desert and beverages**

**Semi-formal attire requested.**

### Ticket Order Form

Send your order form and check to  
James Hubert Blake High School  
c/o Mr. Brian Damron  
300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

For more information and reservations: 301-879 1339 or [blakemusicboosters@yahoo.com](mailto:blakemusicboosters@yahoo.com)

- All tickets are general admission, and are \$25 per person. Seating is at tables of eight.
- Orders of eight tickets will receive a reserved table.
- The Blake Cafeteria is transformed into a gorgeous jazz club with plenty of space for dancing.
- Proceeds benefit the award-winning Blake High School instrumental music program.
- Make checks payable to Blake Music Boosters. No exchanges or refunds for lost tickets.
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets requested: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Please mail my ticket(s) to the above address. [ ] I will pick up my ticket(s) at the door

### **Poms Win!**

The Blake Bengal Poms are a dedicated, outstanding team of athletes. They swept first place in all of their competitions this year, including the County-wide competition! They also won the Team Captain first place awards at all three competitions. And they hosted a competition here that has become renowned for its quality. Their season is nearing its end ... they have worked hard 6 days a week since last August. Poms, we love you and your incredible performances!

### **Join Students in Helping the Homeless**

People in our community need help, and the current economic crisis is making it more difficult for area homeless shelters to provide for those who need assistance. But you can do something to help. Students for Social Justice is collecting supplies for near by homeless shelters from March 2 to March 20. Supplies can be dropped off at the collection box table in the cafeteria during lunch or any time of day in Mrs. Jones's room in A207. For a full list of requested supplies, please see the link on Blake's website.

### **Be in the Know! BBN by email!**

Please note that it can take an extra 2-3 weeks for the hard-copy edition of the Blake Blue to arrive in your mailbox. So please consider getting the early edition via the Eubiemail listserve! To take your name off the hard copy list, send your student's name and zip code to [blakebluenote@yahoo.com](mailto:blakebluenote@yahoo.com). To subscribe to the listserve, send an email to [eubiemail2003@yahoo.com](mailto:eubiemail2003@yahoo.com).

### **Yearbook News**

If you forgot to order your yearbook online, don't worry - you can still purchase one from Blake. Just bring a check for \$87 (\$80 + tax and handling) to Ms. Allison Finn in room A208. Please be sure to write your student's name, student ID number and grade on the check. You may send cash, but please be sure to send the exact amount; I cannot give change. If you're looking to buy, buy soon! The price will go up after Spring Break, and again after the books come in.

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

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