



# Blake Blue Note

April 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**

"A new untruth is better than an old truth." ...Oliver  
Wendell Holmes

### RUMORS, INACCURACIES, AND JUST PLAIN UNTRUTHS

I would like to take a little time to speak to one of the most difficult aspects of being your PTSA President. Rumors, inaccuracies, and just plain untruths are time consuming and usually wrong. I often interact with parents who have heard "something" about the school, the administration, or students. They rarely have specifics. They've heard that "something" from their student, their friends, a teacher or a little birdie. I take it as a responsibility as your President to quash rumors, as well as, to ferret out details of when "something" is up. Many times those involved want a grand announcement to address the rumor, but after a few question I find out that it is often based on convoluted details. To alarm the whole community when a few have gotten bad info is irresponsible. But to not make a statement when the rumor is rampant is also irresponsible. So... if you think that there is an injustice, a threat, a health issue or virtually anything else bring forth the DETAILS to us or

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## Principal's Corner

Carole C. Goodman

Student cell phone use during the school day has become absolutely rampant.

Parents are asked to help us reinforce school rules and policies such as students keeping cell phones off and out of sight during the school day, which is MCPS policy (and COMAR). In many cases the issue is that parents are calling students during the day on their cell phones. Please call the main office at 301-879-1300 if you need to leave a message or wait until 2:10 to call your child's cell phone.

Cell phones are becoming more and more of an issue during the school day with text-messaging, cheating on exams, inappropriate photos being taken as well as the temptation for theft. One parent shared that he checked his child's cell phone use and was appalled at how much they were texting during the day. His response was to take away his child's phone as a consequence. I encourage parents to monitor cell phone usage during the school day. In addition, a recent tragic story in the news brought to the forefront the issue of teenagers "sexting" or sending sexual pictures of themselves to others. A female student committed suicide after a sexual picture she sent to her boyfriend was widely distributed after their relationship ended.

I went on Eubie TV and warned students that I am tired of being nice and merely asking them to turn off their phones and have confiscated as many as 14 in one sweep at lunchtime. It's gotten to the point that they drop them in my special cell phone gathering bag without a word. (They know...) They may get them at the end of the day but for the chronic offenders, we will ask parents to come retrieve cell phones. A great day would be one where I confiscate zero phones because all students are all following the rules.

Other low level but chronic issues we deal with include getting students to class on time and dress code violations. The tardy issue grows exponentially in the

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more appropriately to the teacher or administrator directly involved.

So what happens when you bring forth a rumor? I often poll other parents to see how wide spread or consistent it may be. Your confidentiality is always maintained, if you want it that way. If no one else has heard it then we talk again. But when it comes from many sources or when it has an immediate urgency I will check with the Principal or another available administrator. I can say that we do get the straight story, but when it involves an issue of privacy it is their duty to protect all the students. An incident may be confirmed, but I and you will not be told who is involved by name. It's important to remember how litigious our society has gotten and that it's the responsibility of the trained professionals involved to handle the situation.

In my conversations with Principal Goodman she has often repeated the same sentiment ... 'if we had specifics we could address it.' The administration wants the school to be safe. They want your students to have the best learning environment available. To report that you heard that someone brought a chainsaw to school is too vague, they need to know that "Clark Kent" saw "Lex Luthor" on Tuesday morning before school locking it in his locker in "B" hallway. If your uncomfortable with bringing it to them, we can.

**ARTS & HUMANITIES FESTIVAL**

April 17<sup>th</sup> is just around the corner. Please join us in celebrating Blake High School's annual Arts & Humanities Festival. This is your chance to see most of the schools performing groups, visual artists, and musicians showcasing their works. We hope to have some live demonstrations by the arts students or teachers.

Additionally, you will have a chance to meet and speak with many of the departments in the school. Your PTSA encourages you to bring the whole family, all your friends, the guys from the office, your church buddies, and your favorite sports team mates out to this free event. This is a fantastic opportunity to share Blake with the world. Let's really pack the house!!

Your PTSA will also be sponsoring our annual Silent Auction at this event. Every year there are dozens of bargains to be had by all. We will have lessons, performances, baskets filled with great items, activities, and gift certificates. Please contact me if you would like to help with the set-up, check out, or basket making!

Hope to see you at another terrific Blake High School event very soon!

Jack Goble, President, Blake PTSA  
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  
Mailables - 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.

**Call for PTA Officer Nominations**

If you have been wondering how you can help your children and Blake High School, you now have a wonderful opportunity. The Blake PTSA needs to fill the following officer positions for next year:

President Vice President  
Secretary Treasurer

Please consider contributing your time and expertise, or that of your friends and neighbors, by volunteering yourself or nominating others for one of these positions. Job sharing may be a possibility.

Elections will be held at the May PTSA meeting. Please contact Nancy ([Nancm526@aol.com](mailto:Nancm526@aol.com) or 301-989-2563) to throw your hat into the ring.

Thank you for your support of our children's future.  
Blake PTSA Nominating Committee

**Calendar – April 2009**

1	College Daze Seminar
2	Doubt
15	College Fair
17	Arts and Humanities Festival
24, 25, 30	Oklahoma!
28	Dine at Ledo's to benefit After-Prom
May 1, 2	Oklahoma!

spring, as warm weather (and love) seems to slow down student incentive to be on time for class. Please remind your children that being on time to class is a minimum expectation that certainly would not be tolerated in the world of work. Lastly, dress code violations become a real issue as the weather gets warmer. Halter tops, tube tops, exposed underwear, midriff tops, extremely short skirts and shorts are some of the issues we deal with repeatedly from our young ladies. This, frankly, makes for an environment that is distracting and not conducive for learning. How your daughter leaves for school in the morning, may not be how she appears once she gets to school. We always have spare t-shirts for loan, but most young ladies always have a back-up. In addition, t-shirts with double-entendre messages can be offensive and inappropriate for school, as well as shirts with drug, alcohol or sexual implications. Last but not least is hats; headgear is only allowed for medical or religious reasons.

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges we face at Blake High School is the issue of student motivation. We have an amazing population of students who, for the most part, are respectful, appropriate, engaging teenagers who are goal orientated. Many take rigorous classes and do extremely well academically while balancing the time demands of being an active and involved teenager in today's world. Our students are most often described as "nice." However one of the downsides of "nice" kids is that sometimes they lack academic motivation and seem to settle; they fall prey to the 'good enough syndrome.' I often have conversations with students I observe in class who are active participants in discussion, attend school daily yet are squeaking by in classes with C's or with D's when they are capable of A's or B's. Sometimes they will shrug and say: "I passed" and apparently believe that is sufficient. Intrinsic motivation is a tricky thing to foster in anyone and I do not believe that any student doesn't want to succeed. Perhaps it is a history of struggle or being underestimated that undermines confidence and the ability to be motivated for the sole purpose of personal satisfaction and accomplishment.

As a school, we are looking for ways to increase student motivation. Research indicates that career academies are one way to inspire student learners as it helps them focus on their areas of interest along with students who share those interests. I believe we are headed in the right direction in this area. Athletics is a positive motivator, with the carrot of eligibility being a factor for some students and the fact that three quarters of our student athletes are on the honor roll. But, the teams most students aspire to are usually the most competitive and only can take a small number of athletes, so we need to find other motivators for students who do not make teams. One idea is to begin highlighting students who are in honors and AP classes on

the morning Eubie TV show so students can see how so many of our students who are leaders in athletics and other high profile activities, are also strong students taking challenging courses and working hard on their academics.

I overheard a conversation between two students, one who is a very successful student and one who struggles academically. The successful student mentioned that her mother asks her every day, "What did you do in school today?" The other student was amazed by that and couldn't imagine why a parent would do that. It struck me as sad, the message that is being sent, even unintentionally, when parents don't ask that important question. Students need to know that you care what happens in their school day, even when they respond with "nothing." Parents who ask every day; "What did you do in school today?" (Or "What happened in English today?" "What good questions did you ask?" "What did you learn today?") often get the same answer: "nothing." But that "nothing" is a teenager's way of responding by not really engaging. Yet on the day a parent forgets to ask, students want to know; "How come you didn't ask me what I did in school today?" They really do want you to care and it is so important to their school success.

Parents can help by encouraging students to take rigorous courses and holding them accountable to doing outside assignments including reading, studying and homework completion. I am open to any ideas parents have to help us foster a school community where academic motivation is valued by all of our students and is a stronger part of the culture of our school.

With spring, comes end of year activities which are of particular significance to our graduating seniors. A packet of very important information was distributed at the Senior Parent meeting on March 23, 2009. Please contact senior class sponsors, Ms. Jessica Garlick and Mr. David Heller if you did not attend the meeting and receive a packet as it addresses many issues specific to Senior Banquet, Prom, After-Prom and graduation. This is a critical time of year for seniors as for a small number of students it seems to come down to the wire every year if they will graduate. Parents need to pay attention to Student Service Learning hours, HSA requirements as well of completion of courses needed for graduation, including those taken in night school. For students who are cutting it close, guidance counselors are the best resources to touch base with to be certain students are on track to walk across the stage at DAR. But even our most capable seniors need to be reminded that "senioritis" is not a real word (even if it seems like a real phenomenon) and while they have worked hard, high school isn't over

and this is not the time to slack off and let things slide. Just ask the students who are put on academic probation and told they need to take summer programs before they enter college based on poor second semester grades.

The senior celebrations include the Senior Banquet on April 16; the Prom is May 8 with the After-Prom going into the morning of May 9. The Academic Awards night is May 26, when many of our students are honored for their academic achievements. Final exams for seniors are from May 26 until May 29, which is the last school day for seniors. Mandatory Graduation rehearsal is Tuesday, June 9 and Graduation is at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 10 at DAR Constitution Hall. (Any student, who is not at graduation rehearsal, may not walk at graduation; the rehearsal is an important expectation.) While drugs and alcohol have no place in any student activities, the stakes are particularly high at this time of year. Parents are urged to talk to students to make sure they are perfectly clear on the activities they stand to miss should they decide to partake in illegal substances, in addition to the high stakes for their safety as well as legal action. Our utmost concern is to keep our students safe and to provide events and activities that are drug-free and alcohol-free.

Spring sports are under way; the large number of students participating in sports is extremely positive. This investment of time and energy has positive payoffs for student athletes in teambuilding, camaraderie, skill development and most importantly good sportsmanship. I hope parents and students alike will come to cheer on our student athletes.

The "Blue Note" should arrive in homes sometime around Spring Break (April 6-April 13). Enjoy what I hope is a wonderful Spring Break as we gear up for the end of the school year.



### **Blake High School Students Selected for Internship at National Institutes of Health**

Dieynaba Diagne and Ramatullah Deme, juniors at James Hubert Blake High School have been selected to receive a Howard Hughes Medical Institute/National Institutes of Health/ Montgomery County Public Schools (HHMI/NIH/MCPS) Student Internship for the 2009-2010 school year. The student internship at NIH is funded by a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. It is open to MCPS high school students with up to 20 juniors and/or seniors being selected.

### **HSA EXAMS APPROACHING – ARE YOU READY?**

The primary HSA testing administration for May is fast approaching. The test schedule and the grade level to which they most commonly applies are as follows:

- May 18<sup>th</sup> Algebra (primarily 9<sup>th</sup> grade)
- May 19<sup>th</sup> NSL Government (primarily 10<sup>th</sup> grade)
- May 20<sup>th</sup> English (primarily 10<sup>th</sup> grade)
- May 21<sup>st</sup> Biology (primarily 11<sup>th</sup> grade)

Testing is generally in the morning from 7:25 to 10:50. The makeup exams will be the following week. Preparation/review activities will be occurring in the specific content area classes related to the tests. In addition, for students retaking the exams, afterschool remediation programs will be planned on Tuesday and Thursday. In social studies, students retaking the NSL exam will be pulled from class on a periodic basis for exam review. Parents and students taking HSA exams are encouraged to become aware of specific dates, times, and to take full advantage of these review activities.

In addition these are several websites that provide excellent preview/review information on all HSA test area. From the State of Maryland, your best resource is this site:

[http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/high\\_school/index\\_d.html](http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/high_school/index_d.html)

In addition, Montgomery County has provided this site: <http://apps.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/hsaprep/>

The HSA's are an important graduation requirement , just as important as class credits and SSL hours. Should you have any questions, your best source is the HAS content area teachers, or Christopher Berry, Assistant Principal, at 301-879-1300 or email: Christopher\_S\_Berry@mcpsmd.org.

### **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 or (301) 649-3563, evenings.

## Counseling and Career Center News

Junior Parents and Students!!! Attend the "College Daze" Seminar on April 1<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 pm in the Amphitheater to hear a guest speaker who has experience with college admissions and testing. A panel of students who have been through the admissions process will lend advice and answer questions from the audience. Watch a demonstration by the counseling staff to get parents started on Naviance/Family Connection website. Students have access to this website. Speak to your counselor or Mrs. Moore if you need your password reset.

Register to take either the SAT or ACT at least once this semester!!! Register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). May 5<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to register for the **June 6<sup>th</sup> SAT exam**. May 8<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to register for the **June 13<sup>th</sup> ACT exam**.

Return your permission forms and \$5.00 to attend the National College Fair on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Forms were mailed home to Juniors and should be returned to the Counseling Office no later than April 3<sup>rd</sup> (prior to Spring Break).

Parents may attend the **National College Fair at the Maryland Agricultural Center** (Fair Grounds) on Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. For more information visit [www.nacacnet.org/fairs](http://www.nacacnet.org/fairs) or call [703-836-2222](tel:703-836-2222).

### Great questions to ask:

What are the admissions requirements? How can I arrange a campus visit? How much will it cost? What financial aid options are offered? What is the average class size?

How accessible are professors outside of class? Do I need a computer? What student services are offered (tutoring, career counseling, study workshops)? What type of housing is available? Is it guaranteed for four years? What is life like on the weekends?

Are any programs offered to help students adjust to the college life? What is the school known for? How many freshman return for their sophomore year? Are the campus and surrounding neighborhoods safe?

Don't forget to take notes!!

Throughout the day on April 20<sup>th</sup>, junior English classes will report to the amphitheatre for a **College Essay Writing Clinic** presented by the Director of Admissions at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Students will learn critical skills to compose meaningful college essays.

### **MONTGOMERY COLLEGE - BOARD OF TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP**

- If you are planning to attend MC for the 2009-2010 school year, consider

applying for the Board of Trustees Academic Specialty Scholarship. Requirements: minimum cumulative WGPA  $\geq 3.0$ ; no SAT or citizenship requirements for this award. Students may apply for any major, any program and any campus (including Biomedical Scholars, School of Art & Design, etc). **Deadline: April 30, 2009**

### **MONTGOMERY COLLEGE - BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

- If you are planning to attend MC for the 2009-2010 school year and have significant financial need, consider applying for the Board of Trustees **Foundation Scholarship**.

Requirements: good academic standing; no SAT or citizenship requirements for this award, financial need (submit FAFSA student aid report). Students may apply for any major, any program and any campus (including Biomedical Scholars, School of Art & Design, etc). Forms can be found in the Career Center or online at [www.montgomerycollege.edu/finaid](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/finaid). **Application Deadline: June 12, 2009**.

### **UPCOMING COLLEGE FAIRS:**

**COLLEGES THAT CHANGE LIVES FAIR - May 16, 2009** in Falls Church @ 11:00 a.m. and **May 17, 2009** in Bethesda @ 2:00 pm - These college information sessions/fairs are offered all over the U.S. They are coming to the DC area in May! Featured are the 40 colleges that Loren Pope writes about in his exceptional resource book, Colleges That Change Lives. For a list of participating colleges, specific sites and pre-registration visit the website: [www.ctcl.org](http://www.ctcl.org).

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY SUMMER SEMINAR 2009** - three sessions offered - This is a fast-paced, six-day experience for high achieving juniors. Students will learn about life at the Naval Academy. Apply online: [www.usna.edu](http://www.usna.edu), click on "admissions" and go to "summer seminar."

**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**. 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>.



## Montgomery County National College Fair

Wednesday, April 15

9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 16

9:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**free**

**The Montgomery County Agricultural Center (Gaithersburg, MD)**

### Workshop

April 15, 2009

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Student Financial Aid

Go to [www.nationalcollegefairs.org](http://www.nationalcollegefairs.org) for current school listings and other fair locations.

#### Tips for attending the National College Fairs:

1. Before the fair, discuss your college plans with your guidance counselor, family, teachers, and friends about the different types of schools you'd like to attend (e.g. two or four year institution, large or small, extracurricular activities, programs of study, etc.)
2. Research colleges on the internet and in your college guidance office, or library.
3. Check dates and registration deadlines for college entrance exams as well as application deadlines.
4. At the fair, visit with colleges and universities which you feel meet your criteria.
5. Talk with a college counselor at the Counseling Center if you have any questions or need help with your college search.



#### Co-Chairpersons

John Randall  
Richard Montgomery High School

Andrew Eppeldauer  
Gaithersburg High School

#### National College Fair Contributors



The Washington Times

### Blake High School Internship Program

The Blake High School Internship Program is looking for Sponsors for the school year 2009-2010. Blake's Internship Program is designed to give seniors an opportunity to complement their formal education with career-related experience.

An internship is an opportunity for students to spend a part of their school day working at a business site to get career exposure and workplace skills and receive academic credit for this experience.

Blake High School Interns typically work either 8 or 12 hours per week, which is 150 or 225 hours per semester of credit, on an approved internship throughout a full academic semester in a strongly mentored, paid or non-paid position, and attend regularly scheduled in-school seminars on Fridays. Students work with and are mentored by professionals in a career area of interest.

If you have a business or know of one that may be interested in having a Blake High School Intern please contact Ms. Ale at 301-879-1358 or e-mail [Nancy\\_E\\_Ale@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Nancy_E_Ale@mcpsmd.org).

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

## *"A Magical Journey"*

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

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

**Location: Dave & Buster's, White Flint Mall**  
**D&B, back by popular demand!**

Prom season is almost here, and along with that comes "A Magical Journey"- 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!

### **It's not too late to DONATE!**

It takes a little hard work, planning and a lot of "green" to entertain, feed and supervise over 700 students all night! As of press time, we are only **1/3 of the way** towards our fundraising goal! If you are one of **74 families** that have donated so far, thank you! If not, please consider a donation of any amount at this time! While we are still working hard on fundraising efforts (pizza sales, spirit buttons, dine out nights), we are counting on your financial support! The approximate cost per student is **\$35**. Our all night celebration hosts over 700 students and is the recommended alternative to parties in private homes or hotel rooms. Traditionally, Prom tickets include admission to the After-Prom but the After-Prom receives no funds from the prom ticket sales. It is time to come together as a community and do whatever it takes to keep our kids safe! **If sufficient funds are not raised within the next two weeks, we may need to charge Promgoers a fee to attend After-Prom and/or eliminate some of the planned activities that the kids enjoy.** Part of our success in keeping kids at our After-Prom (we have one of the best attended AP and kids stay longer than other schools) is that we have so many fun things to do! Dave & Buster's is a safe location, and has many fun activities. We supplement them with a casino, photo booth and commemorative t-shirt. Please send in your tax deductible contribution as soon as possible. Thank you!

We would love to proudly include you or your organization as a Blake supporter in the June newsletter! **Checks payable to Blake HS After-Prom can be dropped off at the school office or mailed to: Blake HS 2009 After-Prom 300 Norwood Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20905**

### **Suggested Contributions:**

\_\_\_\$100.00 ( Eubie)

\_\_\_\$50.00 ( Silver)

\_\_\_\$75.00 ( Bengal)

\_\_\_\$35.00 ( Blue)

**Transportation news:** In an effort to facilitate transportation for young drivers, we are offering bus service from the Prom to the After-Prom at 12 midnight. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Advance purchase is required. To order, please mail a separate check in to the school Attention After-Prom by Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>. Checks will only be returned and bus service cancelled if a minimum number of riders is not met.

### **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.

### **We have great people involved!**

We have gathered a strong planning team of parents to see this through from start to finish! And thanks to all that have volunteered for the evening! Volunteer coordinators will be contacting you in the upcoming weeks to assign evening tasks. Questions or concerns? Contact any of the following:

**Co-Chairs:** Dawn Borchers- [dborchers@mac.com](mailto:dborchers@mac.com)

Laura Matussek- [laura\\_matussek@comcast.net](mailto:laura_matussek@comcast.net)

**Volunteer coordinators:** Maura McMullen-

[mcmullens2@verizon.net](mailto:mcmullens2@verizon.net)

Eric Sattler- [erregun@aol.com](mailto:erregun@aol.com)

**Decorations:** Nancy Murray- [NancM526@aol.com](mailto:NancM526@aol.com)

Mary Flynn- [fishingflynn@verizon.net](mailto:fishingflynn@verizon.net)

**Treasurer:** Diane Bush- [dbush10892@verizon.net](mailto:dbush10892@verizon.net)

**Fundraising:** Laura Matussek and Dawn Borchers

**Communications:** Paula Cameron- [Camerons4@verizon.net](mailto:Camerons4@verizon.net)

**T-shirt coordinator:** Theresa Cali- [calit300@comcast.net](mailto:calit300@comcast.net)

**MCPPG rep:** Heidi Kalkofen- [kalkofen@comcast.net](mailto:kalkofen@comcast.net)

**BLAKE parents are the best!**

### **Need a tuxedo rental?**

The Tuxedo shop at the Sears in White Oak generously donated a FREE tux rental that was raffled off at the Senior Parent Meeting. They are also offering a \$20 off coupon to Blake students. Contact the manager, Mr. Andy Melwani, 301-681-1705 for details. If you haven't received one, a stack of extra coupons has been placed in the Main office.



Please patronize the businesses that support Blake!

## *Signature Program News*

### **The Arts and Humanities Festival is Coming!**

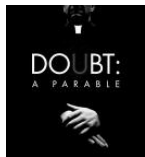
The Annual Arts and Humanities Festival is rising on the horizon of the Blake HS Calendar! On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Blake Signature Program will collaborate with the PTSA to present a wonderful day and evening of art and entertainment coupled with the PTSA Dinner and Silent Auction for one of the community's signature events.

The various departments of the Signature Program will present music, theatre, dance, media arts and vocals as well as a dynamic art show. In addition, our humanities programs will present activities and showcases by our English, Foreign Language and Social Studies students. Intertwined in the schedule will be delicious but inexpensive dinner planned by the PTSA as well as the treat of a Silent Auction where you can find great buys for the cost of a mere song!

The Arts and Humanities Festival is not to be missed and it's an event you can enjoy with your whole family. Be sure to mark down the date, NOW! --- That's APRIL 17<sup>th</sup>!

### **Instrumental Music**

Before our band students took off for their road trip to Boston, the various jazz musicians under the guidance of Director Brian Damron presented another wonderful evening of Swing on March 13<sup>th</sup> in the Cafeteria. An Italian Dinner was followed by a set of 30 Swing classics with instrumental renditions by the jazz band as well as a new feature, the Eubitone Singers: Jacob Perry, Samantha Kramer, David Tuttle, and Ashley Larkin. Proceeds from the event benefited our IMD Program.



### **Theatre Season Continues to Soar**

The Acting Company under the Direction of Michael D'Anna will present DOUBT on March 31 and April 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Amphitheatre. This riveting play has been the "hot" performance piece in local theatres as well as the movies recently and concerns the story of a priest in a parochial school being accused by the Principal of inappropriate behavior. We have two casts for this show: one on Tuesday night and another on Thursday. Showtime is at 7:30 pm and tickets are \$10. The director is Emma Strauss, a student teacher working at Blake this year. Don't miss this riveting show! Run time is about 90 minutes.

### **Folger Theatre Festival Achievements**

The Acting Company also participated in the recent Emily Jordan Folger Shakespeare Library Theatre Festival and received major acting prizes for their presentation of a segment of HAMLET. Aurelia Akpan, Erin Washburn and Isabel Smith – Bernstein received distinguished acting

awards for their portrayals of Polonius, Hamlet and Ophelia (respectively). HAMLET, directed by Michael D'Anna received widespread praise from adjudicators and audience members alike.

### **English Speaking Union/Shakespeare Theatre Competition**

Congratulations to Isabel Smith- Bernstein for placing in the Finals of the annual Shakespeare monologue and sonnet competition hosted by the ESU and the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Isabel competed against students from Washington, Northern Virginia, and Maryland public and private high schools in this widespread competition. She presented Julia from TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA (Act 1, Scene 3) as well as Sonnet #19 ("Devouring Time") Isabel represented many Blake students who have a wide catalogue of monologues and sonnets and are trained by Michael D'Anna. It was a big week for Isabel who also found that she had been accepted into her "choice" college --- NYU!

### **April and May is Signature Program Month!**

Beginning on April 17<sup>th</sup> with the Annual Arts and Humanities Festival, Blake HS brings the Curtain Up! On a full month and more of the Arts and Humanities Signature.

On **April 24 and 25** catch the opening weekend of Rogers and Hammerstein's great musical, **OKLAHOMA!**, which features over 80 students in our theatre and music programs. You'll love the music of "Oh! What a Beautiful Mornin'," "I Just Cain't Say No," "All `Er Nuthin'," "Out of My Dreams," and, of course, the signature song "Oklahoma!" Blake has an outstanding reputation for presenting terrific musicals the past several years. Don't miss another great show at an inexpensive price of just \$12. **Shows continue on April 30, May 1 and 2 at 7:30 pm.** For tickets and information call 301-879-1300!

On **May 13<sup>th</sup>** the **Choral Music** Program will present their end-of-year Concert in the Auditorium at 7:30 pm. Join us for a wide-range of music from Gospel singing by our Revelations Choir to A Cappella music by our advanced music students, to pieces from the classics and jazz. A special moment is when alums join current students on stage for a rendition of Eubie Blake's "Roll Jordan" at evening's close. Our program is directed by Shirley Letcher and Johnathan Dunn.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** is the date for our annual **Media Arts Showcase** at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium. You can buy popcorn and candy and a soda at the concessions stand and enjoy your own creative night out at the movies! The

*Continued on page 9*

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program is planned by Susan Knott and Sara Hartenstine and is not to be missed!

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** will feature the Final **Instrumental Music Department** concert for the year. Directors Brian Damron and Jon Eising always dial up a terrific evening of music with the Percussion Ensembles, Jazz Bands, Symphonic and other ensembles handling difficult but memorably beautiful music.

**On May 20 and 22<sup>nd</sup>**, don't miss **FORBIDDEN BROADWAY**, which will be presented by our Musical Theatre Company Class in the Black Box Theater at 7:30 pm. This is a wonderful parody of hit Broadway musicals and stars that will be skewered by our students. The music is just as difficult as the original shows, but the lyrics have been changed to have great fun with shows like LES MIS, FIDDLER, HELLO, DOLLY!, CHICAGO, WICKED, CATS, other others! Don't miss this evening of pure fun!

Our **Arts and Humanities Month** will come to an end on **May 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>** with the final **Dance Recital** of the year. Instructors Danielle D'Anna, Donna Iriarte, and Angelique Searles-Thompson have planned a terrific series of routines with the various dance classes that will include repertoires from ballet, jazz, modern, and tap. Special performances will be presented by our Dance Company and other classes. Don't miss this great community event!

### Blake Booster Club Scholar Athlete Awards

The Booster Club awards four \$500 scholarships to deserving senior student-athletes each year. The scholarships are given at the Spring Athletic Awards which will be held on May 18 this year.

While the focus of the Booster Club is often on our concession stands, golf tournaments and mulch sales, we consider this \$2,000 among the more important things we do as a Club. And since those larger fundraisers are earmarked for school equipment and field maintenance costs, we ask that you consider a cash donation in any amount you can for this worthy cause.

Every dollar raised here goes to the Scholar-Athletes. If we raise more than \$2,000, we give a fifth, or sixth award, or carry over the balance to the next year. If we fall short... well let's not think about that. Donations can be mailed to the school addressed to the Blake Booster Club, Scholar-Athlete Awards, 300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905.

### Blake Booster Club

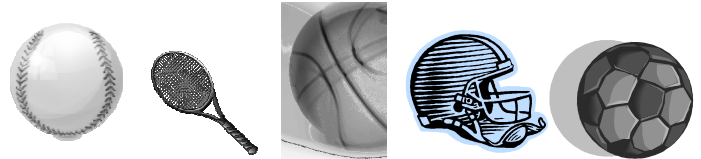
The Athletic Booster Club raises over \$25,000 per year for facilities maintenance, uniforms and equipment, but not without a great deal of parent involvement.

**WE NEED YOU!!**

The Booster Club will see its largest class of graduating parents in 2009 and we're looking for some good people to step in and take their place. At least 3 of our Board members are graduating, including our Treasurer, Gay Kimble, Julie Elie and Laura Mausek.

Gay and her partner-in-crime, Julie Elie also head up the concessions crew. They have worked tirelessly almost since Blake opened. Their duties are many, but mostly we're looking to replace the time and effort they spend stocking and organizing the stand(s) in three seasons of sports. This includes stocking the shelves and Sam's Club/Costco buying trips, and much more. If you're willing, you can take this on with a partner, or a small crew of friends, but without this work, we're reduced to buying from a more expensive foodservice company that delivers. Laura Mausek is also graduating and she does so much too. From the After-Prom, the Bengal Classic Golf Tournament to Race for a Dream; plus she's our principal contact for Blake spiritwear buying.

It won't be easy replacing these ladies, and we aren't sure we can replace the three of them with only three others. But if you're interested at all, please drop us an email or come to the next Booster Meeting on April 20.



### Yearbooks

If you have not yet ordered a yearbook, they will be on sale until we run out. They will cost \$87 until Spring Break, and after that time the cost will go up. If you would like a book held for you, please send a check made out to Blake High School for \$87. Please also print your student's name, grade and ID number on the face of the check. Either send the check to Blake c/o Allison Finn, or send it in with your student. If you have any questions, or if you're not sure if you have already purchased a book, please contact Allison Finn at [allison\\_finn@mcpsmd.org](mailto:allison_finn@mcpsmd.org) or by phone at 301-879-1351.

**Festival of the Arts & Humanities and PTSA Silent Auction**  
April 17, 2009

We 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. A Donation Form can be found below. 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@twgmail.com](mailto:lmiliszauskas@twgmail.com)

**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)



**JAMES HUBERT BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PTSA & Booster Club BASKET AUCTION & RAFFLE EVENT**



**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@twgmail.com](mailto:lmiliszauskas@twgmail.com).

# 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

### Visual Arts News

Our Visual Arts Department will be running a fabulous display of student works during the Arts and Humanities Festival on April 17<sup>th</sup>, but additional displays will be on-going in the Blake Art Gallery til the end of the year. In addition the Department is pleased to announce that Liz Gipson won a \$100, 000 scholarship (The Martin Luther King Award) to NYU.

### Take the night off from cooking!

**Mark your calendar to attend  
Dine Out Night at the  
Ledo's in Colesville  
Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 6-10pm**

**To benefit the 2009 After-Prom  
See you there! Thanks for your support!**

### Poms Winner

An amendment to last month's BBN – congratulations to Alexa Norberg who was the performing captain for Blake at the Northwest championships in February and won the captain's award that day!



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

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