



# BLAKE BLUE NOTE

Volume XI, Issue 3

November 2008

## From the President

*Monthly Message from your PTSA President*

Jack W. Goble

Hello PTSA Members and Blake Community Members

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

Just the other day, Carmen Tartara, Bill Halpin, and I unloaded 4,000 pounds of books from a U-Haul to the PTSA shed. Great work, but we were pretty tired at the end. Bill said what we really need is more PTSA dads. I agree – we need more PTSA dads (We still need more moms and students too!) For years the PTA/PTSA has been thought of as primarily a moms' organization. In earlier times that might have been the case, but as more moms are working the reality is that there are fewer folks with free time to organize all the activities that the PTSA would like to do. (We do a lot!) Its not about muscle, intelligence, or testosterone - it's about availability. We need *willing* bodies of all shapes and sizes. I am very fortunate to be able to serve all of you for two years. I could use a lot of help!

Too many times I hear that someone would have been

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## Principal's Corner

Carole C. Goodman

This school year has been extraordinary in how positive and uneventful it has been. I must commend the student body; they have been fantastic; highly focused and positive. The climate has been terrific and student behavioral issues are at an all-time low. We have a record number of students receiving recognition from the College Board in the National Merit and National Achievement recognition programs, in addition to a record number of Maryland Distinguished Scholars. We are extremely proud of all of our students and especially of these incredibly high achieving students and all they have accomplished.

I urge parents to encourage your children to attend school events; even better yet, attend with them or volunteer to work at a concession stand or in some other capacity. There is no better way for parents and students to get a feel for student life at Blake High School than by attending the multitude of activities, athletics, plays, concerts and other events we have to offer after school hours. Please come out and support our students.

I have spent a great deal of time reviewing the AFG (Accreditation for Growth) survey results. Our numerical rankings are very high, indicating high satisfaction and I am very pleased by that. Comments from parents and students ran the gamut, many very positive, some more critical. (This is typical for voluntary surveys.) We are always open to ways to improve the services we provide our students and the parent community and this feedback is very useful. The AFG survey was a prescribed one with a very specific format which was frustrating for some participants as it did not allow for much information in areas such as parent involvement. In some cases parents expressed dissatisfaction in areas we cannot control, such as the lack of public transportation services on Norwood Road, school start times, bus routes and food services. In one case, a parent was critical about something that another saw as a positive, such as our one-lunch period or the variety of extracurricular activities offered. In some cases, the real issue may be the need for

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glad to help with some PTSA event or activity but they just didn't get the word soon enough. That's why I want you to share this newsletter. If you're the one who gets first read, pass it on to others in your home. Please don't file it or pitch it, just because nothing appeals to you this month does not mean that others in your household might not want to get involved (SSL hours are always available.) PTSA and Boosters are always doing things that should be of interest to everyone in the family. Sometimes its work - Booster's Mulch Sale, Arts Festival, Silent Auction & Dinner, Concessions, Pizza Sales, The Race for a Dream, After Prom, or the Book & Media Sale and sometimes its fun - Comedy Night, Golf Tournament, Raffle, or Staff Appreciation. You don't have to be at every or any meetings to help out. You can either be on the **SOS list** which is a group of volunteers who will come to do whatever when possible when the need is there, or you can sign up to work at the event wherever is needed.

On the same notion, if you get the Connect Ed recorded message or the email reminder of some activity or event please share it around. Yes to your family, but also to your circle of friends, neighbors, and even folks you just met. We would love to see every pickup in Olney, Burtonsville, and Silver Spring be there on Mulch day to help deliver. There is no reason that every concert, dance program, or theater production should not fill the auditorium to capacity. If you've been then you know that these are professional level performances that are more affordable than anything in the DC area. This is a fantastic way to expose Blake to those who live in the area. When the Silent Auction rolls around, we need bidders to buy the wonderful items that we have acquired. The more folks that come - the more we can make! Please consider that most activities need extra help, so please

put your name on the volunteer list so we know you want to make every event enjoyable for the whole Blake Community.

Many of our folks have trouble getting to the events. If you neighbor or their student does not seem to be at school activities offer them a ride. They may want to be involved. If you have space to take someone home after activities during the week put the word out. Sometimes moms or dads are working second shift and just cannot get their student back from school. We, as a community, can help solve this need.

Additionally, we need your resources. We need your network. You may not have the time to sell concessions or lug books, but you know that the office is about to clean out its bookshelves or that some guy is purchasing just bought 20 cases of "whatever" when you only needed two and the supplier won't take them back. PTSA will find a way to use them. We need Auction Items, Staff Gifts, Door Prizes for After Prom, Decorations, and more. Right now we could use a lot of sturdy boxes to put books and other media in.

Please contact Maura McMullen Volunteer Coordinator at (301) 989 -0257 or e-mail her at [McMullens2@verizon.net](mailto:McMullens2@verizon.net). All help and volunteers are appreciated!!

Or as always, you can contact the Team Leaders (names and contact info is located in your student directory) directly or me at [jackwgoble@yahoo.com](mailto:jackwgoble@yahoo.com), or at h)301-622-7924.

Jack W Goble, President  
James Hubert Blake PTSA

## **Booster Club News**

The Booster Club is back in the clothing business! A spirited group of Boosters has re-energized the on-site school store and hopes to have Blake sweats, t-shirts, pajama pants and more in stock before the Thanksgiving break. These make great holiday gifts for your Bengal student or for mom and dad to show their Blake spirit!



better communication and I am certainly open to ways to accomplish that beyond Eubie Mail, the Blue Note, the school web page, The Blake Beat, Connect Ed messages, etc. Regardless, please know that all of the feedback will be read and carefully analyzed and included in the AFG process. I truly appreciate parents taking the time to fill out the survey and provide us with feedback as an important part of this process.

Sometimes in school we deal with issues of communication and unforeseen situations, and it underscored to me the critical need we have for accurate student information. If your phone number has changed, we need to know this. If there is a cell phone number that can be used to best reach parents in an emergency, we need that information as well. Finally, any medical information is always treated confidentially and is needed to make sure we address student medical needs appropriately. Our nurse and health-room technician are highly professional, knowledgeable and unfailingly calm when it comes to dealing with students and their medical needs. Please consider them a vital part of the team at Blake who work to support all of our students. In addition, it is absolutely critical that students who ride buses know their route number. Sometimes bus situations change and knowing what slot the bus parks in is not enough in an emergency.

Please help us by urging students to let a member of the staff know if they are having a problem, of any kind, with another student. We use many preemptive strategies to defuse potential conflicts including an outstanding and highly effective Peer Mediation program. Adults are always present in mediations, and mediators go through extensive training. We know we are having a positive impact when students ask for mediation as a way to resolve conflicts. When issues occur, students are repeatedly told that by telling an adult, we will work to deal with the issue most appropriately and confidentially. Often students are reluctant to "tell" when they have a problem, but we work very hard to be discreet and deal with the issues. I always ask students, at the conclusion of dealing with an issue of any kind, who in the building is an adult they feel they can trust. Invariably students will name at least one teacher, counselor, administrator, member of the security team, etc. who they can go to in confidence. This is a critically important component in a high school; students need to feel they can trust the adults around them with issues they have difficulty handling.

A related topic for parents is helping students navigate through issues of peer pressure and acceptance. If a student "tells," often their friends retaliate through alienation or worse. The teenage "code of silence" is a very difficult thing to deal with as it often prevents

adults from learning about risky, dangerous and illegal behaviors students may be experiencing or experimenting with. Students who associate with several peer groups, including teams, religious groups, or other interest based groups, both in and out of school, are less likely to be subject to negative peer pressures as they can move seamlessly to another group where they are more comfortable. If you notice your child's friends have changed, pay close attention as it could be an indication of something negative going on, or that they have stood up to peers who were into things they didn't want to get involved in, or perhaps something else altogether. One of the best skills a parent can learn is how to "listen between the lines" and hear what your teenager isn't telling you.

The first marking period is rapidly coming to an end and report cards will be given out in school on Tuesday, November 11. For students who did not do as well as they could have, the second marking period is a great opportunity to bring up their grades. Official transcripts do not show marking period or final exam grades, but only the semester grade. It is extremely important that students strive for the highest average grade possible. For some students, particularly ninth graders, the first marking period is the toughest as they are just figuring out high school. The second marking period is an excellent opportunity to raise grades or continue on the right path academically. We regularly emphasize the importance of grades with students and make a point of celebrating the honor roll students in an effort to impact all students with the positive aspects of doing well. I hope parents will reinforce this effort as our goal is, and always has been, to see every student at Blake High School on the honor roll and academically successful.

I hope as the late fall is upon us, we can enjoy a positive and productive routine, because before we know it, the winter holidays will be here.



### **Calling the last 4-5 year olds**

There is still room in our preschool at Blake's Child & Adolescent Development Lab Preschool.

AM class younger 4 year olds - **4 openings** 9:15-10:50am

PM 4 ½-5 years old **4 openings** 11:45 - 2pm

Call Beth Kauffman 301 879-1337 or  
[Beth.L.Kauffman@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Beth.L.Kauffman@mcpsmd.org)

# Big Band Celebration Concert

FEATURING

James Hubert Blake High School, River Hill High School, The Olney Big Band  
& The Columbia Jazz Band

JOIN US SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M. FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT OF JAZZ

America's greatest contribution to the world of music is unquestionably, jazz. On Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM in the auditorium of James Hubert Blake High School in Silver Spring, Maryland; four amazing jazz bands will join together on stage and present seven decades of jazz music. This great evening of music will highlight some of the finest in jazz music, to include compositions by Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Gordon Goodwin, Irving Berlin, Victor Lopez, Sonny Rollins, George Gershwin, and so many more.

Taking the stage will be two of the best community jazz groups in Maryland: The Columbia Jazz Band, under the direction of Pete BarenBregge; and The Olney Big Band, directed by Rip Rice. These two outstanding ensembles are host to volunteer musicians of all ages who gather weekly to rehearse and perform professionally at so many events and for organizations throughout the Montgomery and Howard County area. Joining them will be two phenomenal high school groups, the host band: The Eubie Blake Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Brian Damron; and their guests, the River Hill High School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Joe Fischer. Last year's first combined concert, Celebrating Benny Goodman, started this annual jazz series at Blake High School, and all four bands are thrilled to continue the tradition this year.

Tickets are on sale now. Tickets are \$10 per person for general seating and can be obtained from any of the band members, calling 301-879-1339 or emailing [blakemusicboosters@yahoo.com](mailto:blakemusicboosters@yahoo.com) for more information. All proceeds from the concert will help benefit the school music programs and developing music in the community. Thank you in advance for your support.

James Hubert Blake High School  
Blake Music Boosters  
Contact: Brian Damron  
301-879-1339  
[Brian\\_A\\_Damron@mcpmsmd.org](mailto:Brian_A_Damron@mcpmsmd.org)



## Visual Art Department

Students in the visual arts here at Blake are busy producing a variety of works for competition and show. Claire DeMarco, one of Mrs. Runion's studio art students, is a finalist in the Maryland Distinguished Scholar in the Arts competition. Claire has been named as finalists in the achievement category of the competition. She has demonstrated excellence in the visual arts and are being considered for the \$12,000 scholarship offered to students who will be attending a Maryland state school.

Mrs. Runion's studio art classes will be having a gallery show in the gallery here at Blake from October 17th to November 17th. Please come and view the art works. Gallery is located in D hall on the first floor room D158.

Students in the arts will also be having an art show at the Sandy Spring Museum from December 1st through December 31st. All are welcome to visit and view the outstanding work by the students. Blake students, Steven Sites and Elizabeth Gipson will be curators for the show. The reception for the show is December 13th from 1 -3 P.M. Framed pieces will be sold during the show and part of the proceeds will go to support the Sandy Spring Museum. This is an excellent time for parents and students to support the arts and the community by purchasing works for the holidays.

John Overman  
Art Department Chair

## Help Blake Every Time You Shop at Target

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

Just visit [www.target.com/tcoo](http://www.target.com/tcoo) or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate James Hubert Blake High School.

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



Every one of us has three hours to give this school year – that's it, just 3 hours over 9 months.

Three for Me is a PTA program designed to effectively involve parents and families in support of your children and their education. Three for Me will help Blake and the PTSA reach volunteer levels never thought possible. Share a little of yourself and your time on behalf of Blake and your child. Contact your PTSA president today to tap into the many talents and skills you already have.



***Thank You for Supporting  
PTSA Direct Appeal***

Thank you to the families who have made generous contributions to date. We are at \$9,465 of our \$15,000 goal. This list was compiled October 15<sup>th</sup>. Every PTSA member should have received a directory. If you have sent in a donation and do not see your name listed, we apologize for the oversight and will correct it in next month's issue. Please send an e-mail to [barbwerfel@aol.com](mailto:barbwerfel@aol.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

**Eubie Gold Level - \$250 - \$499**

Jim Norberg

**Friends of Eubie: \$100-\$249**

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Kathleen Lyons  
Maura McMullen  
Margie & Ken McNabb  
Rene Mondonedo  
Susan Murphy & Patrick Hinden  
Christy Norberg  
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Janice Williams  
Julie Williams

***We need 100% participation to make this campaign a success, so please consider making a contribution today. Every little bit helps the PTSA reach its goals. Thank You!***



## Blake Students Named as Maryland Distinguished Scholars Class of 2009

James Hubert Blake High School students Elizabeth Brown, Claire DeMarco, Justin Pereira and Kelly Shih have been named as **finalists** in the achievement category of the Maryland Distinguished Scholars program.

Blake also had seven students qualify as **semi-finalists**, 4 in Achievement; 3 in Talent:

Evan Curdts (A), Michael Powers (A), Ethan Soodak (A), Molly Wallace (A), Danielle Carter (T-dance), Justin Pereira (T-vocal music) and Erin Washburn (T-drama).

The following 32 students qualified as **honorable mention**, 30 in Achievement; 2 in Talent:

Christine Barrington, Kassandra Bishop, Devon Brunson, Morgan Cali, Talia Chichereio, Rui Fu, Elizabeth Gipson (2 honorable mentions -- Achievement & Talent – visual arts), April Hartman, Amelia Holgash, Margaret Hughes, Linda Hwang, Lilian Johnson, Emily Kamin, Brendan Lipton, Tomiko Mason, Joseph McKenna, Hannah Mellman, Jessica Michek, Chloe Oxley, James Parker, Sarah Peko-Spicer, Micaela Perez Ferrero, Joanna Peth, Joanna Purich (Talent – instrumental music), Danielle Romig, Liza Sitz, Isabel Smith Bernstein, Matthew Stevens, Manmeet Thind, Katelyn Toy and Nicole Wannan.

In the academic achievement category students must have earned a minimum, cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale in academic subjects taken during their first five semesters of high school. The applicant's highest SAT 1 score is also used to determine eligibility.

In the talent in the arts category each high school can nominate 5 juniors for an audition in visual art, instrumental music, vocal music, dance, or drama. Nominated students must appear in person for an audition or portfolio review before a panel of professional judges.

The award is \$3,000 each year if the student attends a two year or four year Maryland college or university as a full time student. The award is automatically renewed if the student maintains an annual minimum GPA of 3.0. This program is competitive and funds may not be available for all eligible students. Students not funded will be placed on a waiting list.



## Accreditation for Growth Update

The Accreditation for Growth for Middle States Renewal is well underway! We have begun our self-assessment year by distributing surveys to all of the staff and a large portion of the students and parents. Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the survey! The survey results and comments have been printed, and the AFG Action Teams, designed around the 12 Middle States standards, have begun to analyze the data from those results. Primarily, the teams are examining the data for patterns and trends and making interpretations based on those patterns and trends. Each team will then use these interpretations with the mission statement, core beliefs, and profile of a graduate developed in the Planning Team to write goals for improvement.

Parents are welcome to join an action team; teams meet the fourth week of the month at lunch. Many parents have already expressed an interest in attending a meeting, and they have received the chairperson contact information and team meeting location. If you are interested in joining an action team, email Jeff Newby or Moriah Martin for more information ([Jeffrey\\_J\\_Newby@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jeffrey_J_Newby@mcpsmd.org) or [Moriah\\_A\\_Martin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Moriah_A_Martin@mcpsmd.org)).

Students are also encouraged to join an action team. Mr. Newby and Mrs. Martin have shared the AFG process with students through an informational sheet that was distributed in first period on Wednesday, October 22. They also spoke at the PTSA Student Luncheon to encourage student participation in the process. Please encourage your child to get involved with a team—his/her participation on a team also looks great on college applications!

Thank you for all of your help with our self-assessment—the reflection that this process provides has already proven to be very useful in directing future improvement efforts!

### **Moriah Martin**

Staff Development Teacher, SAT Coordinator, and AFG Internal Coordinator

## Thanks to These Wonderful Blake Supporters!

The following families and businesses generously supported the 3rd Annual Bengal Classic Golf Tournament with donations and prizes that were so essential to the success of the event. Please let them know you appreciate their kindness!

### Bengal Blue Sponsors

Associated General Contractors of D.C.  
Borchers Mechanical Services  
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Fairland Animal Hospital

### Longest Drive Sponsors

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The Yang Family

### Prize Donors

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G & G Sales  
Giant- Burtonsville

Braxton Cook  
Eliot Seppa  
Matt Gatwood  
Alex Taub  
Sam Rosenberg

A huge thank you to the members of the Golf Committee:

Bob Borchers  
Theresa Dowdall  
Karen Dunlap  
Scott Dunlap  
Ginger Fisher  
Kyleen Kuczarski  
Joe Matusek  
Jane Mondonede  
Rene Mondonede  
Joanne Stevens  
Chris Tatnall  
Lois Wannen  
Mark Wannen

And to the following volunteers!!

Ricky Borchers  
Robby Borchers

Greek Islands Grill  
JuSt Hair Salon, LLC  
Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort  
Mamma Lucia's Restaurant  
Meadows Farms Golf Course  
Myrtle Beach National Company  
Olney Golf Park  
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Rita's- Burtonsville location  
Sakura Japanese Steak and Seafood House  
Sole D'Italia Restaurant  
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Waverly Woods Golf Club

### Other Donors

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Daryl McCausland- Cloverly Safeway  
Linda Miller- Northrop Grumman  
Laura and Joe Matusek  
Providence Hospital- Paul Grenaldo  
Wannen Family

### Brochure/Website/Printing

Jared Thomson - Pixellife.com  
John Overman- Blake website and bengalclassic.c  
Rockville Printing and Graphics

### Banners and Signs

Created and donated by Dawn and Bob Borchers

Special thanks goes to Mr. Brian Damron and the members of the Montgomery County Jazz Quintet who entertained us at lunch:

Paula Cameron  
Julie Elie  
Jack Goble  
Jane Gratton  
Butch Hilliard  
Myndee Kerner  
Gay Kimble  
Maura McMullen  
Bridget Reed  
Kathryn Vargo  
Ellen White

Thanks to you all! We couldn't have done it without you!

Laura Matusek and Dawn Borchers

## Blake's Bengal Classic a Success!

*Congratulations!*

The 3rd Annual Bengal Classic Golf Tournament was held at Hampshire Greens on October 8th and was a huge success! 107 golfers enjoyed a great day on the course. Past, present and future members of the Blake Community came together for a day of fun and friendship! At the end of our 18 holes, we had a delicious Barbeque lunch accompanied by the musical sounds of Blake's own Montgomery County Jazz Quintet. Many golfers went home with wonderful prizes that were donated by both local and non- local businesses.

This year, we were honored to have Mr. Chris Knoche, the color analyst for the University of Maryland Men's Basketball radio broadcasts, join us. He helped us recognize our sponsors and award the prizes to the tournament winners. On behalf of the Blake Booster Club, we want to thank all participants, sponsors, golf committee members and volunteers. It would not have been a success without each and every one of you!

We would like to see this tournament continue for many years to come. In order to do so, we need your help! If you played in the tournament, volunteered or completely missed the whole event, your input is needed on the Golf committee next year! No experience necessary!! Planning will begin in the late spring so mark your calendars. Better yet, send us an email now and we will remind you! Contact Laura Matusek at [laura\\_matusek@comcast.net](mailto:laura_matusek@comcast.net) or Dawn Borchers at [dborchers@mac.com](mailto:dborchers@mac.com).

*Dawn Borchers & Laura Matusek*

## put education on your shopping list

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Safeway Club Card Number

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Group ID # (if unknown, leave blank)

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Note: All lines required. Confirmation email will be sent to email listed above.

Return form to: \_\_\_\_\_

## Counseling Department

### SENIOR CHECKLIST:

- Please make an appointment or email your counselor if you have not met for your Senior Commitment appointment. Please remember to allow Blake HS 15 school days before the college deadline date to process your official transcripts and recommendations letters. Be sure that you complete your college applications early so that you meet all deadlines.
- College can be costly, come to Financial Aid Workshop on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the amphitheater. Parents and Students are welcome to find out more information about how to fill out a FASFA form online and information on state and federal aid programs. For more information go to [www.fasfa.ed.gov](http://www.fasfa.ed.gov)
- Check Naviance for the latest College visits. Please see Mrs. Moore in advance for a pass to listen to the college representatives.
- Don't forget to register for the SAT or ACT before it's too late ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)). See your counselor or Mrs. Moore for information.

### JUNIORS, SOPHOMORES, FRESHMEN CHECKLIST:

- Upcoming Events: First week of December Juniors will be introduced to Naviance, an online tool to research colleges. Counselors will be doing a demonstration on how to navigate this interactive website. Student and Parents will gain log-on and passwords at this time.
- Sophomores will be introduced on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to Choices Explorer, an online career planning website to explore potential career options.

### Tips:

- Focus on earning the best grades possible in your Junior year. Understand that colleges look at several factors to determine admissions, including: GPA, SAT/ACT results, teacher/counselor recommendations, the student-written essay and your extracurricular activities.
- Find a balance on doing well academically, while also getting involved in extracurricular activities.
- Dream! Start planning and setting goals about where you want to be when you graduate.
- Utilize the PSAT results to their full potential. Go over your strengths and weaknesses from the personalized report.

### College and Career Center Information:

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery will be given on **November 6, 2008** at 7:30 am in the Blake cafeteria. The ASVAB is the test used by all branches of the military for persons interested in joining the military. The ASVAB is

also an **excellent career interest inventory** to help students make informed career decisions. Part one consists of a three-hour aptitude test. When results of the test are returned, a career interest inventory will be administered so that students can identify career areas that are both a match for their aptitude as well as for their personality and interests.

Taking the test does not in any way obligate a student to the military. To register, please see Mrs. Moore in the Career Center. There is **no charge** for the test. ASVAB results will be interpreted on **December 16, 2008** at 8:30 a.m. in the amphitheatre. Participants will learn about what these scores mean.

Black College Expo: Saturday November 8, 2008 – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Black College Expo for DC/Maryland at University of Maryland College Park, Record Armory. You may address questions to Theresa Price, Founder, 909-396-0151, [www.blackcollegeexpo.com](http://www.blackcollegeexpo.com). Admission: \$10 @ door or \$8 advance purchase

### **Morehouse College:**

The Director of Admissions from Morehouse College (GA) will again visit the DC metro area to recruit top African American males for their freshmen class. An evening admission/scholarship information & interview program will be held on Wed., Nov. 13 at Gaithersburg H.S. All high schools may nominate two candidates and two alternates before Oct 31 for this event. Please see Mrs. Moore in the career center if you would like to participate, as you can qualify for admissions and possibly a scholarship (GPA  $\geq$ 3.2; SAT  $\geq$ 1750 & leadership potential is the scholarship criteria). For more information about Morehouse: [www.morehouse.edu](http://www.morehouse.edu). The minimum admissions criteria for Morehouse College is a weighted GPA of 2.80 or higher and 1500 out of 2400 on the new SAT.

If you cannot attend on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, but would like to be interviewed on another date during the school day, here are your options:

Paint Branch H.S. ---- Nov 11 -----8-11 am

Springbrook H.S. -----Nov 12 -----8-noon

Northwest H.S. -----Nov 13 -----8-noon

Let Mrs. Moore know before Oct. 31 when you would like to schedule your interview with the Director of Admissions at Morehouse College.

### **Other onsite admissions/scholarship interviews:**

Several other HBCUs will offer similar evening recruitment events (6:30-9:00 pm) for on-site admissions/scholarship interviews:

Morgan State University (MD)	12/2/08	Springbrook HS
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	12/10/08	Walter Johnson HS


### **CAREER ACADEMY UPDATE: The Capstone Experience**

WANTED: SENIOR STUDENTS TO CONNECT WITH MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES RELATED TO A FUTURE CAREER. MUST HAVE COMPLETED THREE REQUIRED COURSES IN AN ACADEMY PATHWAY SEQUENCE AND APPLY FOR ACADEMY CERTIFICATION.

Yes, the Career Academies are now ready to accept applications from seniors who want to receive certification for their work in career-focused studies. This certification is noted on official documents and acknowledged at the graduation ceremony. Once students have completed their required pathway courses, the last step toward certification is a Capstone Experience. This is an opportunity for students to apply classroom learning to real-world projects. A capstone experience may be an internship, a research or performance project, leadership of a major school initiative, or a college or AP course. Capstone experiences allow students to individualize their career focus as they design a unique project in collaboration with professional mentors in their future field. Students begin to build a network with business, education and community partners.

If you have a senior student, encourage them to talk to their Pathway teacher, Academy Team Leader, or the Academy Coordinator about the capstone opportunities Blake has available and the benefits of Academy Certification.

For more information, call Academy Coordinator, Barbara Jeweler, 301.879-1369 or email:

[Barbara\\_P\\_Jeweler@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Barbara_P_Jeweler@mcpsmd.org). 



October/November 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Winter weather emergencies, such as snow and ice, may cause disruptions in school operations, including the closure of school, a delayed opening, or an early dismissal. This letter provides information about the procedures used when such disruptions occur. Information also is provided about the weather contingency plan that would add student instructional days to the end of the scheduled school year if schools are closed for more than four days due to excessive weather emergencies.

**Closure of School**

When schools are closed systemwide, all instructional programs and extracurricular activities in schools are canceled. Private day-care providers in school buildings may elect to stay open if the schools are closed but the administrative offices are open. In extreme conditions, administrative offices also may be closed. If this occurs, private day-care programs located in school buildings are closed as well.

**Delayed Opening**

A delayed opening means that schools open two hours later than scheduled. All buses operate on the same delayed schedule and, therefore, the pick-up times are two hours later than normal. When schools open on a delayed schedule, the following programs are canceled -- specialized programs or field trips scheduled before 12:00 noon. Parents should continue to check for radio, television, or Web announcements in the event a decision to delay the opening of schools is reconsidered and a decision to close schools for the day is made (by 7:00 a.m.).

**Early Dismissal**

An early dismissal means that schools will close 2.5 hours earlier than scheduled. All buses operate on that same early schedule and, therefore, drop-off times are 2.5 hours earlier than normal. When schools close early, programs are canceled, such as any special programs or field trips scheduled after 12:00 noon.

**Public Announcements**

Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on area radio and television stations, County Cable Channel 6 or Cable Channel 34-MCPS TV, on the Internet at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) and on a taped telephone message service at 301-279-3673. Emergency e-mail announcements are available by signing up for MCPS QuickNotes on the school system's home page. If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 6:00 a.m. (or the night before if possible). If schools are closing early, the announcements are made by 11:00 a.m.

**Emergency Weather Contingency Plan**

An emergency weather contingency plan will add student instructional days to the end of the scheduled school year if schools are closed more than four days because of weather emergencies. The planned school year for students ends on June 16, 2009. However, if schools are closed for more than four days due to weather emergencies, the following schedule would extend the school year in order to add the necessary make-up days:



1. If schools are closed for five days, the school year will be extended by one day to June 17, 2009.
2. If schools are closed for six days, the school year will be extended by two days to June 17 and June 18, 2009.
3. If schools are closed seven days, the school year will be extended by three days to June 17, June 18, and June 19, 2009.
4. If schools are closed for eight days, the school year will be extended by four days to June 17, June 18, June 19, and June 22, 2009.
5. If schools are closed nine days, the school year will be extended by five days to June 17, June 18, June 19, June 22, and June 23, 2009.

**Weather Conditions and Decisions**

The school system uses a variety of sources of information to determine whether to close schools, delay the opening of schools, or dismiss schools early. These sources include actual physical inspection of road and school conditions by transportation officials and other staff at areas throughout the county, and an analysis of independent reports from the National Weather Service, Accu-Weather, and the news media. The most severe weather conditions within the county are used as the basis for decision-making. Consistent procedures are maintained in order to respond quickly to emergency weather conditions and protect the safety and well being of students.

All public schools within Montgomery County adhere to the same schedule concerning emergency weather conditions. The decision to change school operations is made by the superintendent of schools or his designee and affects all schools within the school system.

Sincerely,

Carole C. Goodman  
Principal



**Blake High School Student's Poem Published in Book**

James Hubert Blake High School student Jeffrey Wellman has had one of his poems selected to be published in the anthology A Celebration of Poets.

Jeffrey's poem was entered in a contest for young poets and he is being honored as one of the Top Ten poets in his grade level in the contest and will receive a \$50 savings bond as well as a complimentary copy of the book.

With thousands of poems being submitted for this contest, Mr. Wellman being selected as one of the Top Ten in the high school senior level is a great honor.

**Your Small Gesture is HUGE for Many in Need**

Nearly 12,000 people in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area this year are homeless. That total includes people who are living on the streets, staying in shelters, or living in transitional housing. More than 45 percent are families and about one-quarter are children. While "street homelessness" is the image commonly presented to portray homelessness, less than 13 percent of the homeless people in the region regularly live on the streets. More than one quarter of the region's homeless single adults are employed.

To help combat this issue, Blake's Student for Social Justice club is collecting money for the Walk for the Homeless. Please consider making a donation, joining our team (Blake High School Students for Social Justice), or walking for the homeless.

[http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org/site/TR/Events/General?team\\_id=3130&pg=team&fr\\_id=1000](http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org/site/TR/Events/General?team_id=3130&pg=team&fr_id=1000)

Elizabeth Marie Jones  
Students for Social Justice Sponsor

**A+**  
**bonus bucks**

**A Simple Way to Give.**

Designate a school for  
A+ BonusBucks today &  
through April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009, your  
school will earn CASH  
each time you shop at  
Giant.

For more information visit  
[www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus)  
or call  
1-877-ASK-APLUS



James Hubert Blake High School ID: 03625

**Blake's Virtual Resources available  
24/7**

Blake's Media Center, MCPS and the state of Maryland combined provide a vast virtual library of quality information for the Blake Community in the form of online subscription databases (see attached spreadsheet of URLs and passwords for remote access). Online subscription databases are available twenty-four hours a day should your student be working late on an assignment. These powerful virtual collections provide credible information as a complement to free web pages and include many student helps and information tailored to support the curriculum.

There is information in varied formats for almost any assignment your student might have. ProQuest Platinum provides access to well over a thousand newspapers and magazines including *The Washington Post*, and it is updated daily making it a good choice for current events or other contemporary topics. The ABC-CLIO databases provide excellent background articles for social studies assignments at all levels, and specialty databases such as the Greenwood African-American Experiences and Grove Art provide helpful support for elective as well as required courses.

**YEARBOOKS ARE NOW ON SALE  
THROUGH THE MAIL.**

If you haven't received an order form from Jostens in the mail, please contact Ms. Allison Finn and she will get one right out to you. You can also access the purchase site by logging in to [www.buy.jostens.com](http://www.buy.jostens.com) or you can link to the site from Blake's homepage.

The price of the book is \$80 but don't wait - the price will go up soon.

The Gale Virtual Reference Library is a growing custom built collection of online reference sets, which now numbers over 300 volumes on subjects such as comparative religions, popular culture, literary criticism, and health related assignments. This year we have added JSTOR, an academic humanities database, to the collection which will be helpful for students in AP courses. You are welcome to use the databases as well. Keep the current list provided in this issue of the Blake Blue Note by your home computer for easy access to an easily searchable virtual library of information.

**ATTENTION SENIOR PARENTS--**

Do you want to honor the achievements of your student in this year's yearbook? If so, contact a yearbook staff member or Ms. Allison Finn for information about personal ads.

You will find a link to the online purchase site on Blake's homepage, or you can log in to [www.buy.jostens.com](http://www.buy.jostens.com).

## Blake HS Online Research Databases Home Access Passwords, 2008-2009

Database	URL	User ID	Pswrd	Description
ABC-CLIO American Government	<a href="http://www.americangovernment.abc-clio.com">http://www.americangovernment.abc-clio.com</a>	blake	blake	American government, news, legislation, commentary
ABC-CLIO American History	<a href="http://www.americanhistory.abc-clio.com">http://www.americanhistory.abc-clio.com</a>	blake	blake	U.S. history - 1350 to present day
ABC-CLIO United States at War	<a href="http://www.usatwar.abc-clio.com">http://www.usatwar.abc-clio.com</a>	blake	blake	Social, tactical, and historical background on the U.S. during war-time
ABC-CLIO World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras	<a href="http://www.ancienthistory.abc-clio.com">http://www.ancienthistory.abc-clio.com</a>	blake	blake	Prehistory, ancient empires, beginning of the Renaissance to 1500 in Asia, Africa, and Americas. Includes biographies
ABC-CLIO World History: Modern History	<a href="http://www.worldhistory.abc-clio.com">http://www.worldhistory.abc-clio.com</a>	blake	blake	World events, issues, people, ideas over the last five centuries
Biography Resource Center	<a href="http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170">http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170</a>	none needed	blake	Biographical information searchable by subject, time period, profession, and nationality
Britannica Online	<a href="http://www.school.eb.com">http://www.school.eb.com</a>	mcps	search	Four encyclopedias plus an Internet guide, atlas, and videos. Includes study guides and exercises
Encyclopaedia Britannica Global Reference Center	<a href="http://global.eb.com/">http://global.eb.com/</a>	mcps	search	Japanese, Korean, Chinese, French Britannica encyclopaedias and another link to the Spanish Reference Center
Encyclopaedia Britannica Online Academic Edition	<a href="http://search.eb.com/">http://search.eb.com/</a>	mcps	search	Encyclopaedia recommended for high school and higher education
Encyclopaedia Britannica - Spanish Reference Center	<a href="http://global.ed.com/">http://global.ed.com/</a>	mcps	search	Spanish language encyclopedia
Encyclopaedia Britannica World Data Analyst	<a href="http://world.eb.com/">http://world.eb.com/</a>	mcps	search	Provides "Country Snapshots." Students can create "current comparisons" of countries based on large list of data points; also possible to make "chronological comparisons," which compares changes over time up to 90 years
Country Watch	<a href="http://www.countrywatch.com">http://www.countrywatch.com</a>	blakehs	blake	Current news and facts for countries
Culture Grams	<a href="http://online.culturegrams.com">http://online.culturegrams.com</a>	mcpsmd	mcpsmd	Cultural background on countries around the world. Includes recipes
Gale Student Resource Center - GOLD	<a href="http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170">http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170</a>	none needed	blake	Periodical database with full-text coverage of magazines, topic overviews, primary documents, and video clips. Photos. Includes American Decades series
Gale Virtual Reference Library	<a href="http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170">http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170</a>	none needed	blake	Online access to reference sources on social and religious history
Greenwood: African-American Experience	<a href="http://aae.greenwood.com">http://aae.greenwood.com</a>	blakehs	blake	History and culture; includes primary and secondary sources in print and audio/visual formats

## Blake HS Online Research Databases Home Access Passwords, 2008-2009

Database	URL	User ID	Pswrd	Description
<b>Greenwood: Daily Life through History</b>	<a href="http://dailylife.greenwood.com">http://dailylife.greenwood.com</a>	blakehs	blake	Online access to the "Daily Life" series covering social history/world folklore during various time periods
<b>Grove Art Online</b>	<a href="http://www.groveart.com">http://www.groveart.com</a>	blakehs	blake	Art history reference source with links to art work online
<b>Issues &amp; Controversies</b>	<a href="http://www.2facts.com/">http://www.2facts.com/</a>	blake	blake	Current events with statistical data and articles linked by issues - pro and con
<b>Jstor</b>	<a href="http://www.jstor.org">http://www.jstor.org</a>	See Media Center staff for login information.		College-level academic journals
<b>Opposing Viewpoints</b>	<a href="http://infoftrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170">http://infoftrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170</a>	none needed	blake	Presents opposing viewpoint essays on controversial and current topics
<b>Proquest Historical Newspapers</b>	<a href="http://proquestk12.com">http://proquestk12.com</a>	blakehs	blake	Full-text, primary source newspaper articles beginning in the 19th Century
<b>Proquest Learning Literature LION</b>	<a href="http://proquestk12.com">http://proquestk12.com</a>	blakehs	blake	Literary criticism, author biographies
<b>Proquest Platinum</b>	<a href="http://proquestk12.com">http://proquestk12.com</a>	blakehs	blake	Periodical database covering more than 2,500 magazines, journals, newspapers, including scholarly journals
<b>Science Resource Center</b>	<a href="http://infoftrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170">http://infoftrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170</a>	blake	silv40170	Periodical and reference database of scholarly science resources
<b>SIRS Discoverer</b>	<a href="http://discoverer.sirs.com">http://discoverer.sirs.com</a>	MD1652H	20905	Selected full-text articles and images from 1600+ domestic and international newspapers, magazines, government documents, and websites
<b>SIRS Knowledge Source</b>	<a href="http://sks.sirs.com">http://sks.sirs.com</a>	MD1652H	20905	Current events, U.S. government resources, arts and humanities, relevant Internet links
<b>SIRS Decades</b>	<a href="http://sks.sirs.com">http://sks.sirs.com</a>	MD1652H	20905	Periodical and reference resource for all aspects of 20th Century U.S. History. Includes DBQs for the time period
<b>U.S. History Resource Center</b>	<a href="http://infoftrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170">http://infoftrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170</a>	none needed	blake	Periodical and Reference Database including images and web-links covering U.S. History
<b>World Book Online Reference Center</b>	<a href="http://www.worldbookonline.com">http://www.worldbookonline.com</a>	mcpblake	mcpmsmd	General encyclopedia
<b>Other Resources:</b>				
<b>MC Public Library</b>	<a href="http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/Libraries/">http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/Libraries/</a>	none needed	none needed	Access to online catalog and online databases
<b>NoodleTools</b>	<a href="http://www.noodletools.com/login.php">http://www.noodletools.com/login.php</a>	mcpblake	mcpmsmd	Cite your sources here: bibliography composer with fully-integrated note-taking
From the menu on the JHBlake HS network, click on:				
Media Center - Online Resources - Open the folder named Blake's Online Databases -				



### **Student Government at its Best**

Blake Student Government Association is already in full swing, as it kicked off the year with a fantastic Spirit Week and Homecoming. This year's Spirit Week included the Battle of the Classes, a very successful Pep Rally, and of course the dance itself! Thanks to all students and staff for the enthusiasm you brought to the one of the most exciting weeks of the school year!

October 16, the SGA hosted the first of two blood drives, sponsored by Inova Health Systems. A record **66** student, teacher, and parent donors came out to support this life saving cause. The SGA heartily thanks all of the participants and hopes to see many more faces at the next blood drive which will be held in the Media Center in April.

In the spirit of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, the Kids Helping Kids Canned Food Drive begins October 20 and runs through November 9. Students will be collecting canned and boxed food items through their first period classes. The three classes who collect the most items will win prizes ranging from a Pizza Party, to donuts, to popsicles! The SGA will also be collecting monetary donations for this generous organization.

Tiko Mason  
Executive Secretary  
Blake SGA

## **CAREER ACADEMY UPDATE: The Capstone Experience**

WANTED: SENIOR STUDENTS TO CONNECT WITH MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES RELATED TO A FUTURE CAREER.

**MUST HAVE COMPLETED THREE REQUIRED COURSES IN AN ACADEMY PATHWAY SEQUENCE AND APPLY FOR ACADEMY CERTIFICATION.**

Yes, the Career Academies are now ready to accept applications from seniors who want to receive certification for their work in career-focused studies. This certification is noted on official documents and acknowledged at the graduation ceremony. Once students have completed their required pathway courses, the last step toward certification is a Capstone Experience. This is an opportunity for students to apply classroom learning to real-world projects. A capstone experience may be an internship, a research or performance project, leadership of a major school initiative, or a college or AP course. Capstone experiences allow students to individualize their career focus as they design a unique project in collaboration with professional mentors in their future field. Students begin to build a network with business, education and community partners.

If you have a senior student, encourage them to talk to their Pathway teacher, Academy Team Leader, or the Academy Coordinator about the capstone opportunities Blake has available and the benefits of Academy Certification. For more information, call Academy Coordinator, Barbara Jeweler, 301.879-1369 or email: [Barbara\\_P\\_Jeweler@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Barbara_P_Jeweler@mcpsmd.org).



### **Getting Upromise college savings for your kids: Smart**

#### **Getting bonus money for their schools: Brilliant**

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

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

#### **Want to help our school? Here's how:**

If you're already a Upromise member, simply log in, select "**schools programs**" and link your account to our school. If you're not a member, you can join FREE at [upromise.com/schools](http://upromise.com/schools).

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



### ***Sewing Equipment Needed!***

Do you have a sewing machine you're not using? Fabric pieces? Sewing forms? Sewing accessories? We are in need of your help in getting these items for our new Design Club and for students to create designs for "Fashion X" and stage productions.

If you have any of these items to donate, please email Susan Knott at [Susan\\_B\\_Knott@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Susan_B_Knott@mcpsmd.org). Thanks for your help!

### **With Our Sincere Thanks...**

We would like to extend our thanks to Safeway (Cloverly) for their recent support of the Varsity Boys Soccer team. They helped make the Senior Recognition ceremony, held last month, even more memorable.



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James Hubert Blake High School  
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Silver Spring, MD 20905

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