



Blake Blue Note

October/November 2009

Please share this issue with your spouse and students

From the President

Monthly Message from your PTSA President

Robina Barlow

Greetings:

I hope that your family has adjusted to the schedule of the new school year and that your student (s) is off to a great start. As the year progresses, we want you to make certain to stay in touch and informed of school happenings. To that end, I recommend that you sign up for Eubie mail, our school announcement-only listserv, if you have not yet done so. You can always go to the Blake website, keep reading the Blake Blue Note, and now you have one more way to stay informed, through the brand new PTSA website; at www.blakeptsa.org. You can access all of the information above at the Blake PTSA website. Many thanks go to Beth Blevins, our PTSA Communications director for the countless hours that she has spent putting in content, and helping with the look and feel of the website. She will keep you informed of meetings and events, via the website calendar and the blog. Take a look at the website and see all of the useful information that is contained within. And it will continue to be filled with interesting news and information, with links to many resources.

Parent Peer Group Leaders

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 6** Homecoming
- 9** Academy News
- 10** Counseling Dept
- 14** Visual Arts

Principal's Corner

Carole C. Goodman

As a regular rite of fall, the PSAT is given in all MCPS schools on Wednesday, October 14, 2009. Through a partnership with MCPS and the College Board *all* 10th grade students take the PSAT at no cost. This gives students test-taking experience and provides schools with baseline data for the SAT, as well as information for placement into honors and AP classes. **All 10th grade students are expected to take the test on October 14.** There will be multiple reminders including a ConnectEd wake-up call that morning. Last year our attendance was actually down on PSAT day as some students did not get the message that they were absolutely expected to attend school and take the PSAT. Participation in the PSAT for grade 10 is a strategic target for MCPS; we need our students to take advantage of this opportunity as well as help Blake HS meet the participation target. It is our hope that parents will support this effort and make sure their children attend school on October 14.

MCPS no longer pays for either 9th or 11th grade students to take the test. The fee from the College Board is \$13.00 and we are encouraging all 9th grade students who are in geometry or above in math as well as every 11th grade student to take the test. A check made out to Blake High School may be turned in to Ms. Money in the guidance office. The PSAT really "counts" for the 11th grade but there is a common misunderstanding that the PSAT is only for practice. For 11th grade students, the PSAT is the test that determines who is a merit scholar, commended scholar or achieves honorable mention in the National Merit Scholar program as well as the National Achievement and National Hispanic Scholar programs. These programs open doors for significant scholarship opportunities for our most able students and the test is only given once a year. Juniors are strongly encouraged to take the test.

Continued on Page 3

Message from your PTSA President - continued from page 1

This year the PTSA is fortunate to have Parent Peer Group Leaders for each grade level. These parents will convene three or so meetings in the evening during the school year to keep you informed about the education of your students. Our leaders for each grade level are:

9th grade: Michiko Diby

10th grade: Ann Joiner

11th grade: Debi Gartland and Judith Portzel

12th grade: OPEN

If you have questions about any area of school life, you can count on getting answers to some of your most burning questions at these meetings. They are meant to be informative, relaxed, and a way to connect with your child's grade level administrator and other parents. If you have questions about the school that you want answered, get in touch with the appropriate Peer Leader above. Send them your questions. They will work with class administrator to get your questions answered.

Volunteers

I want to thank the many volunteers who work tirelessly every day to keep Blake the wonderful school that it is. I'd like to thank our officers, our board of directors, our committee chairs, and all of our committee members for the work that you do. We are fortunate to have representatives who not only attend Blake meetings, but that attend county level meetings on the Northeast Consortium, the Curriculum, and other Educational committees. I want to thank parents who have contributed or plan to contribute to our Direct Appeal campaign, and those who contribute money, but may have little time to volunteer, or who have little money but can volunteer some of your time. Some parents just show up at events to help. We appreciate all of the many gestures of support by our extended school community.

Membership

Our Membership Committee co-chairs, Robin Ford and Edith Salazar are working hard to increase our membership numbers and volunteer pool. The more members we have in the PTSA the more we can do for Blake and our students.

If you missed our September PTSA meeting, you missed a meeting full of Blake parents, both new and old members, and a few students, too. It was a wonderful turnout. I want to thank parents and students who came out to the meeting.

October Meeting

The next PTSA meeting will be held October 20, at 7 p.m. in the amphitheater. Please mark your calendar. Mr. Joseph Duboyce, assistant school administrator will be our guest speaker. If you would like to learn more about Blake's AP class offerings, hear statistics on student performance, how best to prepare for the exams, and Blake's incentives to students who take AP classes, come to this meeting. Mr. Duboyce will share information with us and discuss the benefits of taking AP classes and exams. We will have a pre-meeting meet and greet at 6:30 p.m., prior to the meeting at 7 p.m. please come and join us. If you would like to share a snack we would invite you to bring it to the meet and greet.

November Meeting

In November the PTSA will have a guest speaker from the National Alliance for Mental Illness, or NAMI. The November PTSA meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, at 7 p.m.

NAMI provides education, advocacy, and support for people with mental illnesses. The holidays are a time when some teens (as well as adults), suffer from depression. We will learn more about how to recognize when someone needs help; what signs to look for and how best to find help for those who need help.

Back-to-School Night

Many of you will have attended Back-to-School Night by the time you read this newsletter. The PTSA trusts that it was a good experience for you, that you had time to become a member of the PTSA, visit the table fair, volunteer for a committee, and meet your student's teachers in their classrooms.

At Back-to-School Night the PTSA provided an appreciation dinner to the school staff. It is but one of many staff appreciation events that the PTSA sponsors throughout the year. This year's Back-to-School Chairperson is Margie McNabb. I want to thank her for her planning and hard work, and for taking leadership for such a significant project.

Happenings

October is a very busy month full of activities this year. The Bengals Golf tournament will be held on Thursday, October 8, in the morning at the Argyle country club. Come and join the booster and other PTSA members as they play golf for the benefit of the school.

Continued on Page 5

Scores are reported to ETS (Educational Testing Service) and parents and students receive a comprehensive analysis report indicating areas of strength and need, in addition to their actual test to review for future planning for the SAT. This information provides the school with important data so we can structure SAT supports and interventions needed for students to maximize their potential on the SAT.

On October 14, we will do an extensive practice test for 9th and 11th grade students who do not pay to take the PSAT which will give them meaningful information for future planning as well as test experience. In addition, we will review strategies on October 2 to get students in the mind frame for the test.

There is yet another important reason for all 10th and 11th grade students to take the PSAT. The College Board provides us with a program called "AP (Advanced Placement) Potential," which is designed to help schools identify students who are not in honors or AP classes but have demonstrated the potential to be successful, based on their PSAT scores. We are able to access a profile on students which identifies areas of strength and helps us continue to move more students into more rigorous honors and AP courses. This program has been very helpful and has assisted in positive movement upwards for students, armed with objective data that can instill confidence in students who do not see themselves in honors classes.

What can students and parents do to maximize student performance on the PSAT/SAT? Studies show that students who read for pleasure score higher on the verbal part of the SAT. Reading can never be emphasized enough. Prior to taking the SAT, parents need to make sure students participate in some form of SAT preparation and have practice with the test, whether it is the SAT prep course we offer at Blake, a private tutor or course, or working with SAT prep books or computer programs. Students, who take one or more honors level class, score higher on the PSAT/SAT. Students need to be nudged, or pushed in some cases, to take the most rigorous course load that is reasonable for them. This is a key factor in increasing test scores and future opportunities for students.

We have worked as a school to incorporate PSAT/SAT formats into all curricular areas to help students be as

familiar as possible with aspects of the test including test-taking strategies. Please visit our website and read the most up to date news and information on PSAT/SAT from the School Counseling Department and the Career Center. Your child's counselor, as well as, Mrs. Kathy Moore in the Career Center, Ms. Moriah Martin and Ms. Judy Pearson, our SAT coordinators are valuable resources for you and your child as they prepare for their future.

We have been very pleased by student behavior this school year; the students have been wonderful! Positive behaviors are clearly on the increase as we continue to reinforce our behavioral expectations. Students are arriving to class on time, engaged in class and there is even less trash in the halls following lunch. We are off to a wonderful start. That said, please be aware that I continue to remind students about behaviors during the school day and at school events and would appreciate parental reinforcement of behavioral expectations.

We tell students to let an adult know if they hear of something that could be troublesome, and if a problem should arise, to keep away and allow security and administrative professionals to deal with the issue. Students are also told to have a plan for how they will leave school events and vacate the premises immediately at the conclusion of the event. The end of a contest, performance or dance is not the time to think about calling home for a ride or making post-event plans. The sooner students leave following a school event, the less likely it is that there will be issues or problems. There have been times when students have waited to be picked up over an hour after an event is over, causing school personnel to stay far longer than they should be expected to; we need our parents to work with students to ensure they have a safe and expedient way to get home. The safety of our students is the number one priority and we need everyone's cooperation.

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,

Continued on Page 4

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 ends on October 30 and report cards will be given out in school on Wednesday, 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.

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.



Instrumental Music Events

Fall Concert

Our first formal concert of the 2009-2010 Season is Tuesday, October 27th at 7:30pm in the Blake Auditorium. Our concert is FREE and open to the public. This first performance of the year will feature the Chamber Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, and special guests: The Olney Concert Band (a community based organization of over 50 adult and student musicians ranging from ages 16 to 80 who get together weekly to make music). Selections on this concert will be fun and kind of wacky as Blake kicks off it's 12th music season.

Friday, October 9 is the annual International Night at Blake. Get in touch with Mr. Gary-Jean Charles, sponsor, at [Gary JeanCharles@mcpsmd.org](mailto:GaryJeanCharles@mcpsmd.org). Find out how you can help. Enjoy the wonderful food and entertainment, and a unique experience at Blake.

On October 14, the PSAT will be administered to students in the 9th-11th grades, during the regular school day. MCPS is funding the PSAT test for 10th grade only, and so the test will be free of charge. 9th and 11th grade students are encouraged to take the test also. The cost of the PSAT is \$13.00. Look for information to come home with your student from school.

The Northeast Consortium (NEC) Open House will be held at Blake on October 14 for all 8th grade students and their families that are interested in finding out more about Blake and who may want to select Blake as their choice of schools to attend in High School.

RACE FOR A DREAM will be held on Sunday, October 18. Registration starts at 10:00 a.m. and the race begins at 11:00. Everyone will get good exercise, support a good cause, and get home in time to see the football game at 1:00 that afternoon. The Race is held to promote Teen Driving Safety. There will be many prizes, one of which will be a free two-week driving class from I Drive Smart. Money will support After Prom. Come out and kick-off spirit week with us. Janice Hylton is the coordinator. If you have missed signing up to be a member of the PTSA, it is not too late. You will find a form in this copy of the Blake Blue Note, which you can fill out and return to the school office with your dues. We are also asking for to help us support the school activities.

Direct Appeal

The calculators that the PTSA helped to purchase over the summer will be made available for students who do not have their own to borrow. This is but one way that the PTSA is putting donations to work. Consider donating to the PTSA. Thank you to all who have already given.

Reflections

Reflections, is an arts recognition and achievement program sponsored by the National PTA . Students can submit works in the area of literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, and film/video production. Have your student speak to their Arts or English teachers if they are

interested in participating in this contest. Last year, senior Elise Gifford won the contest at Blake. You can look at works of the national winners from the 2008-2009 program, please at the following website: <http://www.pta.org/2032.asp>. The Reflections contest begins on a local school level and winners can move on to the county, state, and national contest level. Reflections entries are due December 1st.

It's About Health

Have you had your flu shot yet? It is not too late, and before you know it, it will be time to be vaccinated for H1N1. Look for information in the nurse's office, who will work in coordination with the administration and PTSA to raise awareness of the recommendation for students to get inoculated against the flu.

Educational Advocacy

Are you interested in Educational Advocacy? Join the Education Committee. Contact Jonathan Arias, at ariasj@csr.nih.gov. Are you interested in Special Education Advocacy? Join the Special Education Committee. Contact Debi Gartland at dgartland@towson.edu.

Used Book and Media Sale

Hold on to your books and other media, so that you can donate them to Blake for the Used Book and Media Sale that will be held in February (19-21). Don't give them away, until you give them to us!

A Kind Thank You

The PTSA received a note over the summer from Blake graduate, Benjamin D. Martin, who thanked the PTSA for the scholarship we awarded him. He is attending James Madison University. It is nice to receive notes from our graduates, especially ones like this. We love it when our efforts are truly appreciated. We wish you the best of luck (and hard work) in college, Benjamin.

As you can see we have much work ahead of us. The year is in full swing. Have a great autumn. Enjoy the foliage, and we will send out the next issue of the Blake Blue Note, just after the Thanksgiving holiday. It's early yet, but we will be back with our next issue of the Blake Blue Note in December.

Robina Barlow

president@blakeptsa.org

Homecoming Information:

The overall theme is: "Dancing Through the Decades"

Sunday Oct. 18th- Race for a Dream 11am

- The Race has been moved to the Fall in order to increase participation. The Race will highlight teen safe driving as well as benefit the After Prom Committee of the PTSA.
- Spirit Week points will be awarded to each class based on participation.
- Registration will be held before the event and online at the Blake Homepage. (\$10 before the event- \$20 day of the race)

Monday Oct. 19th- Pajama Day & Battle of the Classes 7-9pm (Gym)

- Classes will compete against each other in various challenges.
- Spirit Week Points will be awarded for participation and to the winning classes.

Tuesday Oct. 20th- Decades Day & Powder Puff Game 7pm (Stadium)

- Powder Puff Game- Cost:\$5

Wednesday Oct. 21st- Wacky-Tacky Day & Staff/Student Basketball Game 7pm

- This event in conjunction with the Project Change Club will raise money for the *Nothing But Nets Foundation* which sends mosquito nets to African countries to prevent the spread of malaria.
- Cost: \$3 beforehand, \$5 at the door
- Here is a link to their website:
<http://www.nothingbutnets.net/nets-save-lives/refugees.html>

Thursday Oct. 22nd- Celebrity Day & Hallway Decorating 2-8pm

- Seniors:1980's, Juniors: 1960's Sophomores: 1950's Freshmen: 1970's

Friday Oct. 23rd- Class Colors Day, Pep Rally & Homecoming Game 6:30pm

- The Pep Rally will take place in the Stadium weather permitting from 1-2:10pm. If there is inclement weather, we will hold two pep rallies in the Gym.
- Staff will be wearing College Gear/College Colors

Saturday Oct. 24th- Homecoming Dance 7:30-11:30pm

- Cost: \$10
- Tickets will be sold three weeks before the dance (10/5-10-22).
- We will also be collecting canned goods throughout the ticket sales to benefit the "Kids Helping Kids Food Drive" which will support Maryland Food Banks. All are welcome to participate.
- FYI- we will NOT be checking shoes in the Coat Room. ☺



Senior Class News

Check the Class of 2010 website for updates: <HTTP://WWW.BLAKEHS.WEBS.COM> or the Senior Class bulletin board across from Room B115. Homecoming information, meeting times and dates and other important information is updated daily.

- Homecoming hallway meetings are held every Sunday at John Vernon's house. Please see email him for directions and times (JohnPVernon@gmail.com).
- SENIOR CLASS PICTURE: Friday, October 2nd (1/2 day), please bring Blanton forms on Friday if you would like to purchase a class photo
- Powder Puff tickets will be presold on Mon. & Tues. 10/19 & 10/20 at Lunch under the Spiral Staircase, tickets are \$5.00 each. Get'em early! There was a long line last year.
- The Senior Class Officers are still brainstorming a list of graduation speakers. If anyone in the Blake Community has contacts, please email Ms. Gelb at Christina_R_Gelb@mcpsmd.org.

**Blake Stage Company to present Shakespeare's
Hilarious Comedy, *The Taming of the Shrew***

The Blake Stage Company will be producing SHAKESPEARE'S wonderful comedy, *The Taming of the Shrew*, November 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21 at 7:30 pm on Blake Stage Company Auditorium.

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW follows the courtship of the shrewish Katherina Minola by Petruchio --- a rascally hero who has squandered his fortune and is looking for a marriageable woman with money. Along the way, Petruchio and Katherina find each other as a true couple and make for themselves a wonderful new world --- all the while astounding their family and friends around them.

SHREW will be played in a 1990's Italian Chic style and the Stage Company Boosters will be hosting Italian Festival Dinners/Entertainments to go along with the shows on November 14 and 21st. Look on the school website for more information about that in a few weeks.

The CAST LIST:

- Petruchio: Bryndon Cook
- Kate: Aurelia Akpan & Kira Williams
- Baptista: Nicolette Dehi & Max Sabelhaus
- Bianca: Brittany Stuart & Maia Chicherio
- Grumio (Servant to Petruchio): Becky Joiner & Joal Chen
- Lucentio: Mark Fearson
- Hortensio: Toan Nguyen & Charles Harper
- Tranio: Ashley Larkin & Elise Gifford
- Gremio: James Wingate
- Vicentio: Alex Reeves

In order to help defray the costs for this production, the parents and students involved in the production are collecting contributions for a Program/Advertisement Book that will be given to all audiences free of charge. This program will feature information about the show and the actors and technicians who put it together as well as carry your advertisement with another 50 business from the community. We know you will agree that this is an excellent way for you to show your support for Blake High School, but also for the arts at the school, too.

In return for your kind support for the show, we will send businesses two complementary tickets to attend the show of your choice. Additionally, we will be holding a "Benefactors Night Reception" on Friday, November 13th and hope to honor you there as one of our contributors.

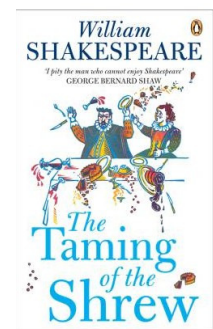
We have several levels of advertising enclosed with this letter, but we are also looking for Corporate Sponsors for this show. A corporate sponsor would be listed as such on the title page of the Program and the donor would be invited to the Benefactors Night as well as receive tickets to shows.

As you might realize, the arts are very important, but we need financial support to offer them with outstanding instructors as well as materials for the students to build and paint sets and make costumes.

If there is any question as to the veracity of this solicitation, please contact me at Blake.

Students have been instructed to collect the money at time of solicitation (although we can bill you before or after the show). We appreciate your kind support.

Michael D'Anna, Artistic Director



Blake Students at New York Voices Concert

On Thursday, September 10th, fifty-five choral and band students comprised the studio audience for an up-and-personal concert by the renowned New York Voices and the United States Airmen of Note. They traveled with Mr. Brian Damron and Ms. Shirley Letcher to Bolling Air Force Base and participated in a broadcast taping of a show for the Jazz Heritage Series. Blake was introduced on air as the studio audience.

The small broadcast room gave students the ambiance of a private concert. The jazz performance was phenomenal. Both the Airmen of Note and the New York Voices were extremely gracious and friendly. They stayed after the taping to talk to the students about jazz and signed autographs for any who asked.

Music students might often attend concerts by professionals of high caliber, but seldom are they in such a small, intimate setting with opportunities to interact with professional musicians. The program will air during Jazz Heritage Month. When a schedule of broadcast is announced, we will post the times on Edline.

Blake Signature Program Takes Off in 2009-2010!

The Blake HS Signature Program continues to soar as a main pillar of the Blake High School Experience. All of our programs are in full operation. Here are some updates!

The Reflections Program with the theme "Beauty Is" is currently soliciting art works from students in our visual arts and performing arts programs. You will find information on the school website about this exciting competition for students. Fine arts Teacher, Susan Knott has additional information for interested contestants.

The Instrumental Music Program is sporting new marching band uniforms this year and you will be able to see this outstanding group of students at local parades and at the home football games. In addition, look toward the school calendar for the first Band Concert in October.

The Musical Theatre Company will be presenting "A Salute to George Gerschwin" in early November (the 5th and 6th) featuring songs and dances put to the music of this great American Composer.

The Second Stage Theatre Company under the direction of Michael Kelley will open the theatre season with shows of Improv and skits on October 29th and 30th.

The Stage Company will present Shakespeare's THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (see below). Don't miss this hilarious comedy. Along with this, the Company will host two Italian Festivals of fine food and entertainment as pre-shows on November 14 and 21st in the Black Box Theater.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT will be presented by the Acting company the first week of December.

The Dance Company is planning another study-trip to New York in early November and the Vocal Music concert follows in December.

So much going on! Check out the Blake Website for events, dates, and times!



Booster Club News

Memberships: We're still taking membership contributions. The form is available on our website page, linked to the Blake HS main page. Join and receive a sweatshirt, stadium seat or tote bag!

Stadium Advertising: Would you like to advertise your business at one of our stadiums? For \$250 per year, we'll prepare a 3x8 vinyl sign from your camera-ready art, or we'll design one for you. You pick which fall, winter or spring stadiums to display it.

Concessions: We always need fun-loving people to help staff our football concession stand. Email us at blakebooster@comcast.net.

After-Prom Planning: It's never too early to get in the game!

Are you aware that the second largest student event at Blake is the After-Prom? Blake's After-Prom event draws nearly 800 juniors and seniors and is also one of the best attended post prom events in the county.

We will again be hosting the "After-Prom" at Dave & Buster's in Rockville. The evening is loaded with exciting activities, games, food and music, creating an atmosphere which is not only thrilling but also safe and supervised! While the venue has a built in dynamic atmosphere, there's plenty of pre-planning that needs to take place prior to the big night! We are looking for lots of people to pitch in to help plan the 2010 After-Prom.

Meetings, organizing or behind the scenes help-we'll need it all. Parents of freshman and sophomores are especially encouraged to get involved now in order to build the long term support necessary to carry on this tradition in the upcoming years.

Please consider joining a committee, attend an upcoming meeting or send us an email to see how you can get involved! It's a great way to get to know the Blake community and support our school for a worthy cause! Active Committees: Fundraising, Prizes, Decorations, Tee-shirt.

Next meeting will be in December-please watch the Bluenote and Eubie mail for details. For more information contact Maura McMullen at McMullens2@verizon.net or Diane Bush at dbush10892@verizon.net

ACADEMY NEWS:

The new school year finds the Blake Career Academies continuing our mission to connect students with career visions and opportunities. Last year, 95 seniors were recognized at graduation for achieving Academy certification, and we hope to increase this number in the Class of 2010. Certification requires that students complete three courses in their elected pathway and a culminating capstone experience. Capstone experiences allow students to apply their academic education to authentic, real-world projects and further develop leadership and teamwork skills.

Our goal is to connect our current seniors with meaningful experiences related to their future careers, such as internships, research or performance projects, leadership of major school initiatives, or college and AP courses. Staff and career professionals mentor students as they demonstrate their applied learning in these capstone settings. Among other capstone experiences, this year we have students working on a research project in collaboration with Gemstone program students at the University of Maryland College Park and under the auspices of Dr. Adam Hsieh, a professor in their Fischell Department of Bioengineering.

As always, a vital component of our academies is our business and community connections. These partnerships provide our students with unique career exploration activities, including guest speakers, job shadowing, and networking with experts (and future employers) in career fields. Northrop Grumman Information Systems (NGIS), our partner in support of the Engineering Pathway (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Academy) was recognized by the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE) with the prestigious "Champion for Children" Partnership award. Please contact the Academy Coordinator, Barbara Jeweler, 301.879-1369 or Barbara_P_Jeweler@mcpsmd.org for further information about the Academy programs.

HIGH SCHOOL 101:

Starting Point to Academic Success

Program sets record for number of participants
This year marked the fourth annual High School 101 "graduating" class—incoming freshman who spent a week of their summer getting ready to be successful Blake students. From the moment they boarded the MCPS buses, their high school career began for the 196 students who participated throughout the month of July. This

group represented approximately 42% of the Class of 2013—a great foundation for future graduates. The High School 101 program includes activity sessions in math, reading, team building and skills for success. Sessions were taught by experienced Blake staff working with student teams lead by outstanding Blake graduates and rising seniors who served as mentors and role models. The program also benefits from the partnership with Johns Hopkins University, whose Master's candidates in Teaching lent their time and expertise to provide small group and individualized instruction. While the results aren't in on this year's High School 101 students, if their performance mirrors past participants in the program, they can expect to achieve higher grade point averages, better attendance, and increased eligibility. Thanks to all the High School 101 families who invested in their children's success by enrolling them in this year's program.

Another Year for the GIANT A+ Bonus Bucks Program---Remember to Register

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another year of A+ Bonus Bucks. Starting October 9, 2009 through March 25, 2010 **Blake High School** will have the opportunity to earn cash through Giant A+ Bonus Bucks Program. All you have to do is: Log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus to register online **OR** Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone. After you register your card, each shopping trip at Giant using your GIANT Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Giant website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at giantfood.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Participating makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support. Please be sure to register your card to benefit **Blake High School** using ID # **03625**

WELCOME BACK!

Counseling Department and College and Career Center

Get Ready, Get Set for the 2009-10 School Year

Counseling Department Vision Statement

As members of the Counseling Department at James Hubert Blake High School, we envision a school that inspires and equips students with self-knowledge in the areas of social, emotional, academic, and career development which will enable them to make optimal choices for their futures.

To keep you aware of important testing dates, special programs, college visits/fairs and other news, the Blake College & Career Center provides a monthly newsletter. These newsletters are available on the Blake website, under the "Career Center" link, www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/blakehs. Be sure to read the newsletter carefully and refer to it as needed throughout the year, as information will not be repeated in subsequent issues. Additional details and application forms for all newsletter items are available from Mrs. Moore, the College & Career Information Coordinator.

The Counseling office is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students are welcome to stop in before school, during lunch or after school. Students may make an appointment to see their counselor during a class period by signing up on a clipboard on Mrs. Babcock's desk and obtaining a pass with her signature in their agenda book. Parents may email or call their students counselor directly to make an appointment.

Counselors will be meeting with seniors on September 10-11 during English classes to review the Naviance Family Connection program that was introduced last winter. Students will be arranging appointments with their counselors individually to discuss the transition from high school to post-secondary school, work, etc.

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

Beginning in September several college admission representatives will be visiting Blake. Scheduled college

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

The Counseling assignments for 2009-2010 are as follows:

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

College & Career Coordinator	Mrs. Moore
Registrar	Mrs. Cunningham
Administrative Support	Mrs. Money and Mrs. Babcock

Administrator assignments:

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

Important Fall DATES – Mark your calendar!

- Oct. 1 Seniors turn in "Brag Sheets" to Counseling Office
- Oct. 2 Late registration deadline for Oct. 24 ACT (late fee + \$20)
- Oct. 7 Blake's College Night for Seniors and Parents, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 20 College Expo field trip, Gr. 12, 10-1, Discovery Sports Ctr., Germantown, MD
- Nov. 5 ASVAB Career Exploration test, Gr. 10-12, 7:45 – 10:40 am (Career Center) (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)
- Nov. 10 Hispanic College Fair field trip, Gr. 11-12, Universities at Shady Grove, Rockville
- Nov. 10 Blake's Financial Aid Workshop for Student and Parents, Gr. 12, 7:00 pm (Amphitheatre)

Counseling Department and College & Career Center

SENIORS:

- 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.
- 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 or www.actstudent.org). Visit your Counselor or the Career Center for more information.

JUNIORS, SOPHOMORES, FRESHMEN:

- Focus on earning the best grades possible. Understand that colleges look at several factors to determine admissions. GPA, SAT/ACT results, recommendations from teachers and counselors, the student-written essay and your extracurricular activities, including leadership positions and community service.
- Find a balance with 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.

YMCA Youth & Family Services – Fall Workshops

Y's Words: Parenting Teens - A down-to-earth and practical way to meet the challenges of raising teenagers. The group discussion format teaches skills to help improve parent/teen relations, develop teen self-esteem and self-reliance, and promote responsible teen behavior at home, school and in the community. Required text, available first night: \$20; class fee: \$30. Mondays, October 5 – November 9, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, United Church of Christ, 9525 Colesville Road, Silver Spring. Registration and Information: Call 301.229.1347 or parenting@ymcadc.org.

FEE WAIVERS FOR SAT & ACT AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS MEETING ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES - The College Board and The ACT both offer waivers for students for whom the payment of fees for the tests presents a serious barrier to college entrance. Eligibility is determined primarily by membership in a family whose annual income falls within predetermined guidelines or for those whose family receives public assistance, lives in subsidized housing, or the student has been approved for free or reduced lunch at school. Students should see Mrs. Moore for the Fee Waiver Eligibility Form and registration instructions. Students using a fee waiver can register for the SAT or ACT online with the assigned fee waiver number. In addition, four college application fee waivers are available to students who meet the abovementioned criteria.

NEW SAT Prep for MCPS students – FREE online practice Students should take advantage of the FREE SAT and ACT online prep offered by MCPS. To access this resource, visit the MCPS homepage, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, and click on the "for students" tab. The link for this test prep is in the top left hand corner. Directions for how to proceed are clearly stated. Username and password is the student's I.D. number. Students can pace themselves through the online course, but should set goals for themselves such as 1-2 hours per week for SAT/ACT Prep.

PSAT REGISTRATION - This year, the PSAT will be administered on Wednesday, October 14 at all MCPS high schools. Students in 10th grade will take the PSAT at no cost through a partnership between MCPS and Montgomery College. For 11th and 9th grade who take the official PSAT, the fee is \$13. 9th grade will take either the official PSAT for a fee or a free practice test that morning in the computer lab. Please be aware that the PSAT is a practice test for the SAT Reasoning Test so **all juniors should take the official PSAT!** It is administered only once during the school year and consists of two 25-minute critical reading sections, one 30-minute math section, and one 30-minute writing skills section. Only students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in their JUNIOR year will be considered for the National Merit Scholarship Program, the National Achievement Scholarship Program or the National Hispanic Scholar Awards Program.

ASVAB (ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY) is a career exploration test administered free to interested tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students. Blake H.S. will offer the ASVAB on November 5, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. The test helps identify the student's interests and aptitude in the following areas: verbal, math, science & technical skills. When the individual scores are interpreted, students learn how their interests & skills relate to the demands of more than 400 occupations, helping them to identify suitable career

Outreach Evening Events

College Night Workshop

Wed, Oct. 7th
7:00 pm

Amphitheater

Financial Aid Workshop

Tues, Nov. 10th
7:00 pm

*Amphitheater – English
Career Center – Spanish*

****Parents and Seniors are strongly encouraged to attend****

Continued on page 12

options. The ASVAB is an excellent career exploration tool and we encourage students to take it to determine their strengths. Taking the ASVAB in no way involves a commitment to the military. MCPS policy: ASVAB results are released only to the student and not to the armed services. Should a student wish to use his/her ASVAB results as part of an enlistment conversation with a military recruiter, he/she can provide his/her scores to the recruiter. Participants will receive their scores on December 8 @ 8:30 am. If you would like to learn more about the ASVAB or prepare for the test, visit: www.asvabprogram.com and www.March2success.com.

USE CAREER CENTER WEBPAGE TO STAY INFORMED

Check out the monthly newsletter online to learn about important deadlines, special events, scholarships, college visits, testing, etc. Everything you need to stay connected is at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/blakehs/>. Click on "Students," then on "Career Center."

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES RECRUITING LOCALLY - The HBCU on-the-spot evening admission/scholarship events have been scheduled as follows:

Event date	Institutions	Location
11/ 4	Morehouse U and Dillard U	Gaithersburg HS
11/23	Hampton U	Rockville HS
12/9	U of Md. Eastern Shore	Springbrook HS
2/4/10	Coppin State U	TBD
2/11/10	Bowie State U	Kennedy HS
2/17/10	UNCF/NAACP/MCPS College Fair	Richard Montgomery HS

Trinity University, an all women's college in DC, is offering an on-the-spot admissions event especially for Latina students on November 19, 2010 at Wheaton HS.

See Mrs. Moore for information on times and admissions criteria. Students must be prepared with completed application, transcript and test scores in hand and be prepared to interview with the admissions representative at any of these events.

COLLEGE FAIRS:

The fourth annual Scholarship Conference will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the Montgomery College's Germantown campus in the High Technology and Science Center building, located at 20200 Observation Drive Germantown, Maryland 20876. This is a free event held to provide college-bound students with the opportunity to receive a wealth of information on financial aid and scholarship opportunities. The highlight of the conference will be the keynote address, by Marianne Ragins, the author of "Winning Scholarships for College: An Insider's Guide," which provides scholarship information and shares Ms. Ragins' experience with earning more than \$400,000 in scholarships. In addition, the conference will include information booths and workshops by representatives from Montgomery College, local colleges and universities, and scholarship organizations. For complete information about the conference and to REGISTER, please visit

<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/scholarshipconference/>.

National Christian College Fairs - Monday, October 19 - 7:00-9:00 pm, @ McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182. For more information: www.nccf.us or 888-423-2477.

College Expos Fair – Tuesday, October 20, 2009 @ Discovery Sports Center , Gaithersburg , MD (field trip) 9:45-12:45 and 6:30-8:30 pm. (Blake will take interested seniors to this event from 9:00-11:00. Students must complete the permission form and return it to the Career Center by October 12 to participate. Valuable evening workshops offered on financial aid, athletic recruiting, and the importance of early college awareness. Parents of sophomores, juniors & seniors are encouraged to attend this fair with their student during the evening hours!

Washington DC Performing and Visual Arts College Fair - Sunday, October 25, 2009 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington DC from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hispanic College Fair – Tuesday, November 10, 2009 @ Universities at Shady Grove Conference Center, Gaithersburg , (field trip) 9:30-12:30 for MCPS Latino juniors & seniors. Permission forms required by November 2. Free bus transportation.

College Fair & Symposium (Hosted by Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) - Saturday, November 14, 2009, 8:30-2:30, at Bowie State University, 14000 Jericho Road, Bowie, MD (301) 860-4000. For more info visit: www.DonnaEdwards.house.gov or call 301)516-7601

Upcoming College Fairs
(FREE field trips)

COLLEGE EXPO
Tues, October 20

Discovery Sports Ctr
Germantown, MD
10 - noon (field trip)
or
6:30-8:30 pm (w/parents)
Permission forms
due Oct 12

HISPANIC COLLEGE FAIR
Tues, November 10

The Universities at Shady Grove Conference Center
9:30-noon (field trip)
Permission forms due Nov 3

Bring a bag lunch for the bus & dress appropriately.

Blake Media Center Resources - At School and At Home

It has been wonderful to welcome new students from all grades and to see our returning students in the Media Center again. Ninth graders are currently completing Media Center orientation regarding our services and resources. We have been helping ninth grade students to activate their Blake Edline accounts and Noodletools accounts as well. **All students who cannot remember their Edline passwords or who need their activation codes may come to the Media Center before school, at lunch, or after school for assistance in accessing their Edline accounts.**

We are looking forward to assisting students with their information needs and reading projects during the coming year. Our resources are available throughout the school day (with teacher permission for students to come to the Media Center during class time). Students may use the Media Center independently before school starting at 7:00 a.m., and again at lunch, and after school. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the Media Center is open until 3:30 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday we are open until 4:00 p.m. for Homework Club/Afterschool Study Center (after which activity buses provide transportation home). All students are welcome. In addition to the Media Center staff, a teacher is available during Homework Club time to help students with assignments. This year we are happy to have Social Studies teacher Scott Mendenhall and English teacher Amy Branson as the teachers working with Homework Club. One or two copies of most textbooks are also available for use in the Media Center when needed, so students may get a good start on homework and projects during their time in the Media Center.

Although the physical doors to the Media Center close at some point each day, many of our most valuable resources remain continuously open to students via the Internet. The most valuable of these is the extensive list of subscription databases available to Blake's students through a combination of state, county, and local campus funding sources (see attached list). The databases are essentially very large virtual libraries of authoritative information (newspapers, magazines, reference sources, images, reviewed web-links) and are the sources that college professors and librarians tell us they want students to come to them knowing how to use well. Using the URLs and password information on the attached list, these powerful resources are available to the Blake Community wherever you have Internet access. **Please discard lists**

from previous years as there have been several important updates and changes in access information. The Edline Media Center page also includes the URLs and passwords for our subscription databases as well as some updated resources for creating citations and using the electronic note card function of Noodletools, our citation generator. With twenty-four hour access, we hope you and your students will find the resources helpful and will use them often.

Lists can be found on pages 20 & 21 in this newsletter

Bengal Classic

Have you registered for the 4th Annual Bengal Classic yet? If you are a golfer, you won't want to miss this fun outing! This year's tournament will be held on Thursday October 8th at Argyle Country Club! The prices go up on 9/18 so send in your registration today! The deadline for registration is 9/24.

Not a golfer? Plan to join us for lunch! Pre-registration for lunch only is required. We'll have lots of contests and prizes throughout the day. Our own Blake Jazz Ensemble will provide lunchtime entertainment!

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR CORPORATE SPONSORS, FAMILY TEE SIGN SPONSORS AND PRIZE DONORS! VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED TO HELP ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT. Contact Laura Matusek - laura_matusek@comcast.net OR 301-570-0981 if you are interested in sponsoring, donating a prize or volunteering!

To download a registration form, visit www.bengalclassic.com.

Thanks for helping make this year's tourney the best yet! We'll see you at Argyle on 10/8!



Visual Arts News

Blake visual art department is committed to two goals for this school year. First, the department will help students with opportunities such as competitions and scholarship monies in the visual arts. Second, the art department will establish connections with community and school organizations to make the art experience interrelated with real world experiences. Our goals will be realized when students receive scholarship monies and competition recognition. This path is best followed when students apply themselves with the intent of receiving scholarships to the school of their choice or with the desire to perfect their skills through competition. The visual art staff, Mrs. Knott, TV Production, Mr. Overman, Digital Arts and AP 2D Design, Mrs. Runion, AP Drawing, Studio Art and Fashion Design, Mrs. McIntosh, AP 3D Design and Ceramics, Ms. Sara Hartenstine, TV Production, Digital Photography and Darkroom Photography, and Katja Jimenez, Fashion Design and Fundamentals, are working hard to make this a reality for all students who are committed to the arts.

Last year we achieved the highest scores in AP Studio Art portfolio evaluations with four students, Laura Brady, Clair DeMarco, Matt Bessel and Lydia Mihaychuk receiving the highest scores possible for AP portfolios. Many students received scholarships including Jenny Kang who received a full scholarship to Maryland Institute, College of Art.

Students are poised this year for the challenge. Yanika Black has designed the poster for the Talent Show (9/30) and students in the advanced digital art classes are working to complete designs for Race for a Dream (10/18) and other events for the school. The Fashion Design Club (Mrs. Jimenez), TV Production (Ms. Hartenstine), Art Club (Mrs. Runion) are meeting to work on a variety of opportunities.

Some of the competitions that will be focused on this year include (by deadline):

10/1/09 – NFAA Young Arts Awards (Seniors)

1/1/10 - Alicia Betancourt Scholarship in the Arts (Sr/Girls)

1/1/10 - Brandon Lee Carrington Scholarship in the Arts (Sr boys)

2/1 - Distinguished Scholar in the Arts - Maryland (Juniors)

2/1 - National PTA Reflections Program Theme: "Beauty is.."

3/1 – Mont. County Federation of Women's Clubs art contest

4/1- Ida F. Haimovicz Visual Arts Award (seniors)

4/1 – Art Department Award for Excellence (Seniors)

Please encourage your son or daughter to participate in

these art competitions. Below is the art gallery schedule for the school.

We all are very excited about this coming school year and would be very interested in having parents and students invest in the arts through your support.

Mr. John Overman, Department Chair



2009 – 2010 Eubie Gallery Gallery Schedule (Room D51)

Sept – October 15	Best of 2008 -2009
October 17 – November 15	Studio Art Show – Mrs. Runion's classes
November 17 – December 15	Fundamentals and Fashion Show – Mrs Jimenez's classes
Jan. 17 – Feb. 15	Showcase of Visual Art Classes All visual art classes will showcase works. Great opportunity for students to see art work is created in each class
Feb. 17 – March 15	Darkroom Photography and Digital Photography – Ms Hartenstine's classes
March 17- April 15	Ceramics –Mrs. McIntosh'classes
April 17 – May 12	Media Art Classes including Digital Art and Animation – Mr. Overman's classes
May	Year in Review/ Senior Show - Art Festival Show
June	Best of 2008 – 2009

What is the BBN?

The Blake Blue Note is your PTSA newsletter. Please feel free to submit articles about upcoming events, activities, etc. The BBN will be published for Sept., Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan, Feb/March, Apr/May and June. It is posted via Eubiemail and on the school website, and mailed to families who want a hard copy. To save the PTSA money and time, we urge you to get it electronically only. After the electronic copy is posted, it takes another 2-3 weeks to get a hard copy by mail.

To get on the email list for reminders about submitting articles, to request your name be removed from the hard copy mailing list, or to submit articles, send emails to blakebluenote@yahoo.com. (To remove your name from the list, send your child's name, zip code and graduation year.)

Many thanks to Ms. Beth Shepherd and her class for preparing the BBN for mailing.

Your BBN editors -- Sara Watson (editing) and Michele Setton (design and layout).

SPRING BREAK TRIP TO COSTA RICA

Is your child interested in going to Costa Rica for Spring Break 2010? Log on to www.explorica.com with the Tour ID: Garlick-3855 for the trip itinerary, costs, deadlines, and much more! Contact Ms. Jessica Garlick at Jessica_Garlick@mcpsmd.org with any questions.



Race for a Dream & National Teen Driver Safety Week

James H. Blake High School is partnering with **IDriveSmart** in recognizing National Teen Driver Safety (NTDSW) Week, October 18-24, 2009. NTDSW was designated by Congress as a time for communities, schools and families to raise awareness and provide solutions to teen driver crashes, the leading cause of death for teens in the U.S.

Blake will host its 6th annual **Race for a Dream** 5k Run/3K Walk in memory of junior Blake student Alicia Betancourt who was killed in a car crash on Norwood Road in September 2004. The Race promotes teen driver safety to high school students and their parents, which is especially important during Homecoming season. **All participants have the opportunity to win a driving class donated by IDriveSmart – a \$599 value!**

On race day, **IDriveSmart** will provide materials and opportunities to practice teen driver safety. It is a great learning experience for all -- whether you run or walk! Safe driving tips and driving related statistics are posted along the race course. There will be awards for the top three male/female runners, as well as all participants receive a t-shirt and chances to win prizes.

The Race for a Dream is on Sunday, October 18, 2009. Please visit Blake's website for registration form. http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/blake/hs/index_files/Race%20Registration%20Form.pdf

Annual Silent Auction and Festival of Arts & Humanities

Blake PTSA will be hosting this year's **Annual Silent Auction** at the **Festival of the Arts & Humanities** on **April 16th, 2010**. Now more than ever, our students and school need our support. We are committed to making this year's Auction yet another Blake success and are seeking new and exciting efforts to help us reach our goals!

First and Foremost, we need YOU, our Parents and Friends to Chair and work our Auction Subcommittees. It takes *Many Hands* to produce this event. Whether you are able to Chair a committee, provide a donation, or help the "Night Of," there is no job too small! Secondly, the PTSA has newly purchased auction software that greatly enhance both the organization and scope of our Auction this year.

We will be holding our first organization meeting in early **October**, so watch for meeting date notifications on the PTSA listserv bulletins. Our first milestone is to start our Auction efforts *early* and to have our committees staffed! We urge you to take a moment and consider which area your skills and energy would help us most.

- DONATION SOLICITATION: Identify and contact sources of community contributions.
- DATABASE: Manage Item/Donor Information, Bid Sheets.
- DONATION COORDINATION: Item management, Bundle and Basket Coordination.
- PUBLIC RELATIONS & ADVERTISING: School and Community Publicity, Press-Releases, Posters.
- ONLINE BIDDING: Manage internet/listserv bid information and graphics.
- "NIGHT OF" LOGISTICS: Set-up/Clean-up, Table/Bid-Sheet Monitors, Table Runners
- TABLE/AUCTION DECORATION: Table/Auction Layout, Table Decorations, Auction Decorations, Signage
- PROGRAM: Prepare Program and List of Donations. Special Donor Request Signage.
- AUCTION CLOSE-OUT: Software Management, Cashier and Item Transfer.

Please send us an email to let us know how you can help! For volunteer sign-up or more information please contact Dawn Dolan at dtolan@verizon.net or Robina Barlow at president@blakeptsa.org.

James Hubert Blake High School PTSA - **Annual Silent Auction and Festival of Arts & Humanities**

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

Donation Form April 16, 2010 6pm

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: _____

Please attach any business cards, brochures, etc. for display with your donation. Questions? Contact Dawn Dolan, Silent Auction Chair, via email at dtolan@verizon.net or Robina Barlow, PTSA President, at president@blakeptsa.org. **Return this form and donation by March 30, 2010:**

Attn: Dawn Dolan, PTSA Silent Auction

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

For more information about **Blake HS PTSA** please visit us at blakeptsa.org or

J.H.Blake High School —Home of the Bengals at montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/blakehs/

Thank you for your support!

Blake Booster Spirit Store Sale!!

When & Where

10/2 - at the football game (stadium)

10/14 -15 - at school main hall during lunch

10/23 - at homecoming football game (stadium)

Price list

Hooded Sweatshirt in Black Grey or White	30.00
Sweatpants w/pockets in black and grey	28.00
Dri-Fit T-Shirt in Royal or black	20.00
Long sleeve cotton t-shirt in royal or black	15.00
Under armour polo in black, royal or white	35.00
Nylon shorts with madras plaid trim	28.00
Soffe shorts	15.00
Champion shorts with pockets	28.00
Flannel pajama pants	25.00
Royal or white visors	20.00
Black and royal baseball cap	20.00
Fleece blanket	25.00
Drawstring Backpack	15.00
Foam Seat Cushion	8.00
Plus magnets, decals and more—come see !!	



Blake PTSA Membership Form 2009-2010

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Full Name (please print) _____
(Include name of both parents/adults for family membership)

E-mail address #1: _____ E-mail address #2: _____

Phone # 1 _____ (H/W/C) Phone #2 _____ (H/W/C)

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

____ Check here if you do **not** wish to receive PTSA updates and announcements via e-mail.

____ Check here if you wish to receive the Blake Blue Note **ELECTRONICALLY ONLY (not via USPS)**.

BLAKE DIRECT APPEAL CONTRIBUTION

- Direct Appeal is the main source of funds for the Blake HS PTSA operating budget.
- Consider making a \$50 contribution in addition to membership, but any amount will be appreciated.
- **100% of your donation is fully tax deductible** and directly benefits Blake students.
- You can donate as an individual/family or as a business.

____ I prefer that my family **not** be included in a name-only list of contributors in the newsletter.

Yes, I want to join and have selected the following membership(s):

PTSA Single Membership (1 adult = \$20.00) _____ \$ _____
(Name)

PTSA Family Membership (2 adults = \$25.00) _____ \$ _____
(Both Names)

Student Membership (\$5.00) _____ \$ _____
(Name)

Blake Staff Membership (\$5.00) _____ \$ _____
(Name)

Alumni Membership (\$10.00) _____ \$ _____
(Name)

Direct Appeal Campaign Contribution \$ _____

Bengal Supporter - Up to \$99

Friends of Eubie - \$100 - \$249

Eubie Gold Level - \$250 - \$499

Red Carpet Level - \$500 or more

TOTAL (MEMBERSHIP + DIRECT APPEAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION) \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD (check one): _____ Cash _____ Check (Blake HS PTSA)
_____ Credit Card: MC or Visa (circle one)

Name (as appears on credit card) _____

Credit Card Number _____ **Exp. Date** _____

Signature (required to process credit card transactions) **Date** _____ (Credit info is confidential)

Mail to: Blake HS PTSA, 300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



xoxo Janice

Race for a Dream

6th Annual 5K Run / 3K Walk

To Promote Teen Driver Safety
and benefit Blake's After-Prom

Sunday, October 18, 2009

James Hubert Blake High School
300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, Maryland

Registration

\$10.00 through October 16, 2009
\$20.00 on Race Day – Register Early!
Additional donations are greatly appreciated
Race Day Registration Begins at 10:00 am
Race Starts at 11:00 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 200 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

To volunteer or for information on becoming a Race Sponsor, please contact
Janice Hylton at janice.hylton@nreca.coop

2009-2010 Online Resources Remote Access for STUDENTS

Database	URL	User ID	Pswrd	Description
ABC-CLIO American Government	http://www.socialstudies.abc-clio.com	blake	blake	American government, news, legislation, commentary
ABC-CLIO American History	http://www.socialstudies.abc-clio.com	blake	blake	U.S. history - 1350 to present day
ABC-CLIO World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras	http://www.socialstudies.abc-clio.com	blake	blake	Prehistory, ancient empires, beginning of the Renaissance to 1500 in Asia, Africa, and Americas. Includes biographies
ABC-CLIO World History: Modern Era	http://www.socialstudies.abc-clio.com	blake	blake	World events, issues, people, ideas over the last five centuries
Art Museum Image Gallery	http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com/www/jumpstart.jhtml	mcps1	mcps1	Digital images searchable by key word
Biography Resource Center	http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170	blake	none needed	Biographical information searchable by subject, time period, profession, and nationality
Britannica Online	http://www.school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps	search	Modules include: Online School Edition, Global Reference Center, Spanish Reference Center, World Data Analyst
Encyclopedia Britannica Online Academic Edition	http://search.eb.com/	none needed	none needed	Encyclopaedia recommended for high school and higher education
Columbia Granger's World of Poetry	http://www.columbiagrangers.org/Home.html	mcps	mcps	Database of poetry and criticism, searchable by poem or poet
Country Watch Premium	http://www.countrywatch.com	blakehs	blake	Current news and facts for countries
Culture Grams	http://www.proquestk12.com/myproducts	mcps	mcps	Cultural background on countries around the world. Includes recipes
Current Issues in the Environment	http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com/www/jumpstart.jhtml	AZA55	SSMD2 14601	Periodical database including selected weblinks with a focus on the environment
Gale Student Resource Center - GOLD	http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170	blake	none needed	Periodical database with full-text coverage of magazines, topic overviews, primary documents, and video clips. Photos. Includes American Decades series
Global Issues in Context	http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170	blake	none needed	
Greenwood: African-American Experience	http://aae.greenwood.com	none needed	none needed	History and culture; includes primary and secondary sources in print and audio/visual formats
Greenwood Online	http://dailylife.greenwood.com	blakehs	blake	Three modules: Daily Life through History, Daily Life in America, and World Folklore & Folklife
Issues & Controversies	http://www.fofweb.com/Direct2.asp?ItemID=WE00&ID=97107	blake	blake	Current events with statistical data and articles linked by issues - pro and con
Issues & Controversies in American History	http://www.fofweb.com/Direct2.asp?ItemID=WE00&ID=97107	blake	blake	Historical issues with statistical data and articles from colonial days to the present
Jstor	http://www.jstor.org	ask Media Center staff for login information (in Hand Out folder)		College-level academic journals

Database	URL	User ID	Pswrd	Description
Opposing Viewpoints	http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170	blake	none needed	Presents opposing viewpoint essays on controversial and current topics
Proquest Historical Newspapers	http://proquestk12.com/myproducts	mcps	mcps	Full-text, primary source newspaper articles beginning in the 19th century
Proquest Learning Literature	http://proquestk12.com	mcps	mcps	Literary criticism, author biographies
Proquest Platinum	http://proquestk12.com/myproducts	mcps	mcps	Periodical database covering more than 2,500 magazines, journals, newspapers, including scholarly journals
Science Resource Center	http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170	blake	none needed	Periodical and reference database of scholarly science resources
SIRS Decades	http://proquestk12.com/myproducts	mcps	mcps	Periodical and reference resource for all aspects of 20th Century U.S. History. Includes DBQs for the time period
SIRS Discoverer	http://proquestk12.com/myproducts	mcps	mcps	Selected full-text articles and images from 1600+ domestic and international newspapers, magazines, government documents, and websites
SIRS Knowledge Source	http://proquestk12.com/myproducts	mcps	mcps	Current events, U.S. government resources, arts and humanities; relevant Internet links
U.S. History Resource Center	http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170	blake	none needed	Periodical and Reference Database including images and web-links covering U.S. History
World Book Online Reference Center	http://www.worldbookonline.com	mcpsblake	mcpsm d	General encyclopedia
OTHER RESOURCES:				
Facts on File (ebooks)	http://ebooks.infobasepublishing.com/default.aspx?InstID=858			Online access to reference sources in the social sciences
Gale Virtual Reference Library (ebooks)	http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/silv40170	blake	none needed	Online access to reference sources on social and religious history
MC Public Library	http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/Libraries/	none needed	none needed	Access to online catalog and online databases
NoodleTools	http://www.noodletools.com/login.php	mcpsblake	mcpsm d	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
 Type in the usernames and passwords listed above, if required

How will you be able to pay for college?

DON'T MISS

Blake High School's

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

November 10, 2009

Tuesday, 7:00 pm



Guest Speakers:

Amphitheatre (English)

Melissa Gregory
Director of Financial Aid
Montgomery College

Career Center (Spanish)

Wendy Maldonado
Outreach Coordinator
Montgomery College

Find out everything you need to know about financial aid:

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

Seniors & their Parents should attend!

9th Grade Parent Meeting on Oct. 13

To the Parents/Guardians of 9th Grade Students

If you are confused by the maze of High School acronyms and requirements you are not alone! Come to the 9th grade parent/guardian meeting on Tuesday, October 13th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Blake amphitheater. We'll talk about PSAT, HSA, SSL, PE, ODD DAYS, EVEN DAYS and more.

This will be a great opportunity to meet with other 9th grade parents/guardians and Mr. Chris Berry, the 9th grade administrator, to discuss topics related to your 9th grader.

Please contact Michiko Diby (email: michiko.dibyATgmailDOTcom) with any questions or items you'd like to discuss at meeting.

10th Grade Parent Meeting on Oct. 6th

To the Parents/Guardians of 10th Grade Students:

Please join us at our first 10th grade parent/guardian meeting on Tuesday, October 6th from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Blake amphitheater! It's an opportunity to meet with other 10th grade parents/guardians and Ms. Beth Thomas, the 10th grade administrator to discuss topics related to the Class of 2012.

Our first meeting will include information about the upcoming PSAT exam as well as an open forum to discuss any questions/topics of interest and plan for future meetings.

If you have any questions about the meeting or items you'd like to discuss at the meeting, please email Ann Joiner joiner457ATaolDOTcom.

Transitioning Youth Resource Fair

From the PTSA Special Education Committee:

FREE Transitioning Youth Resource Fair
Saturday, October 17 9:00 – 1:30 pm

Katherine Thomas School 9975 Medical Center Drive
(next to Shady Grove Hospital)

For students with disabilities and their families – Middle School through Post-Secondary

Drop-in Workshops:

SSI, DDA, DORS – what are they, who's eligible and how do you apply
Choosing the Best Path through High School
Transition for Young People with Mental Health Issues
Jobs – Preparing in High School and Finding the Right Job
College Disability Support Services
Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities
Guardianship/Advanced Health Care Directives
IDEA to ADA

Exhibits:

Recreation
Arts
Education
Advocacy Groups
Transportation
Adult Service Providers
Government Services
College Options and Services

FREE!! Questions? Need accommodations or translation? Need flyers? Email
transitionworkgroup@yahoo.com

SPONSORED BY: Montgomery County Transition Work Group, TLC/The Treatment and Learning Centers, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services, Community Support Network, TransCen, Abilities Network

James Hubert Blake High School
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