



Blake Blue Note

April/May 2010

Please share this issue with your spouse and students

From the President

Monthly Message from your PTSA President

Robina Barlow

Today, as I write this letter the temperature has risen above 70 degrees, and the telltale signs of the Blizzards of 2010, humorously referred to as Snowmageddon and Snowpocalypse, have all melted away. And the vivid images of the snow are beginning to slowly recede from present memory.

As our students begin the final quarter of the school year, the PTSA is preparing for the final activities of the school year, though there are many more to come. The PTSA is involved with planning Comedy Night, After Prom, and the Online and Silent Auctions. We have more Staff Appreciation Days, we will provide the Graduation Rehearsal Breakfast for Seniors — immediately following the rehearsal, and breakfast for families attending graduation, before boarding the buses to go to graduation. And then there is one final staff appreciation luncheon on the last day of school.

We continue to be thankful for the wonderful teachers and staff at Blake. One way that we try and show our appreciation, is with the Staff Appreciation Days throughout the year. I want to thank the Chairs of the

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Principal's Corner

Carole C. Goodman

After a painfully long and difficult winter, I am sure we are all ready for spring. Spring is always an extremely busy time in any high school but it is always especially hopping at Blake.

April starts with Spring Break, then spring sports in full swing, Senior Banquet, the ESOL students Author's Tea and the spring musical Little Shop of Horrors, May kicks in with a multitude of events including instrumental, choral and dance concerts, HSA and AP exams, Academic Awards Night, Spring Athletic Awards Night, and of course the Prom and After Prom. (In May, I wish I had a couch in my office as it's hardly worth going home until graduation!)

This year we are the very first graduation on June 1 at 10:00 a.m. at DAR Constitution Hall. It seems far off now but is actually right around the corner. We will continue to remind seniors and parents of seniors but with such an early graduation there is absolutely no wiggle room for students who leave it down to the wire whether or not they will graduate. At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, I must verify to the Board of Education that all of our graduating seniors have fulfilled the requirements to earn a diploma from the State of Maryland. I cannot allow a student to walk who is even one half credit short; this is not something I have the authority to do. Every senior who walks across the stage on June 1, must have completed all requirements to earn a diploma.

Please note that no one will be admitted to graduation without a ticket. This is a strict policy of DAR Constitution Hall. Graduates do not need a ticket; their cap and gown is their admission into DAR. Graduating seniors will be

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Message from your PTSA President - continued from page 1

Staff Appreciation Committee; Patrice Kelly and Cathy Clark, and the parents who help them. They coordinate each of the Staff Appreciation Events. We could not provide these wonderful feasts without their help, and we could not have such successful days without the help of our parents who provide all of the wonderful food. Please lookout for announcements about future dates, when families will be asked to bring in special foods to provide for the staff. put a note or label on your dish, with your name so that we know who brought in the item, and to whom we should return dishes, if required. And if you have a special recipe, please include it so that we might share it with the staff.

The Used Book Sale was a wonderful activity for the community. We exceeded our goal and we were fortunate to have Kramer Enterprises provide store space for the sale. We want to thank all of the parents who helped with the sale, and those parents and students, and friends of Blake, who stopped by the Cloverly Shopping Center and purchased books and media. Thank you Orit Chicherio (Committee Chair) and Jack Goble (unofficial co-chair), and all of the help you provided during the sale.

Our March PTSA meeting was a success with a presentation by Mr. Sellers, Science Resource Teacher, at Blake. He explained the various science course options at Blake, he demonstrated how the Promethean Boards are used in the classroom to promote critical thinking, and he showed various ways in which science content can be taught in a lively, visual, and thought-provoking way. We also had a brief discussion about options for classes, such as Advanced Placement (AP) classes that might not be offered every year, due to low enrollment.

This year, AP Chemistry nor AP European History were offered due to low enrollment, during class registration, last year. AP Chemistry will be offered during the 2010-2011 school year. As of the printing of this newsletter, the school has said that AP Physics will not be taught during the 2010-2011, however, we were told that there are many AP Science and honors offerings at Blake. Another alternative to not taking AP classes that students want, is for them to register for one of the online AP classes, offered by MCPS. Online classes, however, cost money. Information regarding online classes for MCPS can be found at the following web address: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/onlinelearning/>. For questions, please regarding classes, contact the Counseling Department 301-879-1310.

The next PTSA meeting will be held on Tuesday April 20, at 7:00 p.m. A slate of nominees for officer positions will be presented, and nominations can be made from the floor. We must fill the officer positions for the PTSA, and so the nominating committee is hard at work to identify parents to nominate. Please step up and volunteer for an officer position. If interested in a position or knowing more about a position, contact Beth Blevins at vp@blakeptsa.org. Other members of the nominating committee include: Sara Watson, Muriel Cooper, Orit Chicherio, and Jack Goble.

OPEN POSITIONS:

- President or Co-President (proposed position)
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

We also have a real need for many Committee Chairpersons. Please see the committee list below:

COMMITTEE/TEAM

PARENT PEER GROUPS

9th GRADE
10th GRADE
11th GRADE
12th GRADE
BUDGET
BYLAWS
COMMUNICATIONS
DATA ENTRY
DIRECTORY (August)
DIVERSITY ISSUES

EUBIE MAIL
FUND RAISING
GRANTS
HOSPITALITY
MEMBERSHIP
MIDDLE SCHOOL LIAISONS
BANNEKER
FARQUHAR
WHITE OAK
BRIGGS CHANEY
KEY
PROGRAMS
REFLECTIONS
SOS
STAFF APPRECIATION

STUDENT RECOGNITION & TEACHER

MEMBERSHIP
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION
AFTER PROM (May)
BOOK SALE (February)
BUSES (May or June)
COMEDY NIGHT (March or April)
COMMUNITY RELATIONS
CULTURAL ARTS
DIRECT APPEAL (Aug/Sept)
EDUCATION
BLAKE EDUCATION FOUNDATION
EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE
GRADING & REPORTING
GROCERY & RETAILER RECEIPTS
LEGISLATION
NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION
ORIENTATION/STUDENT ACTIVITIES
NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL
NOMINATING
PARENT OUTREACH
PUBLIC RELATIONS
SILENT AUCTION (April or May)
SPECIAL EDUCATION
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP
RENAISSANCE
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
WEBSITE

If you are interested in being chair or co-chair of any of the committees, please contact vp@blakeptsa.org. Please consider becoming a committee chair for next school year. Please step up and get involved. Come to Comedy Night for a laugh out loud experience! Comedy Night is Friday, April 16, in the Blake Cafeteria. Bring a few friends and family members. We'll have Blake's

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given an allotment of tickets and parents of seniors may request additional tickets through the system class sponsor Ms. Gelb outlined at the Senior Parent Meeting on March 25. (Packets were sent home to parents of seniors who did not attend this meeting.) Parents with questions about graduation need to contact Ms. Gelb either by calling the school or by email. Classes will not meet on June 1 as Blake staff participates in the graduation ceremony. Students, who are not attending the graduation, are advised to use this time to study for final exams.

High school graduation is a joyous, but serious event, where appropriate behaviors are expected. Guests need to be reminded that the type of behavior that is appropriate at a sporting event is not appropriate at a graduation. One of the most frustrating things for any parent is to miss hearing their child's name read because the family and friends of another student are making so much noise that the student's name is obliterated. We want to celebrate the success of all of our graduates. Please help us work together to ensure that Blake High School's tenth graduation is a classy, appropriate and wonderful day for all of our graduates, their families and friends. Our superintendent, Dr. Weast, consistently remarks that our graduations were among the very best in MCPS. I have every intention of keeping up this streak and sending off the Class of 2010 with the joyous fanfare they have earned and deserve.

A record number of our students will once again take Advanced Placement exams the first two weeks in May. Specific schedules will be given to students by their teachers. We continue to be fortunate in being able to use the Peoples Community Baptist Church, just up Norwood Road, as our off-site testing center. High School Assessments will be administered in May (with make-ups the following week) to students enrolled in Algebra, Biology, English 10, and NSL Government. Students not involved in testing may arrive to school on a special delayed opening schedule outlined in this issue of the Blue Note. Additional information will be sent home with students. Teachers work very hard to prepare Blake students and they have consistently done extremely well on the HSA's.

During the week of Prom, May 8 through 14, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) has planned a series of events including an assembly on safe driving and

decision-making as a way to help our students prior to the prom. SADD hoping all students will sign the "Prom Promise" to remain drug and alcohol-free and specifically to make good decisions on prom night to keep everyone safe.

The Junior/Senior Prom is set for May 14, 2010 at the Samuel Riggs Alumni Center at the University of Maryland. The parent-sponsored After-Prom celebration, immediately following the prom is once again at Dave and Buster's at White Flint Mall. This is a very special evening for students and a critically important time to remind them to be safe and smart. We have been very fortunate the past nine years that the majority of our students acted responsibly and we have not had to face the potential tragedies that prom night can bring.

This is a night when I sleep very little, hoping that my phone does not ring with the kind of news we all dread. Blake staff consistently reinforces responsible decision making to students, but students need to be reminded that they are not invincible, that drinking and use of other illegal substances don't mix with driving. As a reminder, any student who shows up at the prom under the influence or with alcohol or drugs in their limo or car will have their parents called to pick them up and they will not be admitted to After-Prom under any circumstances, in addition to additional school-related consequences. I strongly suggest parents talk to their children about a Plan B, if their children's peers decide to drink. A phone call to come get a child is preferable than the ramifications of guilt by association. I do not believe in "group guilt" but prom night is not a night where I have the luxury of time for complete investigations and time-consuming decision-making. It should be abundantly clear to students that alcohol infractions of any kind will be dealt with severely. We look forward to a festive, exciting culmination to the school year, unblemished by senseless issues or worse yet, tragedy. Our students know they will be greeted as they arrive at prom with the "hug and sniff" test. If there is a question, we will have police presence with a breathalyzer to ensure an alcohol and drug free prom and after-prom festivities.

The spring sports season is an extremely successful one; the large number of students participating in sports and

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supporting each other is outstanding. This investment of time and energy has positive payoffs for student athletes in teambuilding, camaraderie, skill development and most importantly good sportsmanship. I hope parents and students alike will continue come cheer on our student athletes.

As our seniors gear up for their final months at Blake, we have been delighted by the number of college acceptances to outstanding schools, and most importantly to the students' first choice colleges and universities. There is a great deal of excitement, tempered by some inevitable disappointments, but for the most part we are so pleased that the preparation of our students by their teachers, coupled with students' hard work is paying off. If past history is a good indication, our returning alumni tell us they felt well prepared for college so we expect nothing but glowing reports when the Class of 2010 comes back in future years to report their progress .



NAACP Parents' Council

The NAACP Parents' Council is a parent advocacy group associated with the NAACP and MCPS. Schools in Montgomery County have representatives that serve as liaisons between schools, parents, and MCPS. School representatives are encouraged to sponsor/support three events in their schools each year that promote academic achievement and parental involvement. We were proud of the three events that we held here at Blake this year including the Meet and Greet dinner in September, the Potluck and a Project community service project /dinner in December, and a transcript workshop with Mr. Tyrell. School reps are also encouraged to attend [county-level] monthly meetings on the third Saturday of each month. A few of the topics discussed at the county meetings this year have included "Top Ten Things Parents should know about College Admissions" by Mr. Jerome Cole, "What's Happening in the Department of Family and Community Partnership" by Mr. Eric Davis, A "Special Programs Showcase" that focused on several different events/opportunities for our students including NAACP's ACT-SO competition, The Superintendents Leadership Program, Gapbusters, and more. Make sure to become part of Blake's Parents' Council yahoo group by sending your name and email to us, at alljazz105@aol.com. We look forward to next year and hope that you will join us at our events and/or Saturday meetings. For more information please contact us.

Sharon Mosley-Ramsey, Co-Chair, Blake NAACP Parents' Council Representative, alljazz105@aol.com and Bobette Banks, Blake NAACP Parents' Council Representative threebme@gmail.com

Blake Choral Department:

The chorus has had a busy third quarter. Our Black History Assembly raised over \$2000 for the choral fund. Thanks to everyone who participated and donated to that event. We now have some funds to use for uniform replacement, professional musicians to accompany the choruses, and other items that directly benefit the choral students.

Twenty-two choristers traveled with the band and orchestra to Disney World for a competition and clinic with renowned adjudicators. They gave an excellent performance for a cheering Blake student audience, judges, chaperones and various Disney guests. The adjudicator, Dr. Susan Wharton Conkling - Associate Professor of Music Education at Eastman School of Music in NY, was so impressed with the performance, she plans to visit to Blake for a clinic and recruitment talk. Stay tuned. For two days, Blake students listened and cheered for each Blake ensemble. They learned from each other's clinicians. They behaved like ladies and gentlemen in the 5-star hotel and had a great time in the Disney parks. Icing on the cake: Maia Chicherio got the trophy for the top female soloist of all the 20 + participating choirs from all over the US.

Coming up: The choral concert will be May 12, 2010 at 7:30 pm. This is required for all choral students. Parents are invited to stay for our awards ceremony which directly follows the concert.

The Acappella Choir will also be singing with the Senior choral students at graduation.



Buy Yearbooks Now!

The last day to buy yearbooks online is April 30th. If you haven't already purchased your copy, go to www.jostensyearbooks.com <<http://www.jostensyearbooks.com/>> to order. After April 30th, the price goes up to \$90. Bring checks made out to Blake High School to Allison Finn in room A208. Order while supplies last - as always, when they're sold out, they're gone forever.

Last Comic Standing, Open Mike and entertainment by Professional Comedic Hypnotist, Jason Linett. And tickets are only \$8.00. For Ticket information, go to the PTSA website at blakeptsa.org, or to jasonlinett.com/blakefundraiser.html. Don't miss out on the fun.

Parents and guardians, if you haven't contributed to After Prom, it is not too late. Send in your donation, get a copy of the form from the PTSA website, and send in your check with the form. to go to the See form on the ptsa website; blakeptsa.org.

The Blake PTSA Directory is now online for the rest of the school year. You can only access it, if you have an edline account. We are testing its use. Please direct any feedback to president@blakeptsa.org. Thank you, Ms. Green, for providing the directory access via Edline. You will find the directory listed as Blake Directory, behind the security of edline.

The Silent Auction is May 7, this year. It will be held on the evening of the Blake Arts and Humanities Festival. Dinner will be available to purchase, and for dinner, and the largest fundraiser of the year. An online auction will precede the silent auction by two weeks. You will receive notices via Eubiemail, prior to the online auction. The online Auction will open on Friday, April 16. Money earned from the online and silent auctions will go towards providing needed resources, technology, and programs for Blake. And the PTSA has been asked to provide funds towards transportation for the HS101 summer program. Consider donating a basket of items, a weekend or week at the beach, gift certificates, or a single item to go into a gift basket. All donations will benefit Blake.

Blake Parents have been asked by our Northeast Consortium Cluster Coordinators, who represent the NEC, for parents to support them at the upcoming County Council Meeting which will be held on April 5, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD. The discussion will be the County's budget, and in particular, we are concerned with the Education budget. Let's give support to our NEC representatives, as they represent and support the NEC schools. For more information, please contact Lee Ann Doeflinger, Blake parent and NEC Cluster Coordinator at doerfling@msn.com. There is a PTSA Scholarship Opportunity for Blake senior class students. The PTSA will provide scholarships for at least two or more **Blake seniors**, who plan to attend college with the intent of having a career in **education** or **public**

service, and a minimum of GPA of 2.5. The scholarship will be \$500-\$1000. An essay, two recommendations, and significant community service are required. Prom season is approaching and we would like to remind parents that they should find a safe way for students to get to the prom, after prom, and home again. The After Prom Committee has offered bus transportation for students from the University of Maryland Alumni Center to Dave and Buster's, at White Flint Mall, if there are enough reservations. If you are interested in making reservations for your student(s), please contact the After Prom Committee chairs as soon as possible; Diane Bush, at dbush10892@verizonDOTnet or Maura McMullen, at mcmullens2@verizonDOTnet.

We have one last issue of the Blake Blue Note to produce this year. It will be distributed in early June. Thank you for reading the Blue Note, and supporting the school. Have a Happy Spring!

Robina Barlow
president@blakeptsa.org

Instrumental Music News:

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- April 30-May 1: Spring Musical "Little Shop of Horrors"
- Saturday, May 1: Music in the Parks hosting at Blake (volunteers needed)
- May 6, 7 & 8: Spring Musical "Little Shop of Horrors"
- Saturday, May 8: Music in the Parks hosting at Blake (volunteers needed)
- Saturday, May 15: Maryland All State Solo and Small Ensemble Festival
- Saturday, May 15: Music in the Parks hosting at Blake (volunteers needed)
- Thursday, May 20: Finale Concert (all ensembles performing)
- Monday, May 31: Memorial Day Parade in Rockville
- Tuesday, June 1: Graduation at DAR Hall (wind ensemble performing)
- Thursday, June 3: Music Awards Banquet (everyone invited!)
- Saturday, June 5: Sandy Spring Strawberry Festival (jazz ensemble performing)
- August 16-20: 2010 Roaring Bengals Marching Band Camp

In order to support the Music Department and the need for new instruments, and repair and upkeep of existing equipment, the Music Boosters will be selling Joe Corbi's cookie dough and pizzas after spring break. If you are interested please contact instrumental music and chorus students for information and ordering materials. We will announce specific dates after spring break.

Signature News

The Annual Festival of the Arts and Humanities will be held on May 7th from 5 pm – 9 pm. Come celebrate the achievements of our Arts and Humanities Signature Program as students display arts works, present performances in dance, theatre, and music, and make awards to our top students at day's end. In addition, the PTSA will hold their annual silent auction. Where else can you have a chance to bid on a bargain auction item as well as take in all of the art and entertainment? Don't miss the Festival of the Arts and Humanities!

May is Festival Month!

So much happens at Blake in May. Don't miss the end of the year activities for every major arts program. The Stage Company and Music Department will present LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS on April 30, and May 6, 7, 8 at 7:30 pm. Come scream your head off as you toe-tap your way through this lively musical.

The Choral Department follows with its Spring concert as well as the Dance Department with their recital and the month is capped off with IMD's Final Concert at month's end.

If you are looking for a great night out, come to Blake for a great time!

Stage Company Achieves at Folger Festival

The Blake Stage Company performed TAMING OF THE SHREW on March 9 at the annual Folger Shakespeare Festival in Washington and walked off with many of the day's top prizes.

The Entire Ensemble was honored with a BEST ENSEMBLE Award and Bryndon Cook and Aurelia Akpan won honors as top acting performers for the day. Bryndon was selected as the best comic actor at Festival winning the Peggy O'Brien Award. The Company's performance was directed by Michael D'Anna.

Acting Company Shows

The Acting Company will be presenting THE RABBIT HOLE, a Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about a marriage shattered by the loss of a child and Lorraine Hansberry's epic tale of the struggles of an African – America family in A RAISIN IN THE SUN later in May. Dates are still being selected, so keep an eye on the Blake Website. The show is directed by senior Elise Watson Gifford, and performers include some of the school's top actors: Aurelia Akpan, Bryndon Cook, Kira Williams, Lydia Curdts, and Markus Fearson, and others!

Help Support a Tradition of Excellence
The Blake Stage Company and Music Department Presentation of
LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS!

Contributions Are Welcome!

Benefactors Contributing \$40 - \$99

Receive 2 Complimentary Tickets to ANY Performance and are listed in our Program!

Angels Contributing \$100 - \$499

Receive 4 Complimentary Tickets to ANY Performance and are listed in our Program!

Corporate Sponsors Contributing \$500 or More

Receive 10 Complimentary Tickets to ANY Performance and are listed in our Program!

Name _____ Phone _____

Contribution _____ Stage Company Contact Person _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Preferred Night(s) for Tickets: _____

Please return to Blake Stage Company /Main Office by April 16, 2010. 300 Norwood Road Silver Spring, MD 20905.
Attn: Michael D'Anna. Shows: April 30, May 6, 7, 8 at 7:30 pm.

COMEDY NIGHT AT BLAKE!

Featuring Students and Faculty in
LAST COMIC STANDING, OPEN MIKE,
and...

The Jason Linett Comedy Hypnosis Show



“GET HYPNOTIZED!”
You can be the STAR of the show!
See your friends do hilarious things!

Friday, April 16, 7:30pm

James H. Blake High School Cafeteria
300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

Tickets are just \$8.00 – General Admission
Proceeds will Benefit Blake and PTSA Scholarship

Tickets on Sale in the Main Office the Week of April 12,
At the door, and online at www.BlakeFundraiser.com

Senior Class News

Up-to-date SENIOR information: <http://www.blakehs.webs.com>

BANQUET – It's time to celebrate: Dinner, Dancing and Fun! Chris Styles' DJ's will be on hand to make sure that Seniors have a great time! The Class of 2010's banquet will be on Thursday, April 15th at 7:00 pm at Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville MD. Tickets are \$15.00 each and will be sold after Spring Break under the spiral staircase at lunch.

Please submit photos of Senior students to Christina_R_Gelb@mcpsmd.org by Spring Break or ASAP. Photos will be put together for a Photo Montage to be shown at the banquet.

CAP & GOWN - Forms are due NOW! Please mail your forms and \$60.00 payment directly to Jostens. The address is on the envelope, if you have lost your form, please see Ms. Gelb in the counseling office.

OBLIGATIONS: SENIORS must be CLEARED with the financial office prior purchasing Prom tickets or receiving Cap/Gown and Tickets. Parents: Remind your seniors to stop by the financial office and check to see if they have any financial obligations. Don't wait until the last minute!

GRADUATION TICKET INFORMATION: Each graduate will be given 4 tickets for invited family and friends. Seniors do NOT need a ticket. Starting on Monday, April 19th parents/guardians may request in writing (note or email) the number of extra tickets needed. They will be allotted on a weekly basis two at a time. Requests will be honored until there are no tickets left. Send requests to Ms. Christina Gelb (Christina_R_Gelb@mcpsmd.org) or drop requests to the main office to Ms. Gelb's attention. Letters MUST include student's full name and ID number. The extra tickets will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. If a student does not need all 4 tickets, please contact Ms Gelb so those tickets may go to other students who may need more tickets. There is no charge for tickets, but no one will be admitted without a ticket. This is the policy of Constitution Hall, and is strictly enforced. Tickets are needed for children who require a seat. Tickets will be given out to students with Caps/Gowns on rehearsal day. If you need to know if you have been given all requested tickets, please email two weeks prior to Graduation.

GRADUATION REHEARSAL is on Friday, 5/28/10 at 7:30 am in the Main Gym. Graduation Rehearsal is MANDATORY. If students are not present, they will NOT be allowed to walk across the stage on 6/1/2010. Please make sure Memorial Day vacations are planned around this date.

GRADUATION is at DAR Constitution Hall, Washington, DC on Tuesday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m. Graduates must arrive at Constitution Hall by 9:00 a.m. and report to the C or D Street lobby. Admission for graduates is their cap and gown; graduates do not need a ticket. Graduates are to line up at that time and are reminded that they are to stay in the assigned lobby area only.

Parking is limited near DAR Constitution Hall. We encourage you to take the Metro or the PTSA sponsored bus from school. Constitution Hall has provided us with the following information regarding parking in the area. The parking facilities at George Washington University can be utilized on a space available basis. They are the Marvin Center Garage, H Street NW, between 21st and 22nd streets, and the University garage on Eye Street NW, between 22nd and 23rd streets. Parking is also available at Diplomat Parking located at 17th Street and New York Avenue NW. Fees for these garages may cost between \$10.50 and \$15.00 for a three hour period of time (Fees are approximate and may be higher).

Attention all Junior students and their parents:

All 11th grade students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to take the SAT for the **first time** during their junior year. Data shows that students who take the SAT for the first time during their junior year usually score higher than if they take the SAT for the first time in the fall of their senior year. 11th grade students recently took the Mock SAT and Mock ACT at Blake and received their score reports at the College Daze Program on Wednesday, March 24. All 11th grade students should now prep for the **May or June SAT** either through a private company or the free online program offered by Triumph Prep on the MCPS website. Please contact Moriah Martin, Blake's SAT Coordinator, at 301-879-1092 for access directions. You can also contact Mrs. Kathy Moore in the Career Center for information about how to register the SAT and ACT and fee waivers for these tests. The deadline for each test is as follows:

May 1 SAT—Deadline to register is March 25

June 5 SAT—Deadline to register is April 29

June 12 ACT—Deadline to register is May 7

Moriah Martin, Staff Development Teacher, SAT Coordinator

BLAKE'S AFTER PROM CELEBRATION - "Into the Night"

Follows Prom on Friday, May 14 from 12:30 – 5:00 am, May 15

Location: Dave & Buster's, White Flint

Dave & Buster's, back by popular demand!

Prom season is almost here, and along with that comes "Into the Night" the After-Prom celebration at Dave & Buster's. The night will surely be quite an adventure for the Class of '10, Blake juniors and prom dates! There will be free video games all night long, key chain photos, casino games, great food and much more. Our goal is to have everyone stay until the very end because excitement abounds all night... and the very best door prizes aren't given away until the very end!

It's Not Too Late to Donate!

We are only half way to our fundraising goal for this year's After Prom celebration. If you are one of the approx. 60 families that have already donated to the very important event, THANK YOU! If not, please consider a donation of any amount at this time. The approximate cost per student is \$35. Our all-night celebration hosts over 700 students and is the recommended alternative to parties in private homes or hotel rooms. Although the Prom tickets include admission to the After Prom, no money from the Prom ticket purchase goes to support the After Prom. The funds are raised separately through donations from Blake families and community sponsors. It is time to come together as a community and do whatever it takes to keep our kids safe. If sufficient funds are not raised within the next two weeks, we may have to charge for After Prom. Part of our success in keeping kids at our After Prom (ours is the best attended) is that we have so many fun things to do! Dave and Busters is a safe location staffed with great volunteers. We will give each student a t-shirt commemorating the night, sponsored to date by the Class of '10, Fitzgerald Auto Mall & Robert Zebrowski, DDS. We would love additional sponsors who are listed on the back of the shirt for a minimum donation of \$500. Please send in your tax deductible contribution as soon as possible. Thank you!

We would love to proudly include you or your organization as a Blake supporter in the June newsletter.

Checks payable to "Blake HS After-Prom" can be dropped off at the school office or mailed to: Blake HS, 2010 After-Prom, 300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905.

Donations can also be made online at

<http://www.blakeptsa.org/join-online/> then by clicking

"After Prom". Suggested contributions:

___ \$35 (Blue)

___ \$50 (Silver)

___ \$75 (Bengal)

___ \$100 (Eubie)

Help from the Corporate Dollar:

Many corporations realize that strengthening community programs is a benefit to all. Some offer their support on a matching basis. You can help by checking with your Human Resource Department to see if they have the necessary forms. The After-Prom Committee can do the rest. Questions? Contact Diane Bush, dbush10892@verizon.net, 301-675-2150.

Transportation news: In an effort to facilitate transportation for young drivers, we are offering **bus service from the Prom to the After-Prom** at 12 midnight. The cost is \$15 per person. Advance purchase is required. To order, please mail a separate check in to the school Attention: After-Prom Bus by Monday, April 19. Checks will be returned and bus service cancelled if a minimum number of riders are not met.

Limosines: Prom season is a busy time for limousine companies, so book early. A list of recommended "safe" limo providers is available at <http://www.mcppg.org>. Click on "Limo List"

We have Great People Involved:

Co Chairs: Diane Bush dbush10892@verizon.net & Maura

McMullen mcmullens2@verizon.net

Decorations: Mary Flynn

Treasurer: Christy Norberg

Dine Outs: Janice Hylton

T-Shirts: Theresa Cali

Volunteers: Cathy Clark

Prizes: Lisa Hedgepeth & Jack Goble

MCPPG representative: Heidi Kalkofen

We will thank all our business supporters in June, but you might need their help before the Prom!

Manicure? Luxuria Salon and Spa, Ashton, donated manicures to a lucky winner at the Sr Parent meeting in March.

Tuxedo? Masters Tuxedo, at Sears – White Oak donated a free tux rental at the Senior Parent meeting. Additionally, they have provided \$20 off coupons for all Blake students. Contact Andy Melwani, Masters Dept. Manager, 301-681-1705.

Flowers? Hoover-Fisher Florist, 16 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring donated a \$25 gift certificate won by a lucky parent at the Senior Parent meeting in March.

Please support these businesses that so generously donate to the Blake community.

After Prom Pizza Sales Volunteer

I would like to thank the wonderful volunteers who have sold pizza for After Prom every Tuesday since September. They have been a wonderful, loyal group who have helped sell pizza and raise money for After Prom. Thank you to: Jack Goble, Diane Bush, Robina Barlow, Bobette Banks, Mimi Browne, Beth Blevins, Margie McNabb, Donna Whitacker, Luisa Archila, Cathy Clark, Mary and Bob Flynn, Patrice Chigros, Sydelle St. Jules, Tibi Kenney, Orit Chicherio and Judith Porzel.

And thank you to Pizza Bolis on Old Columbia Pike who have kindly provided us with pizza.

Child & Adolescent Development and Education Pathway classes At Blake

Does your student see teaching in his or her future? Does working with children in a real classroom sound like fun? With approximately 8,000 teaching vacancies in Maryland last year and the future retirement of "Baby Boomer" teachers, there is a need to train a new crop of teachers, especially those teaching our youngest and many of the secondary subjects in science and mathematics. The solution: consider taking Blake's Child Development class and continuing in the education pathway classes to learn about teaching as a profession and curriculum and teaching. Senior students may select an internship for real hands-on experience in an elementary or secondary school. On-site teaching in our lab preschool offers authentic experience with neighborhood children as students plan and teach. Child Development students may also explore careers in social work, speech and language pathology, pediatrics, family law or children's media. As an added bonus, through an agreement with Montgomery College, students are eligible for the 99-Clock Hour certification in Early Childhood and up to 9 college credits for completion of the education pathway. For more information about enrollment, contact Beth Kauffman at (301) 879-1337 or email

Beth_L_Kauffman@mcpsmd.org

We are also currently registering next year's preschool class of 4 year olds. Preschool meets four days a week 7:30-10:50 AM October 2010 through June 2011 and costs \$600/year. For more information call Beth Kauffman.

Wanted... Pre-K Bengal Students For A Unique Learning Opportunity!

Where can teaching, creativity, and leadership all be factors in a unique learning opportunity at a low cost? The Blake Child and Adolescent Development Lab Preschool provides high school students an opportunity to learn both parenting and teaching skills and offers four and five year-old children an early educational experience before kindergarten. The Lab Preschool is an interactive learning environment where high school students teach pre-K students. The Child and Adolescent development course, which is the first of four in the Teacher Academy track, emphasizes the art of planning and teaching creative and developmentally appropriate lessons and observing the growth and development of preschoolers. High school students in grades 9-12 may enroll in this course or the second year course in grades 10-11th with an internship their senior year. The preschool curriculum focuses on literacy and math

standards as well as school readiness skills. Other areas of curriculum include science, social studies, art, music and motor skill development. Children attend four days a week usually on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday beginning October 2010. Daily snacks and cooking activities are included in the tuition which is about \$600 yearly. Classes are 7:30 am-10:45 am. Enroll NOW for 2010-11 school year.

For information and applications:

Mrs. Beth Kauffman at (301) 879-1337

James Blake High School-Child Development

300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

Applications are available from Blake website:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/blakehs/



BLAKE BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

MULCH SALE TIME!!

The Booster Club is selling 3 cubic foot bags of premium hardwood mulch DELIVERED! If your order is in by April 1, the price is \$4.00 per bag. After 4/1 the price is \$4.25. Delivery in the NE Consortium is \$10 up to 20 bags, \$15 from 21-40 bags and \$20 for 41 or more bags. See attached form. Questions or late orders? Call Anne Grenaldo 301-384-5560.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS

The Booster Club and the Blake Athletic Department award 4 senior athletes with \$500 scholarships. Please consider donating any amount to help us with this important award. Look for information in this month's Blue Note.

2010-2011

The Booster Club will need to replace some graduating directors next fall. Please come to the next Booster Club meeting April 26 if you are interested or call Mark Wannan at 301-593-0013.

School Counseling Department News

11th graders who would like to attend a field trip on Wed 4/14 to the Montgomery County National College Fair at the Montgomery Fair Grounds should return their Permission form and money to the Counseling Department by Wed 4/7. Representatives from several hundred colleges and universities will provide viewbooks and applications, as well as talk to students about their programs and admissions procedures. Food will NOT be available at the fairgrounds. Students should bring a Bag Lunch.

Great questions to ask:

- What are the admissions requirements?
- How can I arrange a campus visit?
- How much will it cost? What financial aid options are offered?
- What is the average class size?
- How accessible are professors outside of class?
- Do I need a computer?
- What student services are offered (tutoring, career counseling, study workshops)?
- What type of housing is available? Is it guaranteed for 4 years?
- What is life like on the weekends?
- Are any programs offered to help students adjust to college life?
- What is the school known for?
- How many freshman return for their sophomore year?
- Is the campus and surrounding neighborhoods safe?
- Don't forget to take notes!!

This summer is the time to complete your SSL hours. Please do not wait until your senior year to complete them. You should be focusing your time and energy on researching and applying to colleges in the Fall and Spring. If you have any questions please see Ms. Rigney in Room B230 or view <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>

College and Career Center News

JUNIORS – REGISTER FOR THE SAT or ACT NOW! - It is expected that all juniors will take the SAT or ACT at least once during their junior school year. The June test administration dates & registration deadlines appear in the paragraphs that follow. These tests are not offered over the summer. In the fall of the senior year, the ACT will be offered in September and the SAT in October. Students should prepare and take the test(s) more than once to obtain the best possible score.

REGISTER FOR THE June SAT TEST NOW! April 29 is the deadline to register for the June 5, 2010 SAT test. Online registration: <http://www.collegeboard.com/>. Cost is \$45.00, and you can charge this on your credit card. After

May 13 a LATE FEE applies--extra \$23. If you prefer completing a mail-in registration, pick up an SAT Registration Bulletin from the College & Career Center. The SAT test is not administered at Blake but several nearby high schools serve as SAT test centers. When registering for the test, please include the H.S. Code for Blake: 210959.

REGISTER FOR THE ACT ASSESSMENT - May 7 is the deadline to register for the June 12, 2010 ACT test. May 21 is the late registration deadline (+\$21). The best way to register is online: <http://www.actstudent.org/> A few mail-in registration packets are available in the Blake College & Career Center. Students can choose between two test options- the ACT Assessment or the ACT Assessment Plus Writing, which includes a 30-minute Writing test (recommended). The cost is \$32.00 + writing test is \$15.00 more (\$47 total), which can be charged on your credit card. Be sure to include the H.S. Code when registering: 210959.

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. 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. Fee waivers are honored only for on-time test registration.

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 access the site are clearly stated. Username & password is the student's school I.D. number. Students can pace themselves through the online course, but should set goals such as 1-2 hours per week for SAT/ACT Prep. For the self-motivated student, here are some additional FREE SAT or ACT practice sites:

- www.sparknotes.com
- <http://www.number2.com>
- <http://www.collegeboard.com>
- <http://www.actexampracticetests.com>

ANNUAL LATINO YOUTH CONFERENCE - April 10, 2010, 8:30-5:00 (registration deadline is March 26, 2010) - a day long FREE conference for Latino youth & their parents on the American University (DC) campus will focus on leadership, empowerment, and education for Latino high school students. Parents and guidance counselors from the DC metropolitan area are encouraged to attend. LYC includes a variety of interactive workshops to provide participants with information about higher education, the college application process, financial aid and scholarship opportunities, SAT preparation, and leadership skills to take back to their schools and communities. More information about LYC and the online registration forms for all LYC participants are available at our website at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/aulycinfo/> . Email & phone: aulycinfo@gmail.com or 202.885.3605

MONTGOMERY COUNTY NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR - April 14-15, 2010 - Gaithersburg Fairgrounds - Blake Juniors are invited to attend this annual event on Wednesday, April 14 from 10:30-1:00 at the Montgomery County fairgrounds. Permission forms will be made available in late March with a deadline date of April 7 for registration. MCPS will provide school buses to transport students for \$5 each and students must bring a bag lunch to eat on the way back to school. Blake students will have the opportunity to speak with college representatives from hundreds of colleges and gather brochures. Evening hours are planned on April 14 for parents & students to attend workshops together. Stay tuned for further details!

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE - BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC SPECIALTY SCHOLARSHIP - Deadline: April 30, 2010 - If you are planning to attend MC for the 2009-2010 school year, consider applying for the Board of Trustees Academic Specialty Scholarship. Requirements: minimum cumulative WGPA >= 3.0; no SAT or citizenship requirements for this award. Students may apply for any major, any program and any campus (including Biomedical Scholars, School of Art & Design, etc). Students who completed a Montgomery Scholars application do not need to complete the BOT scholarship application -- anyone who is waitlisted or denied MC Scholars will be reviewed for a BOT scholarship automatically.

COLLEGES THAT CHANGE LIVES FAIR - May 23, 2010 in Bethesda, MD @ 2 pm - These college information sessions/fairs are offered all over the U.S. They are coming to the DC area in May--Marriott Bethesda North Hotel/Conference Center. Featured are the 40 colleges that Loren Pope wrote about in his exceptional resource book,

Colleges That Change Lives. For a list of participating colleges, specific sites and pre-registration visit the website: www.ctcl.org.

KEEP US POSTED ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS - The School Counseling Office wants to know when your student receives college admission decision letters. Please be sure to provide Mrs. Moore with a copy of acceptance, wait list or denial letters so we can keep our records current. Letters offering scholarships or awards are welcome news, and we will be tracking that, as well. Some scholarships may be included in the annual Blake HS Awards Program on May 25 at 7 pm, but all awards will be entered in Naviance. As you may know, Naviance includes college acceptance & rejection data that is important to future collegebound students who rely on the scattergrams to give them a clear picture of the selectivity of colleges. Please know that we are unable to keep that information current without your help!

SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS – Juniors, be on the lookout! Have you received a telephone call or letter offering assistance in finding scholarship money? Often it involves a "free" meeting with a financial aid consultant. BEWARE! Many times these services cost more than \$1,000 for scholarship searches that you can do on line yourself for free. Here are some traps to avoid: "You've been selected" by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship..." or "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered. "The Scholarship will cost some money." "We'll do all the work." "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship." "You can't get this information anywhere else." "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back." REMEMBER: no one can guarantee you a scholarship! Students must apply for scholarships themselves. No one else can enter competitions or write essays for you. Never give out your credit card or bank account information unless you have initiated the contact. For more information or to report a scam, contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP or <http://www.ftc.gov/>.

AP Testing Schedule

2010 Exam Calendar - Week 1

	Morning - 8 a.m.	Afternoon - 12 p.m.
Monday, 5/3	United States Government and Politics	Comparative Government and Politics French Language
Tuesday, 5/4	Computer Science A Spanish Language	Statistics
Wednesday, 5/5	Calculus AB Calculus BC	
Thursday, 5/6	English Literature and Composition	
Friday, 5/7	United States History	Studio Art (portfolios due)

2010 Exam Calendar - Week 2

	Morning - 8 a.m.	Afternoon - 12 p.m.	Afternoon - 2 p.m.
Monday, 5/10	Biology Music Theory	Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Tuesday, 5/11	Chemistry Environmental Science	Psychology	
Wednesday, 5/12	English Language and Composition	Art History	
Thursday, 5/13	World History		
Friday, 5/14	Human Geography Spanish Literature		

Blake HS Booster Club's
Spring 2010 Mulch Sale! Saturday, April 10, 2010
 Benefits Blake's teams, clubs and activities

3 Cubic Feet Bags of Shredded Hardwood Mulch
\$4.00/Bag (Orders received on or before 4/01/10) \$4.25/Bag (Orders received 4/02/10 to 4/09/10)

Deliveries Available in the Northeast Consortium Area:

1-20 bags \$10.00/21-40 bags \$15.00/41+ bags \$20

Or Pick-Up at: Blake HS 9 am – 1 pm (Please order in advance even if you choose the Pick-Up option.)

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

1. Send this form and either check or credit card payment information to **Blake HS Booster Club, c/o Anne Grenaldo 14313 Shoreham Dr Silver Spring, MD 20905.**
2. Deliver this form and payment to the main office at Blake.

Questions? Call Anne 301-384-5560 or Email Agrenaldo@comcast.net

Name:					
Address:					
Phone:			Email:		
___ bags @ \$4.00 each	\$		Circle one: Check Credit Card	Circle one: Delivery Pickup	
___ bags @ \$4.25 each (late)	\$				
Delivery Fee	\$				
Donation	\$				
Total	\$				
Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/>	Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____				
	Signature _____				

Booster Club Scholarship Fund Needs You...

As the Time for Awarding Scholarships Draws Near!

- Each year Booster Club sponsors a scholarship program that is awarded to deserving senior class student-athletes. The scholarships, presented by the Athletic Department, are awarded to students who embody the spirit of Blake High School.
- Winners of the scholarship demonstrate athletic ability, leadership, sportsmanship and academic achievement.
- Please consider supporting this worthwhile cause by making a donation to the Scholarship Fund. Your donation will directly benefit deserving Blake student-athletes in their post high school academic endeavors. The scholarships are traditionally awarded at Spring Sports Award Night.
- To make a tax deductible donation please send this form along with a check (made payable to Blake Booster Club) or credit card information to:

Blake High School Booster Club, ATTN: Scholarship Fund
 300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone #: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Please check your payment preference below:

Check enclosed _____ Please charge my credit card _____

Credit Card Information:

Name on credit card: _____ Expiration date: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

CVV number (Three digit number found on the back of the card): _____

Thank you for supporting Blake Boosters!

**PTSA ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION &
FESTIVAL of the ARTS and HUMANITIES**
SAVE THE DATE! May 7, 2010

The Blake PTSA Annual Silent Auction at the **Festival of the Arts & Humanities on May 7th, 2010**. Our students and school need our support! We are committed to providing the best programs for our students and the PTSA NEEDS YOUR HELP TO REACH THAT GOAL. We will be bringing the Blake Community an **OnLine Auction "Pre-Event"** this year to spark some friendly competition and a little buzz to get that bidding juice flowing! Look for EUBIEMAIL notices announcing the opening date!

What can you do?

☞ **Consider VOLUNTEERING!** We are currently looking for energetic parents to:

— **FOOD & DINNER Sub-COMMITTEE:** An Auction Tradition and a major component of the evening, Committee persons help solicit and arrange the food menu for the evening, set pricing, and serve our school community patrons!

— **PUBLICITY & MARKETING Sub-COMMITTEE:** We need some enthusiastic word mavens to develop the Auction Community Outreach through press releases, posters, listserve announcements, etc.

— **ONLINE AUCTION Sub-COMMITTEE:** This year we are introducing an OnLine Auction and need volunteers to help monitor activity and manage communications (any avid e-bayer's out there?).

☞ **DONATE an Item or Service!** We need unique and useful items to help truly make this a dynamic Auction.

— **Do you have a talent, a business or a gift you're willing to contribute?**

— **Have an employer, friend, or favorite gym, store, restaurant or hobby?**

Then use the Donation Form (and please, feel free to copy and share!)

Look for Auction meeting announcements on Eubiemail and visit the Auction page on the PTSA website at **blakeptsa.org** for all the latest information!

Please send us an email to let us know how you can help! For volunteer sign-up or more information please contact **Dawn Dolan or Maureen Hill-Gross, Silent Auction Co-Chairs** at auktion@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
May 7th, 2010 6pm

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

Donor Information:

Name (Business or Individual): _____ Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Donation: _____

Value of Service or Item: _____

Donor's Signature: _____

Special Comments/Instructions: _____

Please attach any business cards, brochures, etc. for display with your donation.

* *contact us for any Special or "Perishable" item pick-up.*

Questions? Contact Dawn Dolan, Co-Chair or Maureen Hill-Gross, Co-Chair via email at auktion@blakeptsa.org

Return this form and donation by April 9th, 2010:

Attn: Dawn Dolan, PTSA Silent Auction

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



Spring Break 2011 Trip to France

Come to Paris and Cote d'Azur with Ms. Shepherd (B223) and Ms. Kompare (A210) for Springbreak 2011. For more information go to www.explorica.com and Tour ID: kompare-7006. Parent/student interest meeting will be Thursday, April 8th at 7:00pm in room A200. All students are welcome including incoming 9th graders. Join us for a trip of a lifetime!

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

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