



Blake Blue Note

December 2009/January 2010

Please share this issue with your spouse and students

From the President

Monthly Message from your PTSA President

Robina Barlow

A quarter of the school year has already passed and it has been a pretty active time for the PTSA. We have increased membership this year to over 600 parents, students, and school staff. And we will work hard to continue bringing more members of the Blake community into the PTSA. Many parents have been quite generous with contributions to the PTSA, and we hope even more will consider making year-end tax deductible donations to allow us to provide student scholarships, awards, and support after prom, student recognition, and items needed by the school.

We look forward to the first Student PTSA Meeting which will be held at lunchtime in the near future. The date and time will be announced soon. Current students of the PTSA will be invited, as well as students who would like to sign up to be new members.

As everyone gets prepared for the upcoming holidays, it is good to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for. Blake is a gift that has been entrusted to the students and the staff, with support from the parents. And so we

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Principal's Corner

Carole C. Goodman

As you are aware, MCPS has identified 7 Keys to College Readiness which are on the forefront of what we are doing at Blake High School to ensure our students have the best possible educational experiences and graduate ready for college. Keys 1-4 lay the groundwork for Keys 5, 6 and 7 in high school.

Key 5, which is that all students complete Algebra 2 by grade 11 with a grade of C or higher is an area we are looking at very closely. This key represents a new target in MCPS and is one many of our students have far exceeded. But for others, it represents a challenge and we need to work closely to ensure that students, who find this goal a stretch, can meet the target. The math department has configured teachers into teams and the Algebra 2 team plans together as well as scores assessments together to ensure all students are progressing. They also work to ensure that if students have a different teacher in the second semester, they will be on track with the curriculum.

Key 6 is for all students to score a 3 or higher on an AP exam. The foundation here needs to be ensuring that all students are prepared to take higher level courses at least by their senior year. Again, this key is easily met by some of our students but represents a significant stretch for others. Research has indicated that students are more successful in college if they take AP courses but the next step is to ensure they master the material at the college level. Our teachers are highly motivated for students to enroll in and do well in AP courses. However, there is a disconnect for some students who need to see the correlation between keeping up on reading and doing homework and mastering the course material. This is where parents can be of great

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Message from your PTSA President - continued from page 1

must be thankful for the wonderful school that our students have. As we celebrate and give thanks, let us remember those who are less fortunate than us. And if you happen to be going through tough times, we wish you a change in fortune soon.

December is a traditional time of giving and thinking of others. During the PTSA November General Membership meeting, the SGA President, Jennifer Lien announced that the students have decided to conduct a canned food drive, and asked the PTSA to help with donations. To that end, we are asking families to contribute canned goods to the drive. Please bring canned goods to the December PTSA meeting, or send them into the main office.

The PTSA has brought in guest speakers to the monthly PTSA meetings, where various topics are discussed, such as Advanced Placement (AP) classes and test performance, and goals. Robert Roth discussed adolescent behavioral health during our November meeting. He spoke to us about troubled teens and warning signs. We were told how homecoming and prom times can be especially difficult for teens, when their expectations are not met. Mr. Roth also told parents about the need to give teens unconditional love and that parents need to pay attention to how our teens act and what they say. Listen between the lines.

In January, we will have Officer Lowery, the Blake Education Facility Officer (EFO), and Mr. Charles Harper, the head of Security Team, join us to discuss student safety at Blake & beyond school boundaries, and give safety tips. I encourage all parents to attend. There will be a Spanish Interpreter from MCPS to provide translation during the meeting.

The PTSA will continue to advocate for our youth and support the staff and administration at Blake. We will help support mentoring and tutoring programs at Blake. There are a number of new initiatives at the school related to boosting academic performance. Parents are needed, and especially fathers to give time, once a week, or once a month, please contact Jonathan Arias, head of the Education Committee (see Blake PTSA webpage), or Mr. Rudy Tyrell, assistant administrator.

The Art Department needs used (but working) SLR cameras, and digital ones, too. And the school would like used AP workbooks that you might have around the house.

Please send them into the office and we will get them to the media center, to start an AP workbook library. Some members of the PTSA are inviting other interested parents, alumni, and parents of alumni to explore starting an education foundation, as a legacy to Blake It would be another way to provide financial support to the school in ways that may be beyond the scope of the PTSA. Examples of items that the school might benefit from are: Foreign Language Lab, Academic Support Programs, Technology Fund and Teacher Programs.

If you are interested in participating in the development of a foundation for the school, please contact president@blakeptsa.org.

This will be our last issue of the Blake Blue Note for 2009. 2009 has been an exhilarating, yet tumultuous year, if you think about everything from the inauguration, the war, the economy, and the hope that we all have for a prosperous new year. In spite of all, it has been a good year for the Blake Community, and we can be thankful for everyone in it. As I've mentioned before, we have wonderful staff, wonderful administrators, students and parents. Around New Year's Eve, we will make resolutions on how we, the PTSA can make Blake an even better community in 2010. Many thanks go out to the Blake Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Committee members for all of the work that you do to support the PTSA and Blake. Did you know that we are embarking to have a 3rd annual Used Book and Media Sale to support the school? Please save your gently used books and media for the fundraiser in February.

Thank you for supporting the Dine-Outs, Race for a Dream, and Pizza sales. Funds go to After Prom. The After Prom costs thousands of dollars, so remember to give generously, dine-out with us, and provide support, any way you can. Additional Dine-Outs, Book sale, Comedy Night, and Auction will occur in 2010 to support other areas of need in the school.

I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you enjoy cheer-filled winter holidays, including Hanukah, Christmas, New Year's, and other holidays that you might celebrate. We will be back in touch with you in January, 2010.

Robina Barlow, President, Blake PTSA 2009-2010
Blakeptsapresident@gmail.com

assistance; please stay on top of your kids, even if they are in higher level courses. They need to be diligent in completing their reading assignments and homework.

The last key, Key 7, is for students to score a 1650 or higher on the SAT and/or a 24 or higher on the ACT. We work very hard to provide a multitude of practice opportunities for students to be sure they are prepared prior to taking either the SAT or ACT. While many people secure outside tutors or have students take prep courses, there are also many free resources in the school which can assist students in meeting their full potential on these important tests. Ms. Moriah Martin, our Staff Development Teacher, works closely with both students, and school staff on preparation strategies for the SAT and ACT. Parents need to be sure students are taking advantage of all we have to offer to help students be prepared. Information on Triumph, a program purchased by MCPS that is free to all students, may be found in this edition of the newsletter.

Our NEC Open House in October for parents of prospective in-coming ninth graders and their parents was a very well-attended, productive and positive evening. I had the opportunity to speak to many parents and students about Blake High School and was pleased by their positive impressions and excellent questions. It's a very energizing evening for all of the staff, Blake students and parents who participated in the event as it's a wonderful opportunity to share what makes us so proud of our school. I spoke to many parents of private school and magnet school students, in addition to the many, many from our five feeder middle schools. Typically, the question asked most frequently was; "Blake is not our base area school, how can my child get in?"

This is a good time for parents and students to review school rules. For a school to function smoothly and safely, it is imperative that every member of the school community follow established rules and that adults model the following of school rules for students. School rules are in each student agenda book, on our web page as well as in the PTSA student directory. This is also a reminder that we need parents to sign in at the main office when you enter the building. We also ask that you remind your child that if they are leaving school due to illness, they need to sign out through the health room and if they have an early dismissal they need to sign out with Ms. Bowser in the attendance office (or in the main office if she is

unavailable.) It is important that students do not leave without signing out; this is very problematic and is an accountability issue.

It's hard to believe but before long the first semester will be coming to a close. Information on final exam schedules is included in this month's Blue Note. This information is particularly important for parents of 9th graders, as final exam schedules, procedures and expectations are very specific and may be very different from what they were used to in middle school. We will be sending home a packet for all students, but for 9th graders it needs to be reinforced that they need to take this time seriously and do their very best. Final exams are two hours in duration and given in math, science, foreign language, social studies, English and some technology classes. Students are only expected to report to school when they have an exam. Final exams count for 25% of the semester grade and it is the semester grade that appears on student transcripts, and is seen by colleges.

We have a great number of resources that both students and parents can tap into to assist in monitoring student progress and success. Edline is an excellent source of information and should be monitored by both students and parents on a regular basis. ACE, or Academic Commitment to Excellence, is a lunchtime program designed to support students. National Honor Society tutors work with students in areas of need under the supervision of Mrs. Beth Shepherd. Students who take advantage of this find it is a huge help. Older, successful students are a great source of support to younger students. We also have upper level students who serve as "Educorps" members in classes. These students receive credit and are trained as teaching assistants to work with students in the classroom. Feedback has been outstanding on this program. We are also in the process of refining mentoring programs that are tailored to student success.

Teachers are available four days a week at lunch to work with students, reserving the fifth day as teacher "Professional Learning Community" time to do team planning in like subjects and look at common assessments and student progress and success. On Tuesday and Thursdays, coinciding with activity bus days, the media center is open after school and there is an

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organized homework help. There are many other less formal ways teachers work with students but the key thing is students taking advantage of the study groups, review sessions and one-on-one help teachers go above and beyond to provide. Students who are struggling, but do not take advantage of these opportunities truly have no excuse. Academic assistance at lunchtime is one of the main reasons we went to one lunch period so many years ago and are committed to having it continue.

Regardless of what grade your child is in, or what their plans are after high school, please take time to look at our Career Center website at:

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/blakehs/staff/moorek/index.htm>

Mrs. Kathy Moore, our College and Career Information Coordinator, does a fantastic job with this up-to-the-minute resource, chock full of information all students and parents need. For parents of special needs students, this is particularly important as the information about accommodations for SAT is there for parents as well as multiple other sources of information. We are so fortunate to have Mrs. Moore and her incredible expertise to assist our families on planning for life after high school.

On another important note, we have outstanding health room support in our school nurse Ms. Janeane Marks and our health technician Ms. Darlene Battle. Please consider them resources when dealing with student health issues, particularly this year with significant challenges from the flu and H1N1. They are extremely knowledgeable and supportive of our students. They need to be in the loop on health issues, as well as school counselors. Our school counseling team can offer a wide range of resource supports, particularly when students have issues that warrant socio-emotional support. When communicating with teachers about concerns, keep the grade level administrator, health room personnel and school counselor in the loop, as valued members of the team who work so hard to support our students.

The last important calendar item is that our Graduation date for the Class of 2010 has been set; mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at DAR Constitution Hall. Graduation rehearsal is scheduled for Friday, May 30 at 7:30 a.m. It is

mandatory that all graduates of the class of 2010, who plan to walk at graduation, have all obligations cleared by May 29 and attend rehearsal on May 30. A great deal of information will be coming from senior class sponsor, Ms. Christina Gelb but it is never too early to give people a heads-up for planning purposes. I wish you and your family a healthy, safe and happy holiday season and look forward to 2010 at Blake High School.



A Force of Over 600 Wants You!

The PTSA has over 600 members. All that is missing is You!

Please take time to join us and be the best advocate for your child. You may join via the PTSA website, by mail or simply come to our next PTSA meeting so we can personally welcome you. Remember, we meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. We are looking forward to working with you!

Thank You! Thank You!

Our PTSA membership drive at Back-to-School Night was a success! Luisa Archila, Beth Blevins, Donna Brennan, Mimi Brown, Carlotta Coates, Bill Halpin, Steven Hirsch and Barbara Werfel registered close to 400 members that night. Lynne Frese worked to ensure that members who registered before Back-to-School Night received their membership cards. Edith Salazar and Elizabeth Camacho coordinated the distribution of our Student Directory. Our PTSA student members Lauren Barlow, Alexis Ford, Jasmine Pullen, Isabel Rodriguez, Jennifer Perez, and Carolina Camacho helped out with all tasks as needed. Last but not least, Robin Ford, Lynne Frese, Barbara Girolami, Karen Powers, Jonelle Thom and Edith Salazar assisted in setting up the membership and OMDR database. A huge thank you to all who work so hard to help grow our PTSA!

Want a great tax deductible?

Make a tax deductible direct appeal donation to your PTSA. Your donation will benefit both you and PTSA in funding PTSA programs and resources for the school. Make your donation at the PTSA website at blakeptsa.org, and select the membership page. Or use the Membership/Direct Appeal form in this issue of the Blake Blue Note. Hurry and send in your donation by **December 31, 2009!**

NAACP Parents' Council group at Blake

The NAACP Parents' Council group at Blake has already sponsored several enriching events this year. **The Meet and Greet** was held on Sept 1, 2009 as a way for new and returning Blake families to socialize, network, and prepare for a successful year. Parents and students were able to share ideas related to the focus of our activities for the year in a brief survey. The pizza was great, the salads were scrumptious and the conversation was purposeful!

The **Transcript Workshop** was held in October and featured Mr. Rudy Tyrell, Blake High School Administrator, sharing valuable information with us on how to read our student's transcript. Conversations also included the value of a great GPA, the need for taking rigorous classes, and more.

Donuts for Dads was held on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11th, and focused on the dads. We had a nice turnout of dads seeking information on how to help our students achieve better grades in school. Mr. Tyrell and Ms. White, Blake HS Resource Counselor, took the time to talk to dads about Naviance, Edline, and more. Milton Dyer, Blake HS parent, also discussed the Blake mentoring program starting soon.



Future meetings and workshops include a community service project for the entire family, a college workshop, a visit to the Black College Fair in February, and more. Make sure to get on the email list. This email group is also a way to receive valuable information from other community resources that focus on the achievement of African American students. All are welcomed to any of our events!

Hope to see you soon!

NAACP Parents' Council representatives for Blake HS
Bobette Banks threebme@gmail.com
Sharon Mosley-Ramsey alljazz105@aol.com

Choral Concert and News

The December Choral Concert will be presented on Wednesday, December 9th at 7:30 in the Blake High School Auditorium. The concert is free. Five different choirs will be presenting a variety of music from Spirituals to Beatles. Come and enjoy an evening of song.

Maryland Choral All-State will announce the results of the November auditions in mid-December. Students who are accepted must return forms and money before the winter break.

Blake A Cappella and Blake Honors Concert Choir students are invited to perform in Disney World for adjudication in March. Although the first deadline has passed, there may be seats available. All information is on Edline. Contact Mrs. Letcher if you are interested.

The Choral Department will be presenting a Black History Concert and fundraiser on Wednesday, February 24th. Mark your calendars and come out to support the music department.

Shirley J. Letcher, Blake Choral Music Department



Instrumental Music Events

Winter Pops Concert

The annual Winter Pops Concert will take place on Tuesday, December 22nd. This year's theme is Storytime and will feature music based upon famous works of literature to include Melville's Moby Dick, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, The Lord of the Rings, T'was the Night Before Christmas, and Peter and the Wolf.

The concert will include performances from the Eubie Blake Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Chamber Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble. Mr. Damron and Mr. Eising are thrilled to invite everyone to this FREE concert.

Race for a Dream *By Janice Hylton*

The 6th annual Race for a Dream took place on Sunday, October 18th and kicked off Blake's spirit week as well as National Teen Driver Safety Week. Close to 110 students, parents, teachers and faculty walked or ran around school grounds to support teen driver safety. **Over \$1,600 was raised for After-Prom** ~ an event dedicated to keeping our children safe and off the roads.

Special thanks to Tom Pecoraro of **IDriveSmart** for sponsoring the race t-shirts and donating a \$599 driving class. The Meile family won this great raffle prize! Cindi Scafide of **State Farm Insurance** encouraged everyone to "Buckle Up for Bucks" by giving \$1 to individuals who drove into Blake's parking lot that morning with their seatbelts safely buckled. Cindi said it was awesome to report that all the kids had their seat belts on and she found only one parent not buckled!

Teachers Erinn Rigney and Chris Schenk spent countless hours encouraging students to participate in the race activities and mapping out the race course as we learned our safe driving responsibilities. Mr. Overman and his students did a fantastic job with designing the race t-shirt and creating the "Blake Students Pledge to Drive Smart" banner.

The top three female and male runners were awarded ribbons and won gift certificates donated by **Pacers Running Stores** and **Rnj Sports**. The winners were:

1st Place – Johna Applestein, Rohan Raju

2nd Place – Tracy Meile, Danny Lee

3rd Place – Lauren Paniati, James Logan

All race participants enjoyed food, beverages and raffle prizes donated by: **Panera Bread, Cloverly Safeway, Blake Boosters Club, Starbucks, Colesville Ledo Pizza, Greek Village Restaurant, La Palapa 3 Again, Chipotle, Round House Theatre, Redrock Canyon Grill, and Burtonsville Giant.**

Special thanks to Janice and Kevin Bland, owners of the **Fractured Prune** in Cloverly, for donating for the 5th time dozens of their amazing *just-out-of-the-oven* donuts for our race volunteers. We are also thankful for the donated coffee by the Colesville **Dunkin' Donuts**.

Please patronize these businesses to show our appreciation for their support!

Thank you to the many, many volunteers that help each year to inspire the Race for a Dream's purpose to educate, and James H. Blake High School's continued success with, teen driver safety.

Drive smart and safe, and see you next fall!

BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL USED BOOK AND MEDIA SALE

James Hubert Blake High School will hold its annual Used Book and Media Sale on February 19-21, 2010.

Donations of the following are gratefully accepted:

New or gently used books (hardcover and paperback)—fiction, nonfiction, mystery, science fiction, romance, young adult, children's, cookbooks, history, politics, health, test prep, foreign language, music scores, other

Other media—CDs, DVDs, books on tape, comics, manga

Stay tuned to Eubie Mail and the PTSA website, blakeptsa.org, for a book-delivery day on which you can drive your books to Blake where we will unload them for you. Of course, you can also bring donations into Blake's main office (300 Norwood Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20905) and leave them in a box.



Interested in helping out on sale days?

To volunteer, and for more information, please contact Orit at 301-384-3324 or oritil@yahoo.com.

Comedy Night Preparations Begin

Auditions and other preparations will begin in January for Blake Comedy Night, set to be held March 12, 2010. We are in need of judges for student comic auditions, as well as parents who can join the Comedy Night Committee. If you are unable to attend our meetings, we could still use your help in coordinating various aspects of Comedy Night such as prizes, food, and decorations. If you can help, please contact Orit Chicherio and Beth Blevins at vp@blakeptsa.org.

Comedy Night is an annual event that showcases the comic talents of Blake students, and which lets Blake families get together in an informal atmosphere for a fun-filled evening. In March 2009, Comedy Night included a Blake Last Comic Standing competition, Open Mike performances from parents and students, and improv skits from Blake's Improv Group. Watch this space, Eubiemail and the PTSA web page for more information.

FORENSICS NEWS

The Forensics Team had a good start to the 2009 and 2010 season by finishing in Second Place in the first Montgomery County Forensics League Meet on November 7th.

Taking First Place Awards were:

- Kira Williams in Children's Literature Interpretation
- Jourdan Lewanda in Prose Interpretation (The Scarlet IBIS)
- Alex Reeves and Grace Plihal in Ensemble Acting with Watermelon Boats
- Rosie Henise took Second Place in Dramatic Interpretation (Daddy's Girl)
- Daniel Arias took Fourth Place in Prose Interpretation

The Forensics Team asks the Blake Community to send in suggestions for them to perform in the meets. We ask you to suggest your favorite (and most moving) short stories, poems, humorous and dramatic passages, and children's theatre pieces (Harry Potter fans unite!).

Pieces need to be approximately 7 – 10 minutes long and may include chapters or segments from fiction or non-fiction (within the book THE KILLER ANGELS, for instance, are some excellent dramatic testimonies as to what it was like to be a participant in Pickett's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg).

The poetry competition needs poems that are 4 minutes long or so. They can be a combination of poems wrapped on the same theme.

Please send suggestions to [Michel D D'Anna@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Michel_D_D'Anna@mcpsmd.org)

JUDGES FOR MEETS --- The League also needs judges for the meets. Any Blake parent who would like to do this should contact Mr. D'Anna, too. The pay is approximately \$70 for 8 am – 5 pm on January 9th. It's fun and exhilarating!

GET YOUR STUDENT INVOLVED

Students may still participate in FORENSICS --- the art of public speaking. It is a great activity and one of the top resume credits for a student's college transcript. Meetings are Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room d-153 with Mr. D'Anna. The team is particularly looking for students who "know-the-news" and would like to enter the Extemporaneous speaking category. We also need students who might have written informative or persuasive essays at Blake to use those papers by spinning them into speeches.

Get a great extracurricular credit, have fun, and meet new friends and experience the thrill of competition ---Blake Forensics!

Signature News

The Signature Program at Blake High continues to achieve at amazing levels.

The Stage Company has been nominated by a panel of collegiate theatre instructors to participate in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2010. This is the world's largest and possibly most famous arts festival. Taking place in August, students would perform a play in a selected venue over several days while touring Edinburgh and nearby historical sites including Stirling and Loch Lomond.

The Musical Theatre Company Class presents a SALUTE TO GEORGE GERSHWIN on December 3 and 4 at 7:30 pm in the Black Box. Titled FASCINATING RHYTHM, this show will review the life and times of America's greatest jazz composer and have students perform great songs including: "I've Got Rhythm," "A Foggy Day," and many others. Mr. Johnathan Dunn plays piano along with foreign-exchange student Marcel Hoffman. The show is directed by Michael D'Anna.

The Choral Department under the direction of Shirley Letcher and Johnathan Dunn will present its annual concert on December 9th, followed by the instrumental Music Department's annual Winter Pops Concert directed by Brian Damron and Jon Eising on December 22nd at 7:30 pm --- both in the Auditorium and starting at 7:30 pm. Don't miss out on the great sounds of these two concerts!

In January, the Acting Company will present THE LARAMIE PROJECT in the Black Box Theater. PROJECT is a docu-drama about the beating and death of Matthew Sheperd in Wyoming. This was a hate crime that filled newspapers for months and opened up discussion of how people with diverse lifestyles were able to live together. Don't miss a riveting play and a great presentation by the Acting Company. The show will be performed at 7:30 pm on January 7 and 8. Seating is limited!

The Dance Recital will held on January 13 (Wednesday) at 7:30 pm. This is always a "not-to-be-missed" event under the direction of Danielle D'Anna and Donna Iriarte.

The next two months will be filled with excitement in the arts. Don't miss a moment!

Annual Silent Auction and Festival of Arts & Humanities

We have a New Date!

~ May 7, 2010~

Mark your calendars now for Blake PTSA's top fundraising event and Blake HS's premier celebration of the arts! It's an evening you won't want to miss!

Blake PTSA will host the **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 quality education and programs for our students and your efforts will help us all reach that goal.

Funds raised will help enhance our technology programs, such as expanded Promethean equipment, student programs, which may support areas like the National Award Winning, *Blake Beat*. They also help provide whole school improvements like the Blake HS Digital Electronic Sign. AND, especially in these economic times, these needs are greater than ever!

It takes **YOU**, our **Parents and Friends to Chair and work our Auction Subcommittees**. We need *Many Hands* to produce this event. Whether you are able to Chair a Sub-Committee, Provide a Donation, or Volunteer the "Night Of," there is no job too small!

We will be holding regularly announced Auction meetings, so watch for date reminders on Eubiemail. Visit the Auction page on the PTSA website at blakeptsa.org for all the latest information, including a list of subcommittees and contacts. 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** or **Maureen Hill-Gross**, *Silent Auction Co-Chairs* at auction@blakeptsa.org.

Annual Silent Auction and Festival of Arts & Humanities

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: _____ Email: _____

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, Co-Chair or Maureen Hill-Gross, Co-Chair via email at auction@blakeptsa.org.

Return this form and donation by April 25th, 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!

Counseling Department Information

- ✓ Complete all college applications!
- ✓ Juniors and Seniors can sign up to attend the Class of 2009 Alumni Panel, Dec 23, 12:30-1:20 pm in the amphitheatre (during 6th pd). Come to the counseling office to get a pass no later than Friday, Dec. 18th if you if you would like to hear what our recent graduates have to say about their first semester in college. **Following the panel**, there will be a reception in the career center at 1:30 pm for the alums and faculty to catch up. Refreshments will be served.
- ✓ Counselors will begin meeting with the Juniors on December 10-11 to introduce them to Naviance, a comprehensive college and career planning website. It is designed to help students and parents navigate through the college application process while keeping track of their applications and scholarships. Students can easily access information about colleges, compare institutions, and view scattergram data showing acceptance rates of previous graduating classes.
- ✓ Sophomores will be introduced to Choices Explorer in December to **begin** the process of making informed career decisions. Choices Explorer can be accessed from home and will provide insight on careers, skills, interests, learn about majors, information about education for careers and salary.
- ✓ If you participated in the **ASVAB** testing in November, come to the amphitheater on **December 8** at 8:30 am. The score reports will be interpreted for students and parents.
- ✓ The deadline date to take the January 23 SAT is December 15. Log on to www.collegeboard.com to register. There is no ACT scheduled for January.
- ✓ Complete the **FAFSA** online (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and prepare to submit it **after January 1st**. To qualify for Maryland scholarships/grants, the **FAFSA must be filed before March 1st**.
- ✓ If you missed the Blake Financial Aid Workshop, please consider attending a similar program at a neighboring high school. Here is the schedule for all Financial Aid Workshops at MCPS high schools:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/financialaid/workshops.aspx> Another opportunity to get hands-on help with the FAFSA will take place on **February 14, 2010 from 2-4 pm** (snow date: Feb. 21) at MC Takoma Park campus in Silver Spring. **COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY** is an event where financial aid experts from area colleges volunteer their time to individually help families complete the Free

Application for Federal Student Aid. Bring your 2009 taxes or W-2 forms, proof of residency (alien registration number) and your FAFSA PIN for assistance.

- ✓ Two school holidays are coming up in January when students might want to consider arranging college campus visits: January 18 and 25. If there is a day when the student does not have a scheduled semester exam during Jan 15-22, that may be a good time for a college visit as well. Be sure to call the college admissions office in advance to arrange your visit.

Commonly Asked Question:

What is Certificate of Merit (CM)?

In addition to the Maryland high school diploma, students who meet the following requirements may be awarded the Montgomery County Public Schools Certificate of Merit (a diploma endorsement):

- **Advanced Courses:** At least 12 credits must be earned in advanced courses identified by MCPS as applicable to the Certificate of Merit. A CM in the high school course bulletin designates courses that satisfy these requirements.
- **Mathematics Requirement:** Successfully complete, receive credit for the MCPS Algebra 2 course.
- **Cumulative Grade Point Average:** Students must obtain at least a 3.0 unweighted cumulative grade point average.
- **All Certificate of Merit courses must be taken for a letter grade.**

College and Career Center:

Several HBCUs will be offering **on-the-spot admissions interviews** at nearby high schools. The high school hosting the event will want to know who to expect from Blake HS. Typically, these evening events begin at **6:00 pm** with a presentation from the admissions rep, followed by individual interviews (first come/first served). Students must be prepared with a completed application, transcript and test scores in hand and ready to interview with the admissions representative. Application fees are waived for participants.

Seniors who would like to participate should contact Mrs. Moore by email or phone (301-879-1324 or Kathy_L_moore@mcpsmd.org) at least 5 days in advance of the event:

<u>Event date</u>	<u>Institutions/Location</u>
12/2/09	Morgan State University, Walter Johnson HS
12/9/09	Univ. of MD Eastern Shore, Springbrook HS
12/17/09	Norfolk State University, Albert Einstein HS
2/11/10	Bowie State University, J.F. Kennedy HS
2/17/10	UNCF/NAACP/MCPS College Fair, Richard Mont. HS
3/10/10	Coppin State University, Northwood HS

College Visits in December:

Allegany College of Maryland, a two year college in Cumberland, MD with campus housing, will visit on Wed., December 2 at 11:45.

Cleveland Institute of Art will be visiting Blake HS on Fri., December 4 at 12:30 PM.

Please see Mrs. Moore to obtain a pass in advance.

Reflections

The deadline for the 2009 Reflections program is right around the corner -- December 1, 2009.

Blake is participating in the National PTA's Reflections Program, which recognizes achievements in the arts, in an effort to raise community awareness of the arts and arts education. The winners of Blake's contest will go on to the county level, and can compete, up to the national level. The Theme for this year is "Beauty is...." Original works are a requirement and there are guidelines to which entries must adhere. Student submissions are due in the Main Office on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, no later than 3:00 p.m. The six categories of the arts are:

1. Literature
2. Musical Composition
3. Dance Choreography
4. Film Production
5. Photography
6. Visual Arts

As the finest Arts school in Montgomery County, we hope that our students will take this opportunity to show their talents. Blake should sweep the competition at the county level! Prizes and certificates will be awarded to the winners. Additional information regarding deadlines follows:
Blake deadline: December 1
Montgomery County deadline: January 4, 2010
(Blake winners will be submitted to the County for competition.)

Maryland State deadline: February 1, 2010
(County winners will be submitted to the State for competition.)

Additional information is available at blakeptsa.org or contact an Art or English teacher. Good Luck!

Customized Buttons to Support After- Prom

The After Prom Committee is the proud owner of a Button Making Machine. We can provide any type of personalized buttons. We can make buttons for any sport with your student's jersey number. We can also make other specialized buttons: Special Birthdays, Special Occasions, Charitable Races etc. Personalized Buttons are \$3/each. Please contact Maura McMullen (McMullens2@verizon.net) with any questions.

CAREER ACADEMY NEWS—CAPSTONE EXPERIENCES YIELD SENIOR YEAR BENEFITS

Within the Career Academies at Blake, there are 24 different pathways that cluster elective courses together around a career focus. The courses in these pathways prepare students for post-secondary education and future careers. The culmination of pathway studies is a capstone experience or project that directly connects students to their career focus and allows them to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired in their coursework. All the Blake Career Pathways are clearly explained in the Course Registration Handbook Academy pages, along with a multitude of suggested capstone experiences. There are currently 75 students involved in first semester capstone projects, ranging from lab trial and data analysis work with the University of Maryland College Park to managing our new Blake Bengal Cafe, with a wide variety of unique projects in between. Capstone projects give students a chance to individualize their program of studies and are a great way to demonstrate to colleges an ability to learn independently. In addition, the project activity is an excellent addition to a senior portfolio or resume, and the capstone experience itself can be the focus for college essays. If you have a junior or senior at Blake, a capstone experience could provide the perfect opportunity to develop leadership and teamwork skills in completion of a worthwhile project that advances future education and career goals.

Additional information can be found on the Blake webpage at the link to Academies or contact Academy Coordinator Barbara Jeweler at 301-879-1369.

After Prom Planning: It's never too early to get planning!

May seems like a long way off but there's much After Prom planning to do between now and then. To carry out one of the biggest highlights of the year for our Juniors and Seniors, we'll need your help! And hosting nearly 800 students at the After-Prom is no small task!

Our second meeting will be on **Monday, December 7th at 7:00PM in the Career Center**. Please plan to attend and help with the planning. Contact Maura McMullen (McMullens2@verizon.net) or Diane Bush (dbush10892@verizon.net) with any questions.

Free, Online SAT/ACT Prep is available from your home computer!

The Triumph Study Guide for SAT and the ACT are **free online tools available to help you prepare for taking the PSAT, SAT, or ACT**. You may use these study guides at any time. Use the study guides to learn more about the test, review specific skills, take practice quizzes, and track your progress. Within the Triumph Online Study Guide, you will also find **FinalPrep for the SAT and ACT, online sessions designed for preparation the week before the test**. FinalPrep helps you to review the structure, format, skills, and test-taking tips you need before you take the test.

How to Log in and Use Triumph

1. Visit the MCPS homepage, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
2. Click on "For Students" tab in right corner
3. Click on "Prepare and Study for SAT/PSAT & ACTs" tab in top left corner
4. You will see a set of directions. Follow the directions to access the site. You will need to know your MCPS 6 digit Student ID# (without the year). Your ID # will be your username and your password.
5. Select a Test Preparation Option:
 - SAT Study Guide
 - PSAT Study Guide
 - ACT Study Guide
 - *FinalPrep* for the SAT
 - *FinalPrep* for the ACT
6. Once you are in your selected test preparation option, begin with the overview and complete the steps as directed.

If you are completing a study guide, plan to spend a minimum of ten hours to get the most out of the guide. FinalPrep will take between 2 and 2 ½ hours. You do not have to complete either program in one sitting. Break up the work and pace yourself.



Senior Class Information – www.blakehs.webs.com

CAPS & GOWNS: You still have time to purchase your Cap and Gown for \$50.00. Please fill out the order form and mail in your payment directly to Jostens by December 11th. Don't delay on ordering the cap and gown now for only \$50.00. The cost will only go UP if you delay! In addition to the cap & gown you may also place an order now for graduation announcements, rings and more! Students who lost their packets should see Ms. Gelb.

MR. BLAKE: Junior and Senior males who are interested in participating in Mr. Blake should stay tuned to the morning announcements. There will be mandatory meetings in December and January. Mr. Blake will be held on Wednesday 2/10/2010 in the Auditorium at 7:00 pm, (mandatory rehearsal on Tuesday 2/9/2010).

GRADUATION REHEARSAL: Friday, 5/28/2010 at 7:30 am in Main Gym. This is mandatory for students wishing to walk across the stage at DAR Constitution Hall. Please make sure that Memorial Day vacations are planned around this date.

GRADUATION:
DAR Constitution Hall, Washington DC
Tuesday, June 1, 2010, 10:00 am (seniors must arrive at 9 am)

Blake Students Succeed

The University of Maryland's James A. Clark School of Engineering has named James Hubert Blake High School as a "Top-25 Engineering Source School" for the number of Blake students who have enrolled for Fall 2009 in engineering at the College Park campus.

Engineering Dean Darryll Pines cited Blake's faculty and staff for doing an excellent job in "providing rigorous science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs to preparer young men and women for brilliant futures."

James Hubert Blake seniors Cynthia Chow, Todd Holbert, Daniel Pistolessi, Kevan Yang, and Timothy Yee are among 34,000 students nationwide recognized as Commended Scholars in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. As juniors, these students placed among the top five percent of test-takers on the reading, math, and writing sections of the October 2008 PSAT.

Bengal Classic a Great Success!

The 4th Annual Bengal Classic Golf Tournament was held at Argyle Country Club on October 8th and was a huge success! 107 golfers enjoyed a great day on the course. Past, present and future members of the Blake Community came together for a day of fun and friendship! At the end of our 18 holes, we had a delicious Barbeque lunch accompanied by the musical sounds of Blake's own Jazz Squadron. Many golfers went home with wonderful prizes that were donated by local and non-local businesses. This year, we were honored to have Mr. Chris Knoche, the color analyst for the University of Maryland Men's Basketball radio broadcasts, join us once again. He helped us recognize our sponsors and award the prizes to the tournament winners.

On behalf of the Blake Booster Club, we want to thank all participants, sponsors, golf committee members and volunteers. It would not have been a success without each and every one of you!

The following Blake families and businesses generously supported the 4th Annual Bengal Classic Golf Tournament with donations and prizes that were so essential to the success of the event. Please let them know you appreciate their kindness!

Food and Beverage Sponsor

Nikel Construction- Philip Nine

Bengal Silver Sponsors

Hoover-Fisher Florist- Bill and Ginger Fisher

Fairland Animal Hospital- Maggie and Jeff Whall

Longest Drive Sponsor

Embroidery Express

Maryland Sports Medicine Center

Closest to the Pin Sponsors

Sport Chevrolet- Keith Clemmer

Evolution Fitness Systems- Janis Maloney and Mike Hogue

Goodie Bag Sponsor

Fitzgerald Auto Malls- Ron Jaffe

Hole in One Sponsors

The Mondenedo Family

The Matusek Family

The Altobelli Family

Paul Burleson

Tee Sign Sponsors

Blake Boys' Lacrosse Team- past, present and future

Long & Foster Realtors- Theresa Dowdall

The Flynn Family

The Tatnall Family

Falcon Express Transportation

Wannen & Company, CPA's- The Wannen Family

The Yang Family

Prize Donors

Argyle Country Club

Baltimore Ravens

Bethesda Florist

Blake Booster Club

Cloverly Safeway

Embroidery Express

Fractured Prune- Cloverly

G & G Sales

Greek Islands Grill

Hoover-Fisher Florist

John Eising

Waggle.com

Waverly Woods Golf Club

Mark Maloney

Mamma Lucia's

Matusek Family

Meadows Farms Golf Course

Myrtle Beach National Company

Olney Golf Park

PNC Bank- Olney Branch

Sakura

Shoppers Food and Pharmacy

Sol Azteca

Sole D'Italia Restaurant

Washington Redskins Charitable

Foundation

Other Donors

Paul Burleson – Big Red Ltd.

GEICO- Dave Tatnall

Providence Hospital- Paul Grenaldo

Brochure/Website/Printing/ Photography

Jared Thomson -Pixellife.com

Ted Pazulski- Blake website and bengalclassic.com

Rockville Printing and Graphics

Kirstyn Clark- event photographer

Banners and Signs

Thanks to Dawn and Bob Borchers of Borchers Mechanical Services

Special thanks goes to Mr. Brian Damron and the members of the Blake Jazz Squadron who entertained us at lunch:

Danny Seal Jaime Lopez Alex Raul Marco Escobar Patrick Looney

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

Goody Bruffy Scott Dunlap Ginger Fisher Jessica Garlick

Butch Hilliard Patrick Howley Laura Matusek Jane

Mondonedo Rene Mondonedo Chris Tatnall Lois Wannen

Mark Wannen

And to the following volunteers!!

Theresa Dowdall Karen Dunlap Myndee Kerner Kyleen

Kuczarski Nancy Majower Joe Matusek Rebecca

Mondonedo Kathryn Vargo

Booster Club Mulch Sale

Coming in March -- Watch for the order form in next month's Blue Note!!



Booster Club Scholarship Fund Needs You!

Looking for a tax deduction before the end of the calendar year? Why not consider a donation to the Blake Booster Club Scholarship Fund!

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.

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!

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) _____	\$	_____
<small>(Name)</small>		
PTSA Family Membership (2 adults = \$25.00) _____	\$	_____
<small>(Both Names)</small>		
Student Membership (\$5.00) _____	\$	_____
<small>(Name)</small>		
Blake Staff Membership (\$5.00) _____	\$	_____
<small>(Name)</small>		
Alumni Membership (\$10.00) _____	\$	_____
<small>(Name)</small>		

Membership Total \$ _____

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** _____

(Credit info is confidential)

Signature (required to process credit card transactions) **Date**

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Looking for that unique gift for a special person
this holiday season??

Shop the Spirit Wear Holiday Sale !!

Monday, November 30th
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Auditorium Lobby

Tuesday, December 8th
Wednesday, December 9th
In Front of the Amphitheater During
Lunch

Parents, warm your student's heart with a Blake Bengal Fleece Blanket
or some cozy flannel sleep pants.

And kids, how about a Blake seat cushion or a warm Blake Hoodie for that parent of
yours, sitting on those hard cold bleachers, cheering your team to victory??

Some items are limited so shop early for the best selection!!



FREE GIFT WRAPPING!

Price List

Guy's Champion Shorts with pockets.....	\$28.00
Girl's Shorts with Madras Stripe.....	\$28.00
Girl's Softe Shorts.....	\$15.00
DriFit Shirts (Royal Blue or Black).....	\$20.00
Long or Short Sleeve Shirts (Royal Blue or Black).....	\$15.00
Hoodies (Black, Grey or White).....	\$30.00
Champion Heavyweight Hoodie (Grey only).....	\$40.00
Sweatpants with pockets (grey or black).....	\$28.00
Cinch Sacks (royal blue or white).....	\$15.00
Pajama Pants.....	\$25.00
Nylon hooded pull-overs.....	\$35.00
Under Armour Golf Polos.....	\$35.00
Seat Cushions.....	\$ 8.00
Fleece Blanket.....	\$25.00
Baseball Hats.....	\$20.00
Visor.....	\$15.00



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

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