



Blake Blue Note

www.blakeptsa.org

April/May 2011

Please share this issue with your spouse and students

Principal's Corner

By Christopher Berry

April and May are always the busiest months in a high school and these months are especially hopping at Blake. Our annual spring events include The Festival of Arts and Humanities, the spring musical; athletics; instrumental, choral and dance concerts; HSA and AP exams; Academic Awards Night; Athletic Spring Awards Nights; and of course the Prom and After-Prom. As the weather turns warm, school spirit certainly runs high!

A near record number of our students will take **Advance 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 the week of May 16 (with make-ups the following week) to students enrolled in Algebra, Biology, and English 10. Students not involved in testing may arrive at school on a special delayed opening schedule. Additional information will be sent home with students. **HSA testing** remains a graduation requirement for students taking those courses. Teachers work hard to prepare Blake students, who have consistently done extremely well on the HSAs. With spring, also comes **end of year activities** that are of particular significance to our graduating seniors. A packet of very important information was distributed at the Senior Parent meeting on March 24. Please contact senior class sponsor, Ms. Kelly McLaughlin, if you did not attend the meeting and receive a packet as it addresses many issues specific to Senior Banquet, Prom, After-Prom and Graduation. This is a critical time of year for seniors: for a small number of students it seems to come down to the wire every year if they will graduate. Parents need to pay attention to Student Service Learning hours, as well as completion of courses needed

From the President

Message from your PTSA President

Robina Barlow

Winter is finally over. And now, as spring arrives, the Blake community can look forward to seeing a small sea of blue flowers appear on the median, on the drive up the hill to the school. Members of the National Honors Society, led by Blake PTSA parent Paula Cirincione, planted bulbs last fall. The flowers are the first in a few beautification efforts planned for Blake's surroundings.

And there is much that is good happening inside the walls of Blake, as well. Last week a group of student mentors who work with mostly 9th grade students, who are struggling academically, were recognized by Mr. Berry, the teacher/sponsors, Dr. Omari Daniel and Mr. Loftus, and the PTSA. These students have been tutoring daily and mentoring students during lunch. And there are now some statistics to show how much students are improving academically as a result. A new group of students will have an opportunity to be trained as tutor/mentors this spring. If your student earns good grades and would like to receive training to be a tutor/mentor next school year please contact Dr. Daniel or Mr. Loftus.

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Message from your PTSA President - continued from page 1

At the March PTSA meeting, we voted to assist the yearbook staff in their efforts to produce a quality yearbook with color pictures this year. The yearbook was in danger of being printed with black and white photographs instead of color, which the students and parents expect. It has been a struggle this year for the yearbook staff to raise the funds necessary to produce the yearbook. But with the help of many supporters, including local businesses and the PTSA, it appears the yearbook will once again be printed in color.

SAT Bootcamp is planned for the last weekend in April (eight hours over two days), will be offered to students who plan to sit for the May SAT. Students who plan to sit for the May SAT are encouraged to attend this bootcamp. More information will be announced at the school.

The PTSA is collecting prom dresses in our "New-to-You" Prom Dress program. We have partnered with the Sherwood High School PTSA to collect dresses and then resell them at very modest price to students. Some dresses will be given away. The dress sale will be held April 2 and 3. Dresses will be available for sell on Saturday, April 2 at Blake, between 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and on Sunday in the Olney Community Room at the Re/Max Bldg., 3300 Olney-Sandy Spring Road. Please contact Isabel Bailey at athomeisabel@aol.com if you have questions. Blake student, Shekara McEachern, is a student leader on the project.

Have you wondered when the potholes in the student parking lot will disappear? They won't on their own, but Mr. Berry has good news. He announced that Blake parking lots will be paved this summer. He gave credit to Blake Business Manager Ms. Kathryn Vargo for assisting in getting Blake on the county's paving schedule this year. The second Student PTSA Meeting will be held on Friday, April 1, during lunch in the amphitheater. Announcements will be made on Eubie TV and through Eubie mail. It is open to PTSA student members. Other interested students may attend and are welcome to join the PTSA.

Proposed budget cuts for Montgomery County Schools will affect every school in the county, and Blake is no exception; we must make our voices heard. The PTSA has decided to write to the County Council and the School Board to implore them to keep the activity buses, the College and Counselor all year round, and the staff development position. We cannot afford to lose the

activity buses from Blake. They serve a vital need for our students. Without the buses many of the students could not participate in after school activities. Blake only has one College and Career Information Counselor (CCIC), and she works with hundreds of students, year round. And the staff development position is necessary to keep the high quality of teaching at Blake. In writing to the Council and the Board, the PTSA has indicated that Security and the Arts are of major importance to Blake.

In April, the County Council will meet to determine the budget for MCPS. Parents and students alike should attend the April County Council Meeting to show support for fully funding county schools. Once the meeting date is known, families will be notified. The Montgomery County Board of Education will make decisions in June on the allocation of the budget and we hope to see parent support for Blake at that meeting, too. Please check on the MCPS and PTSA websites for additional information.

Principal Berry has announced that there will probably not be a High School 101 program this summer for incoming 9th grade students, due to anticipated budget cuts. The one-week program was a great introduction for students coming to Blake. It familiarized students with what to expect in high school, provided assistance to students in completing summer homework packets, and more. The PTSA hopes that the administration will find a way to keep this valuable program. There is some evidence to suggest that students who attend HS101 are generally better prepared for high school and fare better academically, than many who do not.

An online survey was taken to determine if negative peer pressure influenced some students not to do well in school, or not to participate or join clubs. The results were inconclusive and the number of respondents was quite small.

A different survey was sent out via Eubie mail to get feedback on a high school cell phone policy. The choices were about cell phone use with the following options:

- a) Use permitted at all high schools during lunch
- b) Use permitted at no high schools during lunch
- c) Use permitted at high Schools during lunch as determined annually by the administration, staff, parents, and students.

The results were strongly in favor of option **a)** Use being permitted at all high schools during lunch, followed by

option c), and with only a couple votes for option b). New classes may be offered at Blake by Montgomery College for seniors next year, called the High School Scholars Program. Contact Blake Guidance for more information.

The PTSA Online Auction is due to start April 11. Information will be posted on the PTSA website: www.blakeptsa.org on the Auction page.

The Silent Auction will occur during the Festival of the *Arts and Humanities* on Friday, May 6. This year there will be some student art and student-crafted pottery bowls available for sale during the auction.

Blake PTSA sponsors After Prom, which immediately follows the Prom, on the evening and morning of May 13 and 14. The Prom is for Blake juniors and seniors and their guests. Everyone that attends the Prom may attend the After Prom. Juniors and seniors who do not attend the prom may attend After Prom, but may not bring guests. For more information contact Prom Sponsors Ms. Jimenez and Mr. Damron, or the After Prom Chairperson, Margie McNabb, at mmcnabb47@verizon.net. *Consider driving your students to Prom and After Prom, getting them professional drivers, or having an older responsible friend or sibling drive your children to and from the events.* If you would like to volunteer during the night of After Prom, and your student doesn't mind, please contact Karen Powers, the After Prom volunteer chairperson. She is listed in the Blake directory.

As I close, I would like to mention the devastation in Japan in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami. As citizens of the world, we might want to consider what we can and will do to help. How fortunate we are.

There will be one more Blake Newsletter for this school year, distributed in June. Until then, have a Happy Spring!



Principal's Corner *continued from page 1*

for graduation, including those taken in High School Plus. For students who are cutting it close, counselors are the best resources to ensure students are on track to walk across the stage at DAR Constitution Hall. But even our most capable seniors need to be reminded that "senioritis" is not a real word (even if it seems like a real phenomenon) and while they have worked hard, high school isn't over and this is not the time to slack off and let things slide. Just ask the students who are put on academic probation and told they need to take summer programs before they enter college based on poor second semester grades.

The **senior celebrations** include the Senior Banquet on April 14 and Academic Awards night on May 24, when many of our students are honored for their academic achievements. Final exams for seniors are from May 23 (review day) until May 27, which is the last school day for seniors. Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal is Monday, June 13, and Graduation is at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14, at DAR Constitution Hall. (Any student who is not at graduation rehearsal may not walk at graduation; the rehearsal is an important expectation.) While drugs and alcohol have no place in any student activities, the stakes are particularly high at this time of year. Parents are urged to talk to students to make sure they are perfectly clear about the activities they stand to miss should they decide to partake in illegal substances—in addition to the high stakes for their safety, as well as, legal action. Our utmost concern is to keep our students safe and to provide events and activities that are drug-free and alcohol-free.

The **Junior/Senior Prom** is set for May 13 at Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, University of Maryland College Park, with the **After-Prom** at Dave & 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 five years that most of our students acted responsibly and we have not had to face the potential tragedies that Prom night can bring. Blake staff consistently reinforce 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 who has 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

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circumstances. I strongly suggest parents to talk with their children about a Plan B if their children's peers decide to drink. A phone call to come get a child is preferable to the ramifications of guilt by association. This message will be reinforced to juniors and seniors through class meetings and our SADD pre-Prom assembly.

The **spring sports** season is an extremely successful one; the large number of students participating in sports and 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 to come out and cheer on our student athletes.

Spring break is particularly late this year and, as a result, we have a real need to monitor and **reinforce positive student behavior** for our "restless natives". Parents are asked to help us reinforce school rules and policies such as keeping cell phones off and out of sight during the school day, which is MCPS policy (and COMAR). Many times parents are contacting students during the day on their cell phones. Please call the main office at 301-879-1300 if you need to leave a message or wait until 2:10 p.m. to contact your child on their cell phone. Cell phones are an ongoing issue during the school day with text messaging, cheating on exams, and inappropriate photos being taken, as well as the temptation for theft. Please do not set your child up to have their phone sent to the main office by calling during the school day.

Other issues we encounter include students failing to get to class on time, and attendance problems. The tardy issue seems to grow exponentially in the spring, as warm weather (and love) seems to slow down student incentives to be on time for class. Please remind your children that being on time to class is a minimum expectation that certainly would not be tolerated in the world of work. We always stress with students that the first five minutes of class are often the most important. Likewise, please monitor your child's attendance in school. A student is NEVER permitted to leave campus during the school day without preapproved permission. If you receive an autodial call at night indicating an absence from one or more periods, it is always a good practice to confirm with the attendance office at school the nature of the absence if you can't account for this with your child or if you have a suspicion that that are being less than honest about their whereabouts. A confirmation call only takes a minute, whereas a conversation with a teacher and administrator about unexcused absences is difficult and embarrassing for all concerned. More problematic is that

teachers are not required to accept work when a student's absence is unexcused, which can be a serious consequence. There is no substitute for being in class.

Lastly, dress code violations become a real issue as the weather gets warmer. Halter tops, tube tops, exposed underwear, midriff tops, and extremely short skirts are some of the issues we deal with repeatedly from our young ladies. This, frankly, makes for an environment that is distracting and not conducive for learning. How your daughter leaves for school in the morning may not be how she appears once she gets to school. We always have spare t-shirts for loan, but most young ladies always have a back-up. In addition, the new t-shirts with double-entendre messages can be offensive and inappropriate for school, as well as shirts with drug, alcohol, or sexual implications. Last but not least, is hats; headgear is allowed only for medical or religious reasons.

This first year as principal has certainly flown for me. I want to thank all of you for making me feel supported and welcome in my new role. As I travel to other schools and speak with my colleagues and other county parents, Blake's traditions, its support for students, and its dedicated parents and staff make me realize how in some ways we are rare and in others we are a unique high school. For those parents of seniors, I thank you for your tireless dedication to our school, your willingness to support what we do as educators every day and, mostly, trusting us with your most prized possession – your children.

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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 May 7 SAT TEST NOW !

April 8 is the deadline to register for the **May 7, 2011 SAT test**. The best way to do this is online:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/>. Cost is \$47.00, and you can charge this on your credit card. A LATE FEE applies—an extra \$24 if you miss the April 8 deadline. After April 22 students must pay an extra "stand-by fee" of \$41. 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

The early fee deadline for March has passed. 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 "stand-by/walk-in" fee is \$89. 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.

SAT PREPARATION COURSE

For the first time, Montgomery College will offer both SAT and ACT prep classes this spring. SAT prep has been available for years, but the increasing popularity of the ACT has led to the development of a course to prepare for that college admissions test, as well. Current Juniors should register to take the SAT and/or ACT during second semester. The course fee is \$285 for Maryland residents (not including the textbook). There are several dates, times, locations to choose from online: www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce.

If you are a student who just needs SAT Math prep, there's a course for you! Another course is available for students who need just SAT critical reading and writing prep! Please get online now to learn more about these prep course offerings and to register: www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce.

See page 12 in this newsletter for additional SAT prep options

The First Ever Blake High School PTSA Community Yard Sale

**May 21, 2011
9 am - 2 pm**

Just in time for spring cleaning--the PTSA is renting spaces for \$20 and tables for \$10. You sell your stuff and reap the benefits! **Crafters are also welcome to rent space to sell your wares.**

Great for fundraisers, too!

Do you need to raise money for your club, organization, sports team, beach week? At the yard sale, you have an opportunity to gather things from your group and sell them to support your cause.

So many possibilities, so come on out and sell your stuff!!!!

**Contact Orit at oritil@yahoo.com
240-460-1534.**

Counseling Department News

SPRING COLLEGE NIGHT for Juniors - Mark your calendar for April 6, 2011

6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Blake H.S. amphitheatre. Keynote speaker: David Reeder, Director of Financial Aid, Mt. St. Mary's University will prepare junior parents for the "ins & outs" of the financial aid process. Mr. Kevin Keegan will distribute and explain the score reports for the Mock SAT/ACT that was administered on March 4. The Blake Counseling Staff will provide a PowerPoint presentation and sound advice on getting ready for senior year and making post secondary plans. Don't miss this very important event!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR - April 13-14, 2011 - Gaithersburg Fairgrounds

- Blake Juniors are invited to attend this annual event from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 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 \$6 each. 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 13 for parents & students to attend workshops together.

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE - BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

ACADEMIC SPECIALTY SCHOLARSHIP - Deadline: April 19, 2011 - If you are planning to attend MC for the 2011-2012 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 - Sunday, May 22,

2011 - These fairs are offered all over the U.S. They are coming to the Bethesda, MD area on May 22. 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 with dates/times and pre-registration visit the website: www.ctcl.org.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP MONTGOMERY (summer & fall

program) - Informational meeting: **Tuesday, May 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** at VISARTS, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville Town Center, Rockville, MD. Call or e-mail Carol Ippolito to reserve a

seat: 301-881-3333 or carol.ippolito@leadermont.org. This is a unique program for Montgomery County high school students in grades 9-12 to empower them with the skills necessary to achieve success in life. It includes a one-week summer residential program from July 31-August 6, 2011 at Washington College in Chestertown, MD. Student must commit to attending seven Fall mini-workshops as well. Tuition is \$750, which includes all program costs, including room and board at Washington College. Financial aid is available based on need but students must apply before the **April 15th application deadline!** For more information and to apply visit: <http://www.mlw.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 24 at 7:30 p.m., but all awards will be entered in Naviance. As you may know, Naviance includes college acceptance & rejection data that is important to future college-bound 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 \$500-\$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/>.

Blake High School Arts and Humanities Festival May 6

The Blake High School Signature Program will proudly present its annual Festival of the Arts and the Humanities on May 6, from 4 – 9 p.m. at James H. Blake High School. The theme for this year's Festival is ART AND SOUL. Students and staff will present performances, exhibits, displays, demonstrations, and specialized projects for the entire Blake Community to celebrate.

In addition, the Blake High School PTSA will hold its **annual Silent Auction and Family Dinner**. The auction will present you with a treasure-trove of wonderful items for you to bid on. You may do this online (check out the Blake High School Website) as well as in person on the 6th. Find a bargain at the Silent Auction from a vast variety of gifts, trips, and luxury goods.

Throughout the evening, the PTSA will offer family-style dining. Great food will be served at inexpensive rates. So bring your entire household for a great meal out! The evening will offer many diversions for children, teens and adults. Our Visual Arts Department will present several art exhibits in the school Art Gallery as well as Senior Portfolio Exhibits, art exhibits by the various arts classes at school, photography and digital arts shows, fashion designs by our creative fashion students, and a fabulous display of ceramics—and many of these art works will be on sale! Walk away with a piece of student art at an incredibly low cost and help spark in our student artists that entrepreneurial spirit!

The Visual Art Exhibits will cover most of the First Floor of the school. Enjoy a stroll from exhibit to exhibit as you take in the many talents of our students.

Our Humanities programs will offer many project- and performance-oriented sessions demonstrating the impact of the humanities on the development of our students. See the highly regarded Blake Forensics Team present award-winning speeches. Participate in social study, foreign language and English interactive activities like mock trials! Blake performance groups will also be featured throughout the evening from small instrumental groups and singers, to fun-filled improv sessions and short scenes. Dancers will present specialized projects and our media arts program will show you why they have won so many high school Emmys. Don't miss a celebration of our Community and School at the

Blake High School Festival of the Arts and Humanities!
Check us out at the school Website!



The Festival of Arts and Humanities - Annual Online and Silent Auctions

The Blake High School PTSA is pleased to announce our **Online Auction** Beginning Monday, **April 11, 2011** The PTSA will be auctioning off a number of fun and unique items to bid on to raise money for Blake—and the more items we have, the more money we can raise, so we're asking for your help. Proceeds from the auctions will help us support and maintain Blake's outstanding academic environment, enhance technology programs, and support student activities. To access the online auction website, first go to www.blakeptsa.org/ and click on Auction.

After the **online auction closes at 9 p.m.** on April 20, be sure to come to Blake's Festival of the Arts and Humanities on Friday, **May 6, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.** There will be a **Silent Auction** at the school, so come out and bid on more interesting items, including student produced pottery bowls, and other works of art.



Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes

Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference
SSL Develops Critical Thinking Skills

High school students enrolled in the National, State, and Local Government (NSL) course have the opportunity to earn 7 SSL hours during Semester A, and 8 SSL hours during Semester B for their full participation in the SSL aspects, and successful completion of the course.

All SSL organizations and opportunities must be preapproved. Choose from organizations tagged, "Approved SSL MCPS" on the website www.mcpsssl.org and organizations tagged, "MCPS SSL Approved" OR get MCPS Form 560-50, Request for SSL Preapproval granted in advance of any service.

- Keep copies of all SSL forms. The official SSL hours are reflected on quarterly report cards. Check out the SSL record and discuss any discrepancy immediately with the school-based SSL coordinator.
- Service performed during the second semester can be turned in any time during the semester. The latest date to turn in documentation of second semester service is the Friday before exams begin (June 3, 2011). Senior hours are due before that date.
- Providing direct service to individuals in assisted-living facilities and nursing homes is the only exception to serving with nonprofit organizations. Be sure to get an MCPS Form 560-50, Request for SSL Preapproval signed in advance with organizations that are not tagged as "Approved SSL MCPS".

SSL Promotes Positive School/Community Relationships

Memorial Day May 30, 2011 is a fine time to get involved in service through school or community organizations. Secure documentation of service using MCPS Form 560-51, Student Service Learning Activity Verification.

All forms required to document SSL are found on the website www.mcpsssl.org or at any middle or high school. Completed forms become part of each student's record.

- Students should make copies of all SSL documentation.
- Support preapproved nonprofit organizations in the community by providing high quality, dependable service. Make a positive impact!
- All service for which SSL hours are awarded must be performed in a public place. The only exception to this is students may earn SSL hours by making bag lunches at home and delivering them to a county homeless shelter. SSL hours are awarded based on the number of meals delivered.

Blake Athletics Booster Club

NEXT MEETING is Monday May 2 at 7 PM in the Amphitheater. We're looking for active-minded parents to help set goals and make a better Booster Club for Blake sports teams. PLEASE COME!

Booster Club Team Liaison In an effort to –

1. better coordinate fundraising activities among Blake Athletic teams,
2. recognize and assist teams with equipment and other needs, and
3. raise awareness among coaches, parents and other interested parties of the need to collectively pool efforts to raise funds to improve the athletic facilities at Blake

The Blake Booster Club has raised more than \$200,000 since 1999, which has been used to purchase scoreboards, dugouts, press boxes, and many other non-athletics-related school equipment items.

Most of the monies raised have come from concession sales at athletic events, from membership donations, and since Spring 2006, from the Spring Mulch Sale.

We see the Team Liaison as the pivotal link between the Booster Club and your team. We hope that you can identify/recruit this person before your season. Ideally, this might be someone who would be willing to perform a range of functions, primarily aimed at supporting the fundraising efforts of the Booster Club and communicating developments within your team. We hope they could:

- Collect parent and player email addresses and phone numbers
- Organize volunteers for concessions at home contests
- Provide a bi-monthly update to the Booster Club, by e-mail or phone (attendance at meetings not required)
- Periodically prepare season updates, including game scores, results and achievements (like the big win over Springbrook) for the Bengal Blog website
- Extol the virtues/benefits of membership in the Booster Club. We need volunteers but will accept donations too!

We're not hoping for a miracle here, just a better way to coordinate volunteerism among you, your athletes and parent/guardians. If we get 10 more people involved over the course of each season, or ten new members each year, we're on the road to success. Not that we haven't been successful over our first ten years, but we need new members now more than ever.

We're looking for the next Booster Club director, too. Hopefully, a product of better communication will be to identify the person who can take the Booster Club into the next ten years and grow the seeds we've planted.

Attention Parents of Freshmen (class of 2014)

Mark your calendars for our third parent meeting of the year on **Tuesday, April 5, 2011, from 7-8:30 pm in the Blake Amphitheatre.**

Ms. Wagner will be discussing requirements and upcoming summer opportunities for Student Service Learning. Ms. Morales (our 9th grade administrator) will be answering your questions and more. Also, there will be time for discussion with other parents and an opportunity to identify topics for future sessions. In order to use our time more efficiently, please email Carmen as soon as possible with whatever questions you have about Blake. We will then get answers and present them at the meeting so all can be informed. Carmen's email address is ctartera@hotmail.com. Come get important info and get to know fellow 9th grade parents!

BLAKE'S AFTER-PROM CELEBRATION

**Saturday, May 14, 12:30 a.m.-5:00 a.m.
(Immediately following Friday night Prom).**

Location: Dave & Buster's, White Flint Mall



Register now for MCPS Online summer courses!

Deadline May 20

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/onlinelearning/enroll.shtm>

MCPS Online courses being offered this summer:

MCPS Comprehensive Health and Wellness (.5 credit, three-week course, \$310)

MCPS Personal Finance (.5 credit, three-week course, \$310)

MCPS Foundations of Technology (1.0 credit, six-week course, \$620)

Students interested in taking one or more of these online courses will need to:

Work with their school counselor to select a course(s).

Complete and print the online registration form, found at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/onlinelearning/enroll.shtm>

Return the printed form, with necessary signatures *and* tuition payment to MCPS Student eLearning, 2096 Gaither Rd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20850 or by fax: 301-670-8235)

MVS Online courses being offered this summer

MCPS has approved several AP courses that students can take during the school year or summer. For more information on which courses are approved courses or how to register, go to:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/onlinelearning/mvs.shtm>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Supervisor of Online Learning:

Andrew_W_Miller@mcpsmd.org

General program information:

Gregory_A_Abbott@mcpsmd.org or call 301-279-3466

MCPS Launches Online Parent Guide to Special Education

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/special/parents/>

A new parent-focused website is now online to assist families of students who require special education services and families of students who are in the beginning stages of the special education process. The multimedia guide is designed to make it easy for parents to get answers to a broad range of questions about special education services or to find which MCPS staff members can assist them. The site features numerous videos highlighting the great staff and services that MCPS provides to special education students. It also includes a feedback form for parents to fill out to make suggestions on how we can improve the website.

Blake Sports Schedule, April – May 2011

4/1/2011 Friday	Lacrosse – Boys Lacrosse – Girls Volleyball - Boys and Coed	Blake at Sherwood V 7 pm/JV 5:15 pm Sherwood at Blake V 7 pm/JV 5:30 pm Blake at B-CC Coed 3:30 pm/Boys 5:15 pm
4/2/2011 Saturday	Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Softball - Junior Varsity Softball - Varsity Tennis – Boys	Einstein at Blake 10 am Einstein at Blake 1:30 pm Einstein at Blake 10 am Einstein at Blake 1:30 pm Walter Johnson at Blake 10 am
4/4/2011 Monday	Gymnastics - Girls Lacrosse – Boys Lacrosse – Girls Softball - Junior Varsity Softball - Varsity	Sherwood at Blake 5 pm Kennedy at Blake V 5:15 pm/JV at KE 3:30 pm Kennedy at Blake V 7:15 pm/JV at KE 5:15 pm Blake at Damascus 3:30 pm Damascus at Blake 7 pm
4/5/2011 Tuesday	Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Tennis – Boys Track - Outdoor	Blake at Damascus 3:30 pm Damascus at Blake 3:30 pm Blake at Poolesville 3:30 pm Blake at Kennedy 3:30 pm
4/6/2011 Wednesday	Softball - Junior Varsity Softball - Varsity Volleyball - Boys and Coed	Northwood at Blake 3:30 pm Blake at Northwood 3:30 pm Paint Branch at Blake Boys 3:30 pm/Coed 5:15 pm
4/7/2011 Thursday	Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Tennis – Boys	Northwood at Blake 6 pm Blake at Northwood 3:30 pm Damascus at Blake 3:30 pm
4/8/2011 Friday	Lacrosse – Boys Lacrosse – Girls Volleyball - Boys and Coed	Blake at Einstein V 7 pm/JV 5:15 pm Einstein at Blake V 7 pm/JV 5:30 pm Blake at Quince Orchard Boys 5:15 pm/Coed 7 pm
4/11/2011 Monday	Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Gymnastics - Girls Lacrosse – Girls Softball - Junior Varsity Softball - Varsity	Blake at Clarksburg 3:30 pm Clarksburg at Blake 7 pm Blake at B-CC 6 pm Blake at Clarksburg V 7 pm/JV 5:30 pm Blake at Clarksburg 3:30 pm Clarksburg at Blake 7 pm
4/12/2011 Tuesday	Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Lacrosse – Boys Softball - Junior Varsity Softball - Varsity Tennis – Boys Track - Outdoor	Springbrook at Blake 6 pm Blake at Springbrook 3:30 pm Clarksburg at Blake V 7 pm/JV 5:15 pm Springbrook at Blake 3:30 pm Blake at Springbrook at MLK 3:30 pm Blake at Magruder 3:30 pm Whitman at Blake 3:30 pm
4/13/2011 Wednesday	Volleyball - Boys and Coed	Blake at Magruder Boys 5:15 pm/Coed 7 pm
4/14/2011 Thursday	Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Gymnastics - Girls Softball - Junior Varsity	Blair at Blake 6 pm Blake at Blair 7 pm Blake at Blair 5 pm Blair at Blake 3:30 pm

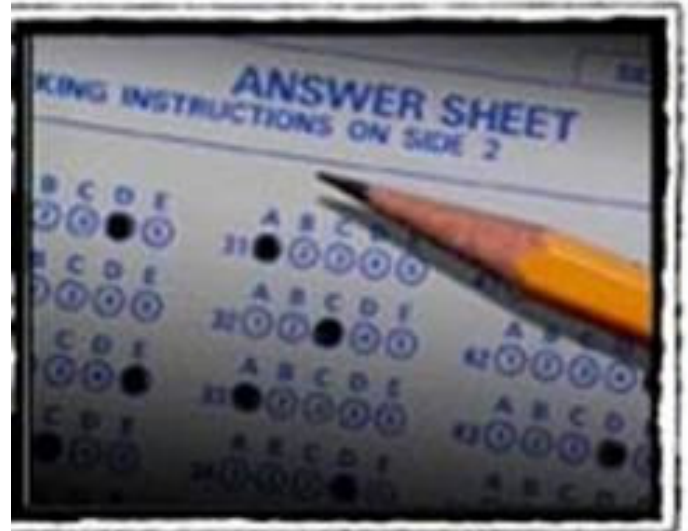
4/27/2011	Wednesday	Tennis – Boys Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Lacrosse – Boys Lacrosse – Girls Tennis – Boys Volleyball - Boys and Coed	Sherwood at Blake 3:30 pm Blake at Watkins Mill 3:30 pm Watkins Mill at Blake 7 pm Blake at Wootton V 7 pm/JV 5:15 pm Watkins Mill at Blake V 7 pm/JV 5:30 pm Paint Branch at Blake 3:30 pm Blair at Blake Boys 3:30 pm/Coed 5:15 pm
4/28/2011	Thursday	Gymnastics - Girls Softball - Junior Varsity Softball - Varsity	Gaithersburg and Walter Johnson at Blake 5 pm Blake at Watkins Mill 3:30 pm Watkins Mill at Blake 3:30 pm
4/29/2011	Friday	Tennis – Boys Volleyball - Boys and Coed	Blake at Wheaton 3:30 pm Damascus at Blake Boys 5:15 pm/Coed 7 pm
4/30/2011	Saturday	Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Lacrosse – Girls Softball - Junior Varsity Softball - Varsity	Blake at Wheaton 10 am Blake at Wheaton 1:30 pm Wootton at Blake V 11:30 am/JV 10 am Blake at Wheaton 10 am Blake at Wheaton 1:30 pm
5/2/2011	Monday	Lacrosse – Boys Volleyball - Boys and Coed	Blake at Watkins Mill V 7 pm/JV 5:15 pm Blake at Wheaton Boys 5:15 pm/Coed 7 pm
5/3/2011	Tuesday	Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Gymnastics - Girls Softball - Junior Varsity Softball - Varsity	Blake at Sherwood 3:30 pm Sherwood at Blake 7 pm MCPS Championship at Blair 5:30 pm Blake at Sherwood 3:30 pm Sherwood at Blake 7 pm
5/4/2011	Wednesday	Lacrosse – Boys Lacrosse – Girls	Damascus at Blake V 7 pm/JV 5:15 pm Blake at Damascus V 7 pm/JV 5:30 pm
5/5/2011	Thursday	Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Gymnastics - Girls Softball - Junior Varsity Softball - Varsity	Quince Orchard at Blake 6 pm Blake at Quince Orchard 5:15 pm Varsity B Championship at WJ 5:30 pm Quince Orchard at Blake 6 pm Blake at Quince Orchard 5:15 pm
5/6/2011	Friday	Lacrosse – Boys Lacrosse – Girls	Springbrook at Blake V 7 pm/JV 5:15 pm Blake at Springbrook V 7 pm/JV 5:30 pm
5/7/2011	Saturday	Baseball - Junior Varsity Baseball - Varsity Softball - Junior Varsity Softball - Varsity	Blake at Poolesville 10 am Blake at Poolesville 2:30 pm Blake at Poolesville 10 am Blake at Poolesville 2:30 pm
5/9/2011	Monday	Baseball and Softball- Varsity Lacrosse – Boys Lacrosse – Girls	Paint Branch at Blake 7 pm Blake at Poolesville V 5:15 pm Poolesville at Blake V 5:15 pm

PTSA Calendar April/May 2011

April 11-20	Online Auction
April 12	PTSA General Meeting
April 14	Senior Banquet
May 2 – 13	AP Exams
May 6	Silent Auction - Arts & Humanities Festival
May 13-14	Prom/After Prom
May 17	PTSA General Meeting
May 21	PTSA Yard Sale in Staff Parking Area
May 24	Academic Awards Night
May 24-27	Final Exams (2nd Semester)

Graduation is June 14 at 10:00 a.m.

A Big PTSA Thank You to Blake Families for Your Generosity!



SAT Bootcamp is coming to Blake

An SAT Bootcamp will be held on **Saturday and Sunday, April 30th & May 1st**. Class runs 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. both days.

In just one weekend, students learn everything they need to know to outsmart the SAT from the only prep company whose instructors have earned multiple perfect scores (2400) on the test. With Catalyst's SAT Bootcamp, students arm themselves with a strategy for every type of question guaranteed to be on the exam, learn how to avoid the most common traps, and discover how to compose a perfect-score essay -- no matter what question is asked! The Bootcamp is a momentum-building weekend seminar that gives students not only the insights and confidence they need the day of the test, but also provides Catalyst's self-study materials for sustained practice right up to the SAT itself.

Students who prepped using only Catalyst's SAT Bootcamp saw an average gain of 140 composite points on their SAT score!

Registration is \$165 and covers all 8 hours of the Bootcamp, as well as all materials used and all take-home self-study materials. Sign up online at www.CatalystPrep.com. Click on the "Bootcamp Sign-Up" tab and fill out the registration information.

Students will learn how to write a perfect essay for any question asked, how to avoid the biggest answer traps, and how to tackle every type of question that will be on the test. This bootcamp is sponsored by the PTSA.

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.

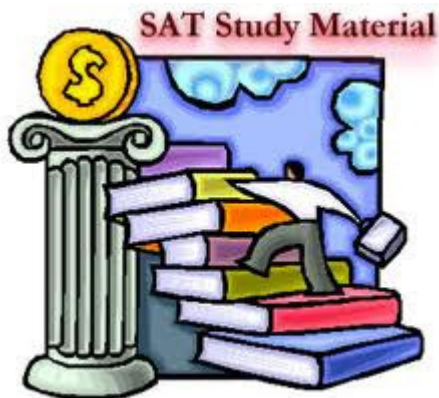
For the self-motivated student, here are some additional FREE SAT or ACT practice sites:

www.sparknotes.com

<http://www.number2.com>

<http://www.collegeboard.com>

<http://www.actexampracticetests.com>



A Big PTSA Thank You to Blake Families for Your Generosity!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to *Direct Appeal* this school year. Your donations help fund the many programs the PTSA organizes and supports, on behalf of Blake students, staff, and families.

<p><i>Eubie Gold Level:</i> <u>\$250-499</u> None</p> <p><i>Friends of Eubie</i> <u>\$100-\$249</u> Dianna Abney Robina & Bryon Barlow Laura Bennett Meryl Bloomrosen Abbie Carliner Mridula & Chandra Chaurasia Torrie and Annel Cooke Debi Gartland & Walter Cruickshank Patty Ferry Linda & Paul Fishetti Holly Ford Hal Freeman John Hoffman Stephanie Hyde Kathy & Ron Jaffe Eric Johnson Ann Joiner Paul Korycinski Katherine & John Lingan Mr. & Mrs. Mbabazi Margie McNabb Gloria & Baltazar Ortiz Seema & Robert Owen Diane & Larry Perry Patricia & Richard Prather Brenda Pullen Robert Ramsey Carmen Tarter Raul</p>	<p>Jackie Reeves Sherri & Paul Savercool Connie & David Shaw Betsy & Steven Sirk Sandra Smethurst Chris Tatnall Joan Taylor Brenda Wetzel</p> <p><i>Bengal Supporter:</i> <u>Up to \$99</u> Maria Acosta Margaret & Gary Arnett Bobette & Medaris Banks Rita & Rick Battaglia Greg Bell Laura Benson Karen & Byron Blocker Gloria Bohorquez Patt & David Botto Lisa Bradley-Klemko Mimi Browne Ann & Dat Bui Paula Cameron Katrina Carr Orit Chicherio Stephanie & Bruce Clark Annel Cooke Muriel & Gary Copper Arden D'Amico Sara & David Dean Beverly Dennis Debra Dionne Jamie Dowdall Mercy Ferguson</p>	<p>Penny & Michael Fuchs Carmen & Kevin Gaffney Barbara & Paul Girolami Meryl Glantz Alan Goldberg Janice & Harry Golwater Ann & Martin Gottlieb Jane Gratton Zeev Hahat Wenda Harbour Thomas Hewitt Sheila Holmes Alice Hung Stephanie Hyde Janice Hylton Sonia Karmazyn Sharon & Robert King Debbie Kirkland Donielle Kirkwood Jackie Kister Pamela Kocher Alex Kronemer Chris Lertora Kimberly Livesay Janice & Bill Marcus Tracy & Tom Meile Ann Mellish Jacqueline & Erol Miller Rene Mondonede Jody & Richard Morstein Eric Nevins Leslie O'Flahavan Kelli Ostrow Nica Outtarac</p>	<p>Kim & Jeffery Paniati Cynthia Pfanstiehl Judith Porzel Linda & John Powers Janey Pugsley Stephen Radov Clara Raju Connie & Bob Rehman Myna Reindorf Patti & Steve Richard Jean Rosen Pam Rowe Michael Rubenstein Amy & Chip Russell Joe Sabelhaus Sherri & Paul Scheible Karen & Brian Schilling Aleta & David Shannon Kim & Blaine Shipler Teri Sigwalt Maggie & Thomas Simpson Sonya Stanton Marilyn Taira Carmen Tartera & Robin Raul William Taylor Carole Towriss Brenda Veli Susan & Waithaka Mark Wannan David Weber Janice Williams Melville Wyse Kathy & Dave Young Ellen Zaika Clifford Zinnes</p>
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IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO DONATE!

Help Support a Tradition of Excellence
The Blake Stage Company Proudly Presents



Contributions Are Welcome!

Benefactors Contributing \$40 - \$99

Get listed in our Program!

Angels Contributing \$100 - \$499

Get listed in our Program!

Corporate Sponsors Contributing \$500 or More

Get listed in our Program!

Name(s) to be noted in program _____

Address _____

Phone Number & E-Mail _____

Amount of Contribution _____

Stage Company Contact _____

The show will be performed at 7:30 p.m. in Blake's auditorium on:

Friday, April 1st, Saturday, April 2nd,

Thursday, April 7th, Friday, April 8th & Saturday, April 9th.

For questions, contact:

Michael D'Anna, Director

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

301-879-1300 or Michel_D_D'Anna@mcpsmd.org

The James H. Blake High School Stage Company

300 Norwood Road

Silver Spring, MD 20905

Michael D'Anna, Director

301-879-1300

Michel_D_D'Anna@mcpsmd.org

RECEIPT FOR ADVERTISING/FINANCIAL SUPPORT
For *Hairspray*

Advertiser/Contributor: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Contact Person for Business: _____

Advertisement Selection

- Full Page Cover/Back Page (\$120)
- Full Page Ad (\$100)
- Half Page Ad (\$60)
- Quarter Page Ad (\$40)

Sponsorship Selection

- Corporate Sponsor (\$500 and up)
- Angel (\$99 to \$499)
- Benefactor (\$40 to \$99)

Method of Payment

- Payment Received: Yes No
Form of Payment: Cash Check Bill Later

Blake High School Representative _____

Date: _____

Note:

Please make all checks payable to Blake High School

Show Dates are Friday, April 1st, Saturday, April 2nd, Thursday, April 7th, Friday, April 8th, & Saturday, April 9th.

Your Blake Blue Note

Editor: Paul Girolami
Format: Michele Setton
E-mail contact: blakebluenote@blakeptsa.org

The Blake Blue Note is published 6 times during the school year (September, October, December, February, April, and June). It is prepared for mailing by Ms. Beth Sheperd's and Ms. Ann Macrae's classes.

A paper copy of the BBN is sent to each Blake family after it is printed, prepared and mailed. The electronic version is available more immediately via Eubimail and on the Blake PTSA web site
<http://www.blakeptsa.org/blake-blue-note/>.

Publication deadlines:

June Due May 20

Please send your articles to
blakebluenote@blakeptsa.org.

Blake PTSA Web Site

<http://www.blakeptsa.org/>

Visit our web site to stay informed about PTSA and other school activities. Our web site offers a Google calendar, PTSA meeting minutes, copies of the BBN, links to important PTSA documents and forms, as well as links to additional resources.

Eubimail/Blake PTSA Yahoo! Group

Your PTSA maintains the Blake High School PTSA Yahoo! group to provide you with up-to-date school announcements and other information on school-related topics. Messages are sent out from the Yahoo group to the Inboxes of subscribers as Eubimail. You must subscribe to receive these emails and to access the Yahoo group site.

To subscribe, send a message with your name and your student's name and grade to: eubimail2003@yahoo.com. Please put "Subscribe to Eubimail" in the subject line, to help us weed out spam. For additional ways to access Eubimail via a Yahoo email account, see Instructions at: <http://www.blakeptsa.org/eubimailblake-ptsa-yahoo-group/>.

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

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