

Pioneer Band Association

NOTES

Building a Foundation for Musical Excellence

FROM THE PODIUM



Happy New Year! I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family in good health and rested. In 2004, about midway through the marching season, Pioneer's student teacher, Rob Ash, asked, "It slows down after marching band, huh?" Both Nancy Waring and I chuckled and indicated "No. Actually it gets much busier after we stop marching." That sentiment is particularly true this coming year with our spectacular fundraiser, "PHS Bands Gala" on February 8th, plus lots more exciting things happening this year!

When I first arrived as director of the Pioneer Bands, lots (I mean, lots) of parents indicated that they would like us to have fundraisers that were more relevant. Less about hawking someone else's goods and more about showing off our strengths. After about a year, I began to introduce the concept of having a fundraiser that was as much a community event, as a way to raise funds. Showcasing our program, generating funds, all while allowing community movers and shakers to see the public schools in a different light. Gala was the culmination of those discussions. This exciting evening features performance of several of our most notable small ensembles, while guests walk around and silently bid on some fantastic family affair baskets. A feature performance by the Pioneer Jazz Ensemble, followed by a spirited live auction of some amazing items, experiences, artworks all donated by local merchants, family and friends of the Pioneer Bands. This is an evening not to miss, please attend and bring some friends, I am sure that none will be disappointed.

After that comes Solo & Ensembles, which is very early this year on January 17th. Then follows the Pioneer Bands Winter Concert on February 5th, with special guests Jeffery Zook (Piccolo player for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Nancy Ambrose-King, Professor of Oboe at the U of M). Then a fast push to graduation in the spring. If you have not already done so, please check the PHS Bands calendar and block off in your family calendar for your child's evening rehearsals and concerts. Both are mandatory for your child; additionally performances are also required attendance for all family members!

Finally, an Ann Arbor institution and a jewel in the crown of Michigan is the **Firefly Jazz Club**, which needs our support. This amazing club is a "one of a kind" place to sit, relax and listen to America's only true art form, *jazz*. Additionally the owner, Susan Chastain, is as generous as she is talented. Every Monday, the University, College and local high school Jazz Ensembles are invited to share the stage with the Paul Keller Orchestra (Pioneer's own Jazz Band plays twice a year, fall and spring). This club is struggling and needs our support. If you are looking for a unique experience that is not costly, and is widely entertaining please visit the **Firefly**. The 'jazz world' cannot afford to lose another jazz club, not to mention an multi-award winning one in our own backyard. Here are the latest awards;

DOWNBEAT MAGAZINE: Rates the **Firefly Club** as one of the 100 Great Jazz Clubs of the World, in their February 2007 issue

The Detroit Free Press: Reviews the **Firefly Club** and declares it an "indispensable hotbed in downtown Ann Arbor."

Click on Detroit contest 2007: Voted Detroit's Best Jazz Club

All the best,

David A. Leach Director of Bands



Jan/Feb 2009

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PBA NOTES

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Our first full rehearsal for the Varsity Band was very productive. Each half of the Varsity Band has worked diligently to perfect their part of the pieces that we are performing. We only have three evening rehearsals to put both sections of the band together before our February concert. This first rehearsal is one of my favorite events of the year. It is so much fun to see the looks on the faces of all students when they hear how great they sound. It was extra fun this year to have members of the Symphony Band assist with this rehearsal I can't wait for you to hear them!

We have only two more evening rehearsals before our Winter Concert. It is crucial that all students plan to attend the upcoming rehearsals from 6 to 8 PM on Wednesday January 28th and Wednesday

February 4th.

Auditions for Concert and Symphony Bands are the first week of March. The music has been available since August. It is not something that we rehearse during class so students need to be working on that on their own during their nightly half hour of practice.

Reminder that all students need to have their names on their instruments, both inside and out. Luggage tags work well for this, even if they are using one of our school instruments. Students have been advised to never leave their instrument in their hall lockers. We have a storage area in the band room for this purpose.

Although I direct the Varsity Band, the foundation of our program, I also work with every other band group at Pioneer. If you have any questions or concerns along the way please get in touch with me. The best way is via email (waring@aaps.k12.mi.us) or use the link on the www.aapioneerbands.org webpage.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Nancy Waring Associate Director of Bands



Picnic Pops Volunteer Coordinators Needed

Picnic Pops is coming May 16, 2009 and although it may seem too cold and too early in the school year to think about this spring event, we are in need of two volunteer coordinators. For newcomers, this is a spring carnival hosted by PBA that features ensembles from the Ann Arbor Public Schools as entertainment. This year the event has been restructured to be an all band event, with Skyline's band replacing Pioneer's orchestra on the program. In recent years, two orchestra parents have scheduled the many (about 185) volunteers from both high schools who sell food and run games. This year we will need two band parents to take on the responsibility. The former coordinators have offered their assistance and advice. Responsibilities include attending one or two meetings in the spring, creating a schedule of volunteers, and working the day of the event directing volunteers to their workstations.

Please contact Jodi Johnson, 975-8626, lane.jodi@gmail.com,
to volunteer as a coordinator or for more information.

The Pioneer Band Association cordially invites all Pioneer Bands students to the

PIONEER BAND ANNUAL BOWLING PARTY!

SATURDAY JANUARY 10, 2009

1:00—3:00 pm

@ Colonial LANES 1950 South Industrial Hwy., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 Phone: (734) 665-4473

**THIS EVENT IS FREE TO VARSITY BAND MEMBERS (\$2 PER PERSON FOR CONCERT AND SYMPHONY BANDS)
(PAY AT THE DOOR)**



Includes pizza, salad pop, shoes, and bowling!
Questions? Contact Gloria Wilson, PBA President
(734-975-0081) president@aapioneerbands.org

Please *sign up* for the event on the 'bulletin board' outside of the band room



A couple of reminders about this year's **All That Jazz Gala on February 8th, 2009**. First, please note that there will be a time change – the event will now start at **4:30 pm** instead of 5:30 pm. This will allow us to enjoy the music, hors d'oeuvres, and fun activities while still allowing families to get home in time for dinner and homework.

Regarding “ticket” sales, as a cost-saving measure we will NOT mail printed invitations OR print tickets this year. Instead, we'll be communicating primarily via e-mail and taking “reservations.” Plus we are hoping to set up an online system that will allow you order and pay for your reservation using a credit card on the Pioneer Band website. Stay tuned for more information regarding online reservations and payment.

Gala Family Donations - The holiday season is in full gear, and many families are adjusting budgets to reflect the challenging economy. Thus recognizing that economic realities are shifting for many of us, we are adjusting the donation structure for this year's Gala. While we would still love to have Family Basket donations for the Silent Auction, we would like to suggest that as an alternative you consider donating a merchant gift card – of ANY VALUE. We suggest you support our local merchants by donating gift cards from their businesses, but we'll TAKE ANYTHING. You might even consider “re-gifting” a few of those cards you may receive over the holidays. Or perhaps you could purchase a “voucher” for lesson time from your child's private teacher to donate to the Gala. And don't forget to involve the whole family - you could even ask your student to craft a “voucher” for babysitting or snow-shoveling time. And finally, we're asking that each family donate a bottle of wine (or two!).

How the Raffle Will Work - What will we do with these gift cards, vouchers, and wine? We'll assemble them into packages that we'll simply raffle off throughout the course of the Gala evening. Raffle tickets will be \$5 each, and you'll have the chance to win packages with themes like:

- “A Night on the Town” A package comprised of restaurant and entertainment gift cards, and those baby-sitting vouchers.
- “Stock Up the Pantry” Grocery store, butcher, or gourmet food shop gift cards.
- “Electronics ‘R Us” Gift cards from stores like Best Buy, and perhaps a voucher for a “computer trouble-shooting session” by one of our more technically skilled students.
- “This Old House...Needs Help” Home Depot and hardware store gift cards, plus student vouchers for activities like snow shoveling or house cleaning.
- And the bottles of wine will all come together to form an “Instant Wine Cellar” package that we'll actually display at the Gala!

So whether you're “crafty” and enjoy the creativity of putting together a basket, or feeling time-crunched and would simply like to donate a gift card or a bottle of wine, flexible donation options will insure that we raise as much money as possible in these challenging economic times.

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Donation Delivery Instructions - To send in your donation:

- Baskets, gift cards, and wine bottles can be dropped off at the Bertram Swanson household at 3632 Wagner Ridge Court. Please contact Holli Bertram at 734/649-7937 or secretary@aapioneerbands.org to arrange a time.
- Gift cards can be mailed to school, care of the Pioneer Band Association Attn: Band Gala, at 601 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor MI, 48103. Your student can also bring gift cards to school and deliver to Mr. Leach or Ms. Waring.
- Or you can bring your basket, gift card, or wine bottles to the January 10th Band bowling party. We will also be taking reservations and begin selling raffle tickets at the bowling party.

Down in New Orleans they say "laissez les bon temps rouler," or "let the good times roll!" We wish you happy holidays and hope you'll join us as we all work together to host an evening celebrating our children's talent and skill, cast away our cares for a few hours, and most importantly support – at whatever level we can each afford – the country's best band program! Thank you, in advance, for your generous support!

Band Gala and Auction Co-Chairs: **Janene Centurione**, adnjan22@hotmail.com, 734-663-6252
Ann Curtis, accurtis1@gmail.com, 734-975-2922

Ann Arbor PTO THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Volunteering at the shop is an easy way to earn money for band camp or a band trip, and yes, even to complete your fund raising obligations for the school year.

2 hour shifts are available, with a new week being posted every Monday morning.

Go to the shop early to get the best selection of shifts!

Also watch for announcements about special events like "Music and Munchies" where you can earn hours for playing your instrument or bringing in cookies/drinks.

The next payout occurs on Jan. 1st, 2009!

The shop is located at 2280 s. Industrial Hwy. 734-996-9155

Hours: M-F 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5

Questions? Contact **Mary Topham** at MaryTopham@comcast.net or **827-0316**.

Please remember to work, shop, and donate at the
PTO THRIFT SHOP!



Introducing our PBA Bookkeeper

At the PBA general meeting on Tuesday, December 9, the membership voted to create a paid bookkeeper position and to hire **Daryl Hurst** to fill it. Here is some background behind this issue.

Over the summer and during the fall, it became clear to the PBA Board that it was becoming more and more difficult to keep track of the organization's finances. Specifically:

- Transitions from treasurer to treasurer have often resulted in inconsistencies in record keeping and confusion over the financial procedures used in various PBA activities;
- The organization of the files have suffered from different filing methods by various treasurers and because the files have not had a permanent home.
- Financial reporting at Board and PBA meeting has always lacked meaningful detail.
- The move over the past few years to establish and maintain individual student accounts has resulted in a heavy burden for each volunteer who has tried to manage them. Our transition to QuickBooks Billing Solutions provided a good solution to the methodology, but did not improve the time required for data input. Until an accurate and efficient student account management system is in place, which includes timely communication with student families, the PBA will continue to lose potential income.
- Recent bank reconciliations were not being completed and financial records were incomplete.
- The 2006 Federal Form 990 was not filed, jeopardizing our tax-exempt status. (An extension request for the 2007 return has been filed to give us time to catch up.)

Daryl Hurst has graciously agreed to take on the task of helping PBA address this situation as its bookkeeper in return for a very reasonable amount of compensation. He is very well-qualified to do so, both because of his record of dedication to the PBA and his professional experience. A Pioneer Band alum, current PBA webmaster and historian, and past PBA president, Daryl is a professional non-profit administrator who has 16 years of experience with QuickBooks and two years experience as a QuickBooks instructor. PBA has hired him on a contract basis at a rate of about \$25 per hour, which is considerably below the market rate for such services. For the first-year, when many hours of work will be required, the salary will be capped at \$9,000. Daryl will work closely with PBA treasurer, Ed Etter, throughout the year. At the end of the school year, the Board and PBA membership will assess the financial situation and Daryl's progress in order to decide how to proceed going forward.

David Baum, Co-Vice President

I am pleased to be able to help organize and complete the PBA financial records, as well as strengthen our financial management systems. Look for a statement of your family's account in January and better communication about your financial obligations to the band program and fundraising opportunities as we move forward. Our mutual goal is the continued success of our student musicians. Feel free to contact me with questions or comments at bookkeeper@aapioneerbands.org or 663-6306.

Daryl Hurst, PBA Bookkeeper



The All-State Announcement

Congratulations to the following students who were invited to perform with the Michigan All-State Ensembles after state-wide auditions:

Orchestra: **Saunders Hayes**, Flute & **Hope Wilson**, Trombone

Band: **Elizabeth Cverko**, French horn & **Michael Sullivant**, Bass Clarinet

The All-State Band and Orchestra Concerts are part of the Michigan Music Conference and will begin at Noon on Saturday, January 24th, 2009 in DeVos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids.



Pioneer Band Association

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Building a Foundation for Musical Excellence

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

TO:

**We are on the Web
www.aapioneerbands.org**



JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009

BE AWARE THAT CHANGES WILL PROBABLY OCCUR. WATCH THE WEBSITE, NEWSLETTER, AND CLASSROOM ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DATE CHANGES.

(SB=Symphony Band CB=Concert Band VB=Varsity Band JB=Jazz Band PBA=Pioneer Band Association)

Date	Time	Event	Location	Group
JANUARY 2009				
5 Mon		SCHOOL RESUMES		
10 Sat	1-3 pm	BOWLING PARTY	Colonial Lanes	ALL BANDS
12 Mon	7-9 pm	Band Rehearsal	B-126	SB
13 Tue	7:30-8:30 pm	Pioneer Band Association Meeting	B-126	All Band Parents
13 Tue	1st / 3rd hours	Concert Uniform Distribution	B-126	VB PBA Uniform Team
13 Tue	4-5:30 pm	Jazz Band Rehearsal	B-126	JB
14 Wed	7:30 pm	JAZZ BAND CONCERT	Little Theatre	JB
16 Fri	2nd Hour	MLK Assembly	SCHREIBER	JB
17 SAT	ALL DAY	DISTRICT SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL	LIVONIA/FRANKLIN HS	ALL BANDS
19 Mon		NO SCHOOL – MLK Day		
20 Tue	ALL DAY	State Solo & Ensemble Festival Forms and Fees due	B-126	ALL PARTICIPANTS
22 Thu – 24 Sat		Michigan Music Conference - Grand Rapids		All-State Band & Orchestra participants
26 Mon		NO SCHOOL		
28 Wed	6-8 pm	Band Rehearsal	B-126	VB
FEBRUARY 2009				
2 Mon	7-9 pm	Band Rehearsal	B-126	SB
3 Tue	7-9 pm	Band Rehearsal	B-126	CB
4 Wed	6-8 pm	Band Rehearsal	B-126	VB
5 THU	7 PM	WINTER BAND CONCERT/ALL BANDS SCHREIBER		SB, CB, JB, VB, RECITALISTS
8 Sun	5 – 9:30 pm	PIONEER BAND GALA & AUCTION - FOUR POINTS SHERATON HOTEL		JB/PBA GALA TEAM ALL BAND FAMILIES
10 Tue	7:30-8:30 pm	Pioneer Band Association Meeting	B-126	All Band Parents
14 Sat	TBA	UM Jazz Ensemble Festival	UM	JB
16 Mon		NO SCHOOL – President's Day		
19 Thu	7 pm	Orchestra Night @ Hill Auditorium	Hill Auditorium	Orchestra Winds
20 Fri		Winter Break begins at End of Day		
MARCH 2009				
2 Mon		SCHOOL RESUMES		
2 Mon	7-9 pm	Band Rehearsal	B-126	SB
3 Tue	7-9 pm	Band Rehearsal	B-126	CB
4 Wed	6-8 pm	Band Rehearsal	B-126	VB

NOTES

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