

FROM THE PODIUM



Believe it or not I started planning this year Band Camp on the drive home from Interlochen last fall. I spent the time contemplating just how to make it better each year. Since returning from camp this fall I have received a few notes. I've had some lengthy conversations from incoming freshmen families (not to mention several "seasoned" families) lauding the "positive life changing experience" Band Camp was, and continues to be for their children. To each of you that wrote or called, thank you — these letters and conversations mean more than you could possibly know. From that I can safely say that Band Camp may be the highlight of your student's entire high school experience. Please understand members of Concert and Symphony

Band are expected to attend Band Camp, and incoming Varsity Band members are strongly encouraged to attend. Space is available please fill-out your application and get it to the band room as soon as possible!

Now for the fun stuff!

On Thursday May 26th the Music Department of Pioneer High School will be presenting a special concert celebrating our national success. Created in 1998, the GRAMMY Signature Schools program recognizes top U.S. public high schools that are making an outstanding commitment to music education during an academic school year.

This year will see the largest number of GRAMMY Signature Schools awards presented. Thirty-six public high schools in communities across the United States will receive this recognition. Each of the thirty-six GRAMMY Signature Schools will receive a custom award and a monetary grant to benefit its music program. The top seven schools are designated Gold recipients. The best of the Gold recipients is named the National GRAMMY Signature School. The National GRAMMY Signature School will receive \$15,000, and the six remaining Gold schools each will receive \$5,500. The two remaining GRAMMY Signature Schools recipients will receive a grant award of \$2,500 to benefit their music programs.

To the family, friends, and alumni who made this journey in 2006 (the last time Pioneer was awarded the National GRAMMY award) the experience and performance was the one of the greatest moments and musical experience in their life. Parents, thank-you so very much for supporting your child's decision to be a Pioneer musician, your faith doesn't go unnoticed or unappreciated. To this year's senior class you have insured that this will be a "year to remember" in the Pioneer Bands rich history!

Thanks and Appreciation to everyone who made the end of another school year and our band camp so successful.

There is always something happening in the Bands at PHS. Please pay close attention to this newsletter, check-out the Pioneer Bands Web-site and come to PBA meetings (the second Tuesday of each month in the PHS band room). Make it a family priority to regularly attend concerts. It is only

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through your active participation in your child's life that you will know what is happening. Your presences at your child's activities are extremely important. This is the best manner that we as parents can demonstrate our unconditional love and support for their activities. If you don't hear the music at your house (from your child's instrument, not the radio) you and your child need to discuss if you as a parent are making a wise investment. Your child's instrument can run several hundred dollars. In addition, reeds, oils, lessons, all cost \$\$\$.

Are you making a wise investment? Practice is a dividend on that investment as well as performances. In Math, Science, English, your child is expected to complete assignments and Band is no different. Our assignments are our parts. Don't be satisfied with your child telling you "I practiced before you got home"; encourage them to demonstrate their proficiency by playing their part for you.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you all for your time and the support of your child's decision to become a high school musician. Your active support and presence is priceless, and before you know it will all be over and they will be asking grandma and grandpa (you and the spouse) to baby sit so that they can have a little quality time.

David A. Leach Director of Bands

FROM THE PODIUM



We are currently preparing for Picnic Pops, our last concert of the year. We have chosen several pieces that I'm sure you will enjoy. Please note that in addition to Wednesday April 27th we have another evening rehearsal on MONDAY May 16th. Both rehearsals are from 6 to 8 PM.

Picnic Pops is Saturday May 21st and all Varsity Band students will report at 3:10. Providing the day is running on schedule, their thirty minute performance will begin at 4:00 PM.

The Varsity Band has made an incredible amount of progress this year. We have spent a great deal of time teaching our students how to practice, how to make the best use of their time. The skills that they have learned apply to everything else that they do. Mr. Leach and I need your help. In order to keep the momentum going during the summer please encourage your child to keep up with their 30 minutes of daily practice. Along with that perhaps you could include private lessons. We have a list of teachers who have worked well with our students. Let us know if you are interested and we'll be happy to provide you with names and phone numbers.

Regardless of which band your child will be in next year please know that each child is a critical part of our program. We are extremely proud of each and every member. If you know any middle school students please encourage them to participate in the Pioneer Band program.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Picnic Pops!

A reminder, 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



Messages and Events

Congratulations to our Pioneer Band Association Board Members for 2011-12

President: Marianne Blaesing (Kevin '14)

Co Vice Presidents: David Baum (Alex '11 and Aaron '13) and Kathy Shipan (Becca '13)

Co Treasurers: Paulette Schonsheck (Kaylee '12) and Carol Flannagan (Kevin '12)

Co Secretaries: Bill & Jan Maxbauer (Abbey '13)

Thank You So Much!!!

Thank You to Mary Relson for organizing the wonderful Band Banquet

Website News:

There is always a lot going on in Pioneer Bands' website. One of the quickest ways to catch up is by referring to "What's New" on the Band's home page. Links to the most recent information and contributions are updated regularly.

At this writing, "What's New" connects you to YouTube movies of recent performances, photos from Gala 2011, the results from District Solo & Ensemble, and an electronic version of this newsletter.

Bookmark the Pioneer High School Bands website. It is www.aapioneerbands.org

Barton Polot

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Band Camp Registration Information:

Band Camp dates are August 16 to 22, 2011. Forms are due May 9, 2011. The cost this year is \$335. Scholarship requests to Mr. Leach by May 2, 2011.

- ❖ The Incoming 9th Grade Band Family Orientation will be on March 27, 2011.
- ❖ Annual Pioneer Band Banquet will be May 2, 2011 6:00pm check-in time.
- ❖ The Robert Albritton Endowment Fund Scholarship Application due date is April 11, 2011 go to:
<http://www.aapioneerbands.org/wp-content/ScholarshipApplicationAlbritton.pdf>.





Picnic Pops! 2011

Pioneer High School • May 21, 2011 • 10:00am-6:00pm

• A Day of Music •

Bands: Huron HS Varsity, Concert & Symphony •

Pioneer HS Varsity, Concert & Symphony • Skyline HS Varsity & Concert •

Scarlett Middle School • Clegue Middle School • Forsythe Middle School •

Ann Arbor Open School • Teppen Middle School • Slauson Middle School

•• Rain or Shine ••



Donations of cakes, cookies, and cupcakes are needed for the renowned Cake Walk

About Your Baked Donations:

- Please donate baked goods in the form of individual items (for example: cookies, bars, muffins, cupcakes). Whole cakes that are donated may be divided into smaller portions for the Cake Walk.
- Attach the name of the baker and a list of ingredients to every donation
- All donations must be covered (plastic wrap, zip-lock bags, etc.)
- **Drop off your donation at the Cake Walk tent/table** starting at 9:30am on May 21
- Frost and decorate the cakes, cookies and cupcakes as you like, but beware that refrigeration is not available



See separate flyer for details about the cake decorating contest

Donations of pop are needed for the very popular Ring Toss Game

About Your Beverage Donations:

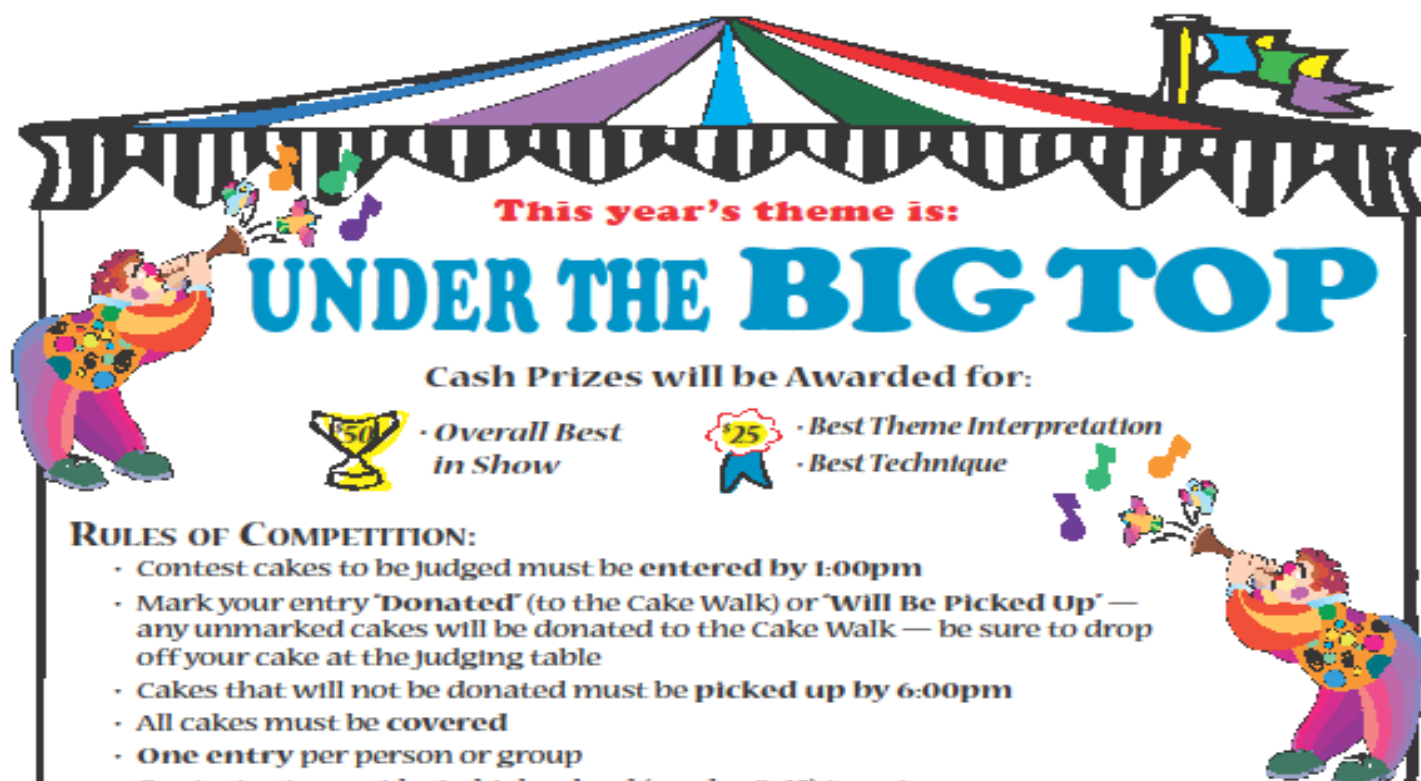
- Each family is asked to donate two 2-liter bottles of pop (any flavor, *name brand only please*)
 - Drop your donations off at the band room on Thursday, May 19 or Friday, May 20
 - You may also bring your donation to the event on the 21st, beginning at 9:30am
- Drop off your pop at the Ring Toss area.**

We ask for Everyone's Participation!

Your contributions make Picnic Pops possible, and are the sole prizes for these games.

Thank You!



Cake Decorating Contest 2011



This year's theme is:

UNDER THE BIG TOP

Cash Prizes will be Awarded for:

-  **Overall Best in Show**
-  **Best Theme Interpretation**
- Best Technique**


RULES OF COMPETITION:

- Contest cakes to be judged must be entered by 1:00pm
- Mark your entry "Donated" (to the Cake Walk) or "Will Be Picked Up" — any unmarked cakes will be donated to the Cake Walk — be sure to drop off your cake at the judging table
- Cakes that will not be donated must be picked up by 6:00pm
- All cakes must be covered
- One entry per person or group
- Contestants must be in high school (grades 9–12) to enter
- Contestant's name, grade, school and phone number must be attached and concealed
- Cakes must be edible and stable
- Decorative items (sticks, dolls, etc.) are allowed on top of the cakes

THIS YEAR CAKES WILL BE JUDGED BY POPULAR VOTE:

- Everyone is allowed to fill out one ballot
- Ballots must be filled out by 1:30pm

Use your imagination to interpret the theme. Be creative and have fun!!



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- Scarlett Middle School • Clague Middle School • Forsythe Middle School •
- Ann Arbor Open School • Teppen Middle School • Sleaton Middle School

.. Rain or Shine ..

2011 GRAMMY PRESENTATION CONCERT

ANN ARBOR PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL
2011 NATIONAL GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOLSM



GRAMMY FOUNDATION[®]

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2011
8:00 PM HILL AUDITORIUM

FREE!

Join the Pioneer High School *Jazz Band, Symphony Orchestra*
A Cappella Choir, and Symphony Band

at a concert celebration of our

2011 GRAMMY[®] NATIONAL SIGNATURE SCHOOL AWARD

as the top high school music program in the nation

The GRAMMY Award will be presented at this concert by
multi-GRAMMY winning composer Dr. Michael Daugherty and

Mr. Howard Hertz, Board of Governors, National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences

David A. Leach, *Chair, Performing Arts Department and Director of Bands*
Jonathan Glawe, *Director of Orchestras, Advanced Guitar, Survey of African American Music*

Steven R. Lorenz, *Director of Choirs, Voice*

Nancy Waring, *Associate Director of Bands, Music Theory and Technology, Orchestra*

Rochelle D. Martinez, *Humanities-Music, Piano, Guitar*



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