



Building a Foundation for Musical Excellence



## FROM THE PODIUM



The Pioneer Bands are in full swing, are you with us? That is a far better question than you know. This is the busiest time of the year for the Pioneer Bands and we hope that you are keeping up. Please keep an eye on our web-site ([aapioneerbands.org](http://aapioneerbands.org)) so you don't miss an important event or concert. Over the next few months the members of the Pioneer Bands will be very busy and as parents and guardians we need to know what is on the plate.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> we have the annual "*Winter Recital and*

*Concert*", then our annual Pioneer Bands 'Fun' fundraising spectacular "*Gala*". Our extraordinary "*Gala*" takes place on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> at Asia City Restaurant in Ypsilanti, MI. On February the 16<sup>th</sup> the AAPS music department presents "*Orchestra Night*" held in historic Hill Auditorium an event that shouldn't be missed (our wind and percussion members of the Symphony Orchestra will be performing).

Throughout the month we will have numerous evening rehearsals for all the Bands at Pioneer please keep a close eye on your child's Band calendar.

March is perhaps our busiest month. On Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup> the Bands of Pioneer will host Bands and Orchestras from throughout Southeastern Michigan for the "*Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association's District XII Band & Orchestra Festival*". Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> the Pioneer Band Association in conjunction with the Ann Arbor Public Schools will host the "*United States Navy Band from Washington D.C.*". This concert is the opportunity of a lifetime. Students will hear one of the finest bands in the world in our own Schreiber Auditorium. On March 24<sup>th</sup> "*State Solo & Ensemble*" takes place at Chelsea High School as well as our annual "*Bands in Review*" concert.

Let me mention here, that there is a change to the traditional format of BIR. With the addition of Skyline High School, we will be eliminating the "cross town" performance of the two (Pioneer & Huron) Symphony Bands. On Saturday evening, March 24<sup>th</sup>, all the Bands of Pioneer will be performing.

All the best,

David A. Leach, *Director of Bands*

**FROM THE PODIUM**

## Jan/Feb 2012 Issue

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Our first full rehearsal for the Varsity Band was extremely productive. Each half of the Varsity Band has worked diligently to perfect their part of the pieces that we are performing. We only have two evening rehearsals to put both sections of the band together before our February 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter 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. The students were extra attentive this year and sound wonderful. I can't wait for you to hear them!

Varsity Band has only one more evening rehearsal before our Winter Concert. It is crucial that all students plan to attend the upcoming rehearsal from 6 to 8 PM on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup>. The Winter Concert is the next night and we expect all students to stay for the duration of the concert.

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.

Let me remind all students to put 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.

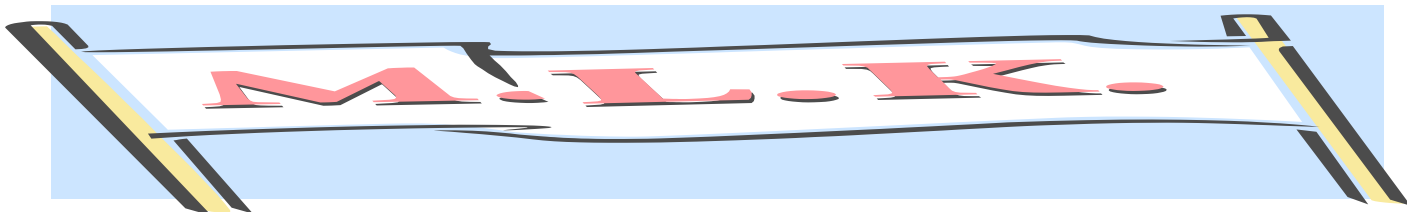
Although I direct the Varsity Band, the foundation of our program, I also work with every other band group at Pioneer. If you have any questions or concerns along the way please get in touch with me. The best way is via email ([waring@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:waring@aaps.k12.mi.us)) or use the link on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

Thank you all for your continued support!

([waring@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:waring@aaps.k12.mi.us)) or use the link on the [www.aapioneerbands.org](http://www.aapioneerbands.org) webpage.

Welcome to the Pioneer Band family!

*Nancy Waring*, Associate Director of Bands



## Messages and Events

### Website News:

During the summer, the Band website underwent its first significant update. With the help and suggestions of parents, students and directors, I shepherded the home page through months of revisions. What you see today on the web is Home Page version 15.1. It's a big improvement over my version 1.0. So, thank you to everyone who assisted, and to those who have complimented the new look. Ultimately, I want band students and their families to use the website routinely. If everyone takes it for granted, that is the greatest compliment of all.

The web address is: [aapioneerbands.org](http://aapioneerbands.org)

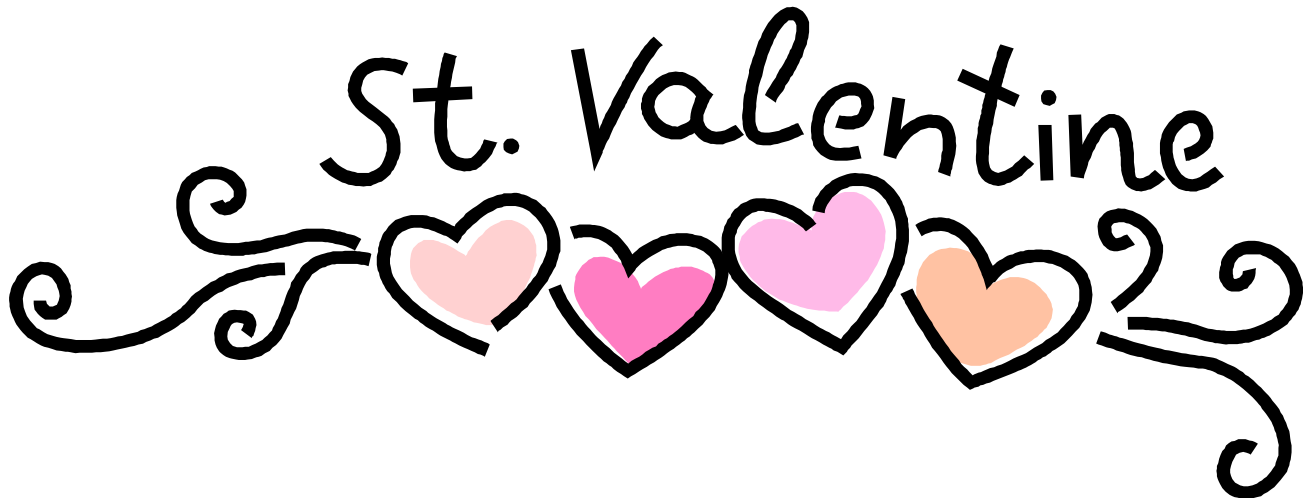
The Band's Facebook page is just a few weeks old, but it already contains a wealth of content. If you were unable to attend Band Camp Sunday in August, you can find videos of the 2011 Interlochen concert, the Marching Demonstration, and the Drumline performance. And there's a video of something few parents ever see: Conga Night. It's amazing.

There are also more than sixty Band Camp photographs on Facebook. But hey, there's always room for more. I invite any parents who snapped a photo on Band Camp Sunday, Football Fridays, Band Picnic or any other event to share their pictures on Facebook. Let me know if you need instructions.

The web address is: [facebook.com/aapioneerbands](https://facebook.com/aapioneerbands)

### Barton Polot

Webmaster, Pioneer Band Association  
Ann Arbor Pioneer High School Bands  
[webmaster@aapioneerbands.org](mailto:webmaster@aapioneerbands.org)



Dear Pioneer Jazz Band Families,

Please visit <http://www.aapioneerbands.org/calendar/gala.html> today and make your reservations for the 8th Annual Pioneer Band Gala & Auction from 5 to 8 pm on Sunday, February 12, 2012, at the Asia City Restaurant in Ypsilanti. The 2012 Pioneer Band Gala theme is "The Year of the Dragon" and the event will feature an extensive buffet dinner with one drink ticket included, cash bar thereafter, a raffle, live & silent auctions of merchandise donated by numerous local businesses and supporters in the community and beyond and entertainment provided by the Pioneer Jazz Band! Tickets are \$25 per person and the event is open to the entire community, adults only please.

All proceeds from the Gala go directly to support the dedicated instrumental students of Pioneer High, providing equipment, instruments, and music; funding band camp and performance trips. Please invite friends to attend and help ensure that the Pioneer Band Program may continue its tradition of excellence in music education and that all students are able to develop to their full musical potential.

*Chinese proverb ~ One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.*

If you, or your business, would like to donate an item or gift card for the Gala or place an advertisement in the gala program, please contact Lisa at [lmckarns@comcast.net](mailto:lmckarns@comcast.net) or call 904-3565. All donations can be dropped off at the McKarns household ~ 2241 Woodview Lane or brought into the band room. I will be at the PBA meeting on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> and would be happy to collect donations then. All Wine donations, for the "Instant Wine Cellar" raffle item should be given to Lisa McKarns at the above address or at the PBA meeting on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. [Signing up for Donations](#)

We are still in need of volunteers, especially for Gala set up which will be from 2-5 pm on Sunday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. If you've already signed up to help, please note the time change. Please click on link below to volunteer.

[Volunteering for Pre-Gala Jobs](#)

[Volunteering for February 12, 2012 at the Band Gala and for Setup](#)

Please invite friends and family, make your reservation and check out our donors and online auction (beginning in February) at: [www.aapioneerbands.org/gala](http://www.aapioneerbands.org/gala)

Questions – please contact [PBAgala@aapioneerbands.org](mailto:PBAgala@aapioneerbands.org) or call Lisa at 904-3565.

Sincerely,

Lisa McKarns & Helen Starman

Pioneer Band Gala Co-Chairs

PS. We've got lots of great auction items, including a Princeton Review Ultimate Test Prep Course, 4 tickets to a Detroit Tigers game compliment of Fingerle Lumber, a Chicago Get-Away for 2, and lots of gift certificates to local businesses and restaurants! For full listing of donors check out our home page!



***Support the Pioneer Bands and excellence in music education!***

**Please join us at the**  
**8th Annual Pioneer Band Gala & Auction**

***“Celebrating the Year of the Dragon!”***

**Sunday, February 12, 2012**

**5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Asia City Restaurant - 2904 Washtenaw Avenue in Ypsilanti**



**The adult evening features a delicious buffet dinner, cash bar,  
Live & Silent auctions, Raffles, and music provided by the Pioneer Jazz Band!**

**Tickets are \$25/ person**

**For Reservations & our Online Auction, please visit:**

**[www.aapioneerbands.org/gala](http://www.aapioneerbands.org/gala)**

**Check out our Online Auction...bid early, bid often and invite friends to bid online too!**

Spread the word....We have fabulous auction items including concert tickets, Georgetown Family Membership, Up North & Chicago Weekend Get-Aways, Autographed Memorabilia from the Detroit Lions, Tigers, Red Wings & Pistons (Including a rare numbered autographed ball from Isiah Thomas when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2000!), Golf Packages, music lessons, gift certificates for local restaurants & shops, fabulous student and band family donations and much, much more! **Please check out the Online Auction & tell your friends about any items they might be interested in!**

**Get your raffle tickets tonight! “Instant Wine Cellar” or \$300 Cash Prize!**

**Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Adults only.**

**Can't join us, but would like to make a donation please visit:**

**[http://aapioneerbands.org/wp-content/gala\\_donor\\_form.htm](http://aapioneerbands.org/wp-content/gala_donor_form.htm)**

# **Thank You to all the 2011- 2012 Supporters of Pioneer Bands!**

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Marshall Music	Representative <i>John D. Dingell</i>	Wolverine State Brewing Company
Mast Shoes	Roly Poly	Zap Zone
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Mediterrano Restaurant	Running Fit	<b>And Thank You to the many Pioneer Band Families &amp; Alumni Families who have supported Pioneer Bands!</b>
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Melange	Seva Restaurant	
	Sixteen Hands	



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### Volunteers Still Needed to Lead Events and Programs

## Are You Good With Money??

If so, we need your help! Our two wonderful co-treasurers (Carol Flannagan and Paulette Schonscheck) will be leaving PBA after this year, and we are looking for two people to replace them.

Volunteer now, and learn the ropes from them while they are still here.

If you are interested in this position -- or even if you are potentially interested and have questions -- please contact

**David Baum, 734-662-9095 ordbaum@umich.edu.**

Thanks in advance for considering all of these opportunities. With your help, we can keep the Pioneer Bands one of the best music programs in the country!

Thanks, David

### *Band Family Directory*

#### ***PBA Notes Has Gone GREEN!!!***

Our goal is to reduce our paper output and reduce the cost of mailing  
PBA Notes newsletter.

You will find our 4 color bi-monthly newsletter on our website  
[www.aapioneerbands.org](http://www.aapioneerbands.org).

While online you may print the pages as you need,  
eg. Calendar, special article, etc..

**IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A MAIL SUBSCRIPTION**  
please contact:

Marianne Blaesing, President: 734-678-9928  
or [aapioneerbands@gmail.com](mailto:aapioneerbands@gmail.com)  
or PBA Editor: [newsletter@aapioneerbands.org](mailto:newsletter@aapioneerbands.org)



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**2010-11**

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**Paulette Schonscheck**

734-669-0007

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**Bill & Jan Maxbauer**

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**Gloria Wilson**

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