



FROM THE PODIUM



Marching Band is over! This year's busy marching schedule was another notch in the amazing legacy of the Pioneer Symphony Band. The combined shows with both Concert Band and the Huron Symphony Band were outstanding. I wish to extend a special thank-you to senior parents whom braved the football field. This is a wonderful tradition of recognizing the important part you play in your child's life. We truly appreciate your supporting your child's decision to pursue music in High School. Thanks!

Additionally if you don't hear the music at your house (from your child's instrument not the iPod) 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 parts for you. In conclusion, I wish to thank you each for your time and the support of your child's decision to become a high school musician. Your active support and presence is priceless!

December was a buzz of activity with the Pioneer Jazz Band. On Thursday December 1st, the Michigan State University Jazz Orchestra I (The Bee-Bop Spartans) drove all the way from East Lansing to join our very own Pioneer Jazz Ensemble in concert. For those who attended it was a real treat. Additionally, they came early enough so that they could spend an hour with our Jazz Band in master's classes. Thanks to all the parents who helped provide enough food for two meals for our hungry guests. A special thank-you to Amy Olszewski and Lisa McKarns for coordinating, setting-up, cleaning up, programming, and general assistance. The evening couldn't have happened without you. One week later our Jazz Ensemble performed at the historic Cliff Bell's in Detroit. If you have never been to Cliff Bell's please take time to go sometime, it is one jewel from a different era.

I hope you all get a chance to spend time with family and friends over the break. Please have a safe and happy holiday season!

All the best,

David A. Leach, *Director of Bands*

Sept/Oct 2011 -2012 Issue

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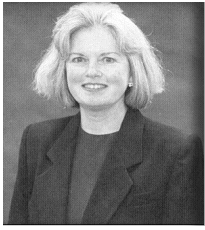
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FROM THE PODIUM



It was great to meet so many of you at Capsule Night, the band picnic and Parent Conferences!

Chair auditions for Varsity Band will take place in early November. They will be during class. There is only one audition per year. All students know what is expected and should be preparing their music.

Our first full rehearsal for the Varsity Band will be on Wednesday November 30th from 6 to 8 PM. Attendance is required and grades will be lowered if a student is not there. If there is a sports conflict (please see the music/sports policy) we need to be told in writing asap. I am really looking forward to putting both halves of the band together. We have only have a few evening rehearsals before our Winter Concert. It is crucial that all students plan to attend. Please check your band calendar for specific dates.

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, all students need to have their names on their instruments. 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!

(waring@aaps.k12.mi.us) or use the link on the 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

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

Barton Polot

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You're Invited to the 8th Annual Pioneer Band Gala & Auction!

Bring your friends and join us for **The 8th Annual Pioneer Band Gala & Auction**, celebrating "The Year of the Dragon!" **5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 12, 2012, Asia City Restaurant, 2904 Washtenaw Avenue in Ypsilanti**

[Make your reservation online](#). Tickets are \$25 per person. Advance reservations should be made by February 6th.

The evening will feature an extensive buffet, cash bar, raffle, live and silent auctions and of course, the beat of our own Pioneer Jazz Band!

This April, Pioneer Symphony, Concert & Jazz bands will travel to New York City, where they will perform at Carnegie Hall and the IBM Atrium! While on tour they will attend a concert by the New York Philharmonic, see a Broadway show, visit Chinatown, see the sights and participate in music workshops.

We hope you'll join us for an evening of fun and fundraising at the 8th Annual Pioneer Band Gala & Auction! All proceeds help support the band program by providing stipends and scholarships for band camp, tours, and competitions; sponsoring guest clinicians; and funding items like sheet music and instruments.

All Pioneer Band families are strongly encouraged to participate. Here is how you can help...



- **Make Your Reservation and Invite Friends!** [Make your reservation online](#).
- **Donate** a gift certificate, an experience, a basket or a bottle of wine to our raffle or auction. We would especially appreciate items such as sporting event tickets, use of vacation home, a dinner party, a theme basket, or any gift cards...they are all greatly appreciated and help make the Gala a success! Students are encouraged to participate by creatively donating as individuals or as sections. The Clarinet Cookies have always a big hit, as was the flute fudge. Babysitting, yard work, tutoring and music lesson packages are always appreciated! Also, please let us know if your business would like to donate or advertise in our program! Gently Used Baskets needed! **Contact Lisa at lmckarns@comcast.net or 904-3565 to arrange delivery by 1/21/12.** [Signing up for Donations](#)

- **Bid Online** bid early, bid often...bidding opens a week before Gala!
- **Purchase Raffle Tickets** and encourage friends to buy some! Our raffle prizes this year will be an "Instant Wine Cellar" or "\$300 Cash Prize!" Raffle tickets are \$5 each.
- **Volunteer**...*Many hands make light work!* We could use help before the event and on the day of the Gala! Sign up here: [Volunteering for Pre-Gala jobs](#)
[Volunteering for February 12, 2012 at the Band Gala and for Setup](#)
- **Thank Our Merchant Donors...** We have some great merchant donations including: A Membership at Georgetown, A Zippy Fast Pass For a Year, 2 UMS Tickets to the San Francisco Symphony, American Mavericks: Concert 1 on March 22, 2012 at 7:30 pm at Hill Auditorium! If you know of a merchant who might be willing to donate, please contact Lisa McKarns. We list all of our donors, advertisers and sponsors on our Gala homepage, so please check it out and thank our generous supporters!
<http://www.aapioneerbands.org/calendar/gala.html>

The hard work and talent of our students have brought them many accolades and opportunities, but the success of our band program is not possible without family and community support!

So please attend the Gala, bid online or donate! Thank you!

Help us bring good fortune to one of the best high school band programs in the country!

Questions? Contact 2012 Gala chairs [Lisa McKarns and Helen Starman](#).

The Pioneer Band Association is a 501(c)3 organization.

Please read our Donation Advisory statement for more information.

Many Thanks to our Community Supporters!

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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.

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:

Gloria Wilson, President: 734-975-0081
or president@aapioneerbands.org
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2010-11

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