



Pioneer High School Bands

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN U.S.A.

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A Word from the Editors

Happy New Year, everyone! Hopefully everybody survived the Winter Break that wouldn't end and that everybody was able to recondition their children into waking up before noon once school actually began again. By everybody, I mean YOU, since I haven't been able to do it yet. I have the attendance office on speed dial! Anyway, the business end of the semester is upon us, a trifecta of cold, finals and concerts. Your kids, even though they may not admit to it, need as much support as you can give them during these trying times. So feed them, remind them of their deadlines (and then duck), cart them to and from rehearsals and study sessions with a smile on your face, and encourage them with the fact that mid-winter break is really only a few short weeks away. Then remind them that back in OUR day, we didn't have mid-winter break, no!, and we didn't have snow days either. Or remote controls or Fruit Ninjas or those fancy schmancy phones without cords and that they should probably stop whining. Ahem... I mean, keep them warm and safe; it's apt to be a rough couple of weeks for them.

Updates and Reminders!



Saturday, January 25

*** Solo & Ensemble District Festival.**

Check the Pioneer Band website (http://www.aapioneerbands.org/calendar/solo_ensemble.html) for details on how and when to get there, acceptable hairstyles, what to bring, etc. Also see our last newsletter for additional hints and suggestions.

Thursday, January 30

***Winter Band Concert 7:00 pm Schreiber Auditorium.**

Mark you calendars, because this, folks, is an awesome event and features performances by Pioneer's Varsity, Concert, Symphony and Jazz bands. Additionally, solo and ensemble acts, fresh from the Solo and Ensemble Festival, will be showcased as recitals in the, um, solo and ensemble section of the concert. Overall, this is a great display of Pioneer musical talent on both sides

of the podium, and makes for a wonderful evening's entertainment. This concert, by the way, is the one that many of you might need to hem pants for, lest the trumpet section, for example, trip and fall into the orchestra pit.

Friday, February 7th

***Band Ball**

7:00 – 10:00 pm

Cobblestone Farm

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Mid-February

***Pioneer Band Gala Auditions**

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Saturday, March 1

***MSBOA District Band & Orchestra Festival**

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Wednesday, March 12

***The Gala**

6:30 - 9:00

Zingerman's Roadhouse

Band Ball

Friday, February 7th

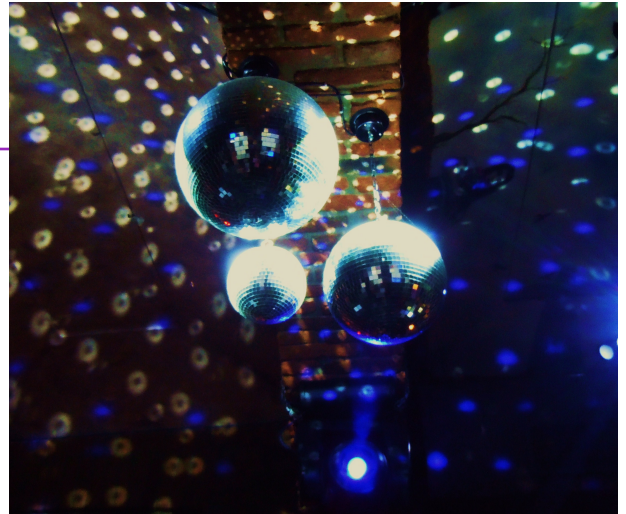
7:00 – 10:00 pm

Cobblestone Farm.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Mr. Leach and Mrs. Waring will be hosting a music and dance jamboree at Ann Arbor's historic Cobblestone Farm near Buhr Park.

Admission is \$10 per couple. The "couple" thing, by the way, is more of a "partner" thing for safety and mutual responsibility. It is not meant, necessarily, to be a "romantic date" thing, so go in peace as friends and have a good time. Last year, kids from all four bands attended this classy event, and it proved to be a big hit, so the kids are doing it again. This is done by the kids, for the kids, with Mr. Leach and Mrs. Waring taking on the chaperoning duties.

Now, while it's not explicitly stated that parents shouldn't attend, unless you would like to see your band member vaporize out of embarrassment while you fire up the old robot, you might want to limit your role to that of chauffeur. It's tempting, I know, but behave. For more info, please contact Anna Hayman (ahayman9@gmail.com)




MSBOA

Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association

District Band & Orchestra Festival Ensemble

Saturday, March 1

Similar to the Solo & Ensemble Festival that individual and small groups of band members will have participated in on 1/25/14, this Festival is for larger groups, bands and orchestral combos. The Pioneer Band Association will be hosting the affair at Pioneer, and there are PLENTY of opportunities to help out, as well as to listen to the various ensembles play. More information can be found on the Pioneer band website, and if you're interested in helping, please contact Amy Higgins (arhiggins@comcast.net) or Stacey Pakela (pakelag@sbcglobal.net).

NOTE: These two activity chairpeople will be looking for one or two people to follow them around, learn the ropes and then chair the event next year. Are you one of them? I bet you are. I know where you live. Don't make me come over there. A Signup Genius will be sent out soon, if it hasn't already, making it that much easier to commit, so please do.



Pioneer Band Gala Auditions

The Gala, one of THE premier band events of 2014, not to be missed, is taking place on March 12, from 6:30 – 9:00 pm. The Gala is a wonderful opportunity to meet our teachers, Mr. Leach and Mrs. Waring, spend time with other band parents, and to hear more great Pioneer Band music, all while nibbling on delicious appetizers at Zingerman's Roadhouse! You are welcome and encouraged to bring guests – it will be an enjoyable evening for all. If you can't attend Gala you can still show your support as a Gala Sponsor or by making a donation through the website www.aapioneerbands.org. We'll have more juicy details on the actual event in the next newsletter. Try to be patient. Stop texting me.



But MEANWHILE, there's this: the Gala Committee will be selecting FIVE musical acts to gig at this event via auditions (exact date/time TBA, but look for signup sheets in the band room in February). There are some rules. Instrumental acts only, band members only, pieces must be kept relatively short (like around 5 – 6 minutes each) and groups will be limited to between 1 and 5 musicians. Any brand of music is allowed EXCEPT for pop. No pop. 'Cause, you know, there ain't been any pop worth anything since Elvis left. Anyway, one act will be chosen from each of the four bands, with the 5th being a wild card. This should be a great gig – get your pals, and put something together. Real music. Real life opportunity. We'll see you there!