

Pioneer High School Bands

Ann Arbor, Michigan

September, 2014 Newsletter

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Notes from the Editor:



Finally, this long, dreadfully relaxing summer is behind us, and we can once again get to the business of excellent band music. I mean, really, there's only so much a person can take of umbrella drinks at the beach before the need to get your car washed by a Pioneer Band member becomes overwhelming. Fortunately, the **Picnic** and **Car Wash** are just days away now, so we'll all be able to stop twitching soon. I'll be outlining some of the upcoming events in this newsletter, but for a more complete overview, please visit the **Pioneer High School Bands website**, which, along with tons of other useful info, has a handy calendar.

Welcome All Ye Newbies!



Many of you are parents of incoming 9th graders, and as such, either you're slowly starting to panic, or you're rapidly starting to panic. There is a LOT of stuff associated with participation in band, and probably most of it was supposed to have been done last week. Well, fear not. Or fear less, anyway: To guide you through the practical aspects of band membership, we have this most excellent **Family Handbook**, provided by the Pioneer Band Association (PBA), which outlines pretty much everything you'll ever need to know about, well, about pretty much anything. It's 40 pages long, and covers everything from band registration, to instruments, to uniforms, to concert schedules, to social events, grooming tips, and automobile maintenance. It can be found in the "**What's New**" section of the Pioneer High School Bands website's home page - I strongly suggest you check it out - it will demystify much of this seemingly complex musical landscape, and soon, you'll be walking around with the same smug self-confidence that all of us veterans enjoy.

So You Say You Have Some Spare Time on Your Hands, Do You?



Well... that's good. See, here's the deal - the Pioneer music program is one of the best in the nation. Those of you who saw the concert at the end of Band Camp in Interlochen this past August can testify - any program that can take 200-some-odd disparate teenagers, teach them to flawlessly perform Dvorak's New World Symphony, teach them to do those twirly-corner marching drills without serious injury AND make them keep their cabins clean, all within the span of 5 days, is nothing short of magic. And, in order to maintain this magic, the program needs YOUR HELP. Yes, you. You with the shirt. We always need more machine oilers. The Family Handbook (pg. 25) lists a number of **volunteer opportunities**. Currently needed: **Chair for Senior Activities**. This individual works with Nancy Waring to honor our seniors at the October 17, 2014 football game and coordinates the senior photo for the yearbook. Please consider donating your time to the cause - for more information, please contact Amy Higgins, and also, please consider coming to the next PBA meeting, where volunteer needs and resources are discussed and assigned. Hope to see you there!

Check out the Pioneer Band Website at:
<http://www.aapioneerbands.org>

Check out the Pioneer Band Calendar at:
<http://www.aapioneerbands.org/students/handbook.html>

Check out the Band Handbook at:
<http://www.aapioneerbands.org/students/handbook.html>

Volunteer Coordinators:
Amy Higgins:
arhiggins@comcast.net

Stacey Pakela
pakelag@sbcglobal.net

Next PBA Meeting
Tuesday, September 23
7:30 p.m.
Band Room - B-126

**So You Say
You Have
Some
Spare
Change on
Your
Hands, Do
You?**



Yes, sadly, everything keeps getting more and more expensive. While the muses may lend us their inspiration for free, getting that inspiration to come out of the business end of a trombone costs cash money. And, what with the ongoing scholastic budget squeeze, that cash money is getting more and more difficult to come by. But, donating to the band has never been easier or more fun – we run plenty of fundraisers. One of the first that's coming up is the **car wash**, alluded to earlier. I love the car wash. I can't get my kid to rinse out a cereal bowl at home, but at the car wash, that boy is out there scrubbing away like there's no tomorrow. Brings a tear to my eye every year. Swing by – let these great kids polish that Prius and you'll be supporting the band at the same time. Also, around the same time, the band will be starting in on it's Candy Sale – so for all of you Ann Arborites who are secretly sick to death of kale with birdseed, rejoice! You now have a handy excuse to buy some delightfully empty calories. You're supporting the band.

There will be numerous other fund raising opportunities during the school year. We'll preview 'em in the newsletters, but make sure to check the website calendar frequently so you're up-to-date. Plus, there's always the Pioneer Band **apparel** and purple coffee **mugs** – best coffee mug on the planet. I know, I've tried them all. This one is the best. Makes a great gift. 8 Bucks.



Hey everybody, grab a Frisbee, it's **picnic** time! Saturday, September 6th, 1:00 pm at Pioneer on the lawn outside of the band room. This is a great venue to meet other band parents, meet the band directors, buy some great band gear, and enjoy some burgers and hot dogs! The PBA supplies the burgers and dogs, and we ask participating families to bring beverages, salads, fruit, deserts and all those other things that make for a grand picnic. More information, including RSVP and sign-up forms, is available on the website. This event is held every year, and is a great season kick-off for all band members and their families, and frequently some of their pets. Might want to keep the pets away from the grill, tho – it gets busy over there sometimes... Anyway, it's always a hoot, so mark your calendars!



**THE
PICNIC!
THE
PICNIC!
THE
PIONEER
BAND
PICNIC!
YEA
PICNIC!**



Pioneer Band Car Wash
Sunday, October 12, 1-5 p.m.

Pioneer Band Candy Sale
Begins Tuesday, October 14

Apparel & Mug Sales
Mark & Marie Brazeau
mariebrazeau@aol.com

Pioneer Band Picnic:
[http://www.aapioneerbands.org/
calendar/picnic.html](http://www.aapioneerbands.org/calendar/picnic.html)