



Fairfax High School PTSA News

Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030 (703) 219-2200 www.fcps.edu/FairfaxHS/

School Calendar

November

- 25 2-hour early release
- 26-27 Thanksgiving holiday

December

- 3-5 at 7:30 pm, 6th at 2 pm Lucky Stiff
- 5 SATs (not at FHS)
- 9 Theatre Boosters Meeting, 7 pm
- 10 African American Achievers meeting, 7 pm
- 12 ACT at FHS
- 14 PTSA Holiday Dinner
- 15 Band and Intermediate orchestra Concert, 7:30
- 16 Interims issued to students
- 17 Music Dept Winter Concert
- 19 Fairfax City Band concert, FHS auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 23 Deadline for January PTSA newsletter
- 23 2-hour early release
- 24-Jan 1 Winter break

January

- 4 School re-opens
- 6 Late submission due for PTSA newsletter
- 5-15 SOL retakes
- 7 PSAT Interpretation for Parents – 7 pm
- 8 Creative Leaders Conference, all day
- 8 Orchestra District Auditions
- 9 Band District Auditions
- 8-11 ITS Conference at GMU
- 14 African American Achievers, 7 pm
- 14, 15 Henry V *sneak preview*, 7 pm
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
- 20 ASVAB testing, 7:20 am
- 25 Rising 9th grade orientation at Lanier
- 25 PTSA Meeting, 7 pm
- 27 Rising 9th grade orientation at Rocky Run
- 28 2nd quarter ends
- 28 College Planning Night, 7 pm
- 29-Feb 1 Teacher workdays; student holidays

A Message from the Principal

Dear Fairfax Parents and Students –

The fall season has been a very exciting one for Fairfax High School! On Tuesday, November 17, we held our **Academic Recognition** Ceremony to celebrate our students' academic achievements during the 2008-09 school year. We recognized our National Merit Scholarship semifinalist, Emily Schutz, and commended students, National Achievement Scholarship students, and a student recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program. We also honored more than 100 Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars. This year, our students will take nearly 1,900 AP tests! The strength of our students and staff is evident as more than 600 students received academic letters for having a 3.5 grade point average or higher over the course of last year.

Our **marching band** program had its finest season in recent memory. The Marching Rebels finished first in their class in all three competitions they entered (USSBA Northern VA Regional, Oakton Marching Classic, and JMU Parade of Champions) and received a superior rating at the VBODA State of Virginia Marching Festival. They also provided great support and entertainment during the football games all season.

Our fall athletes finished their seasons with great honor and success. Our **cheerleading** squad brought home a state championship from Richmond! After second-place finishes at both the district and regional competitions, falling short of Stone Bridge by a half-point each time, the cheerleaders outscored all competing teams, beating their nearest rival by three points. Their effort is a great example of commitment and persistence, and a great sequel to their second-place finish at states last year.

Senior Kevin Dowd came in third place in the state cross country championship. His average of a 5:03 mile over the muddy 5K course led him to be the highest finisher in the region. Kevin will next turn his sights to the Footlocker national competition. Kevin will run in a qualifying race for nationals in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the end of this month.

At West Springfield last weekend, the **football** team had its tremendous season come to an end in a 19-14 loss to Lake Braddock. The team put a mighty scare into one of the best teams in the region,

only to fall short at the end. While their efforts did not result in a championship, they certainly made history in their own right.

In our November faculty meeting, I shared with the staff a vision I have for our school. My vision is the product of a three-month process of collecting stories from staff and students, observations in classrooms and hallways, and surveys of parents and staff. Looking at what Fairfax High School could be a few years from now, I found it important to consider several outside factors, including the budget, FCPS priorities, and our growing student enrollment.

The slogan for my vision is, “**Standing on Each Other’s Shoulders.**” I believe we can reach greater heights just by supporting each other, reflecting on what we do and becoming better connected in our instruction and guidance of students. At this time, I do not see the need for any new programs or initiatives. Fairfax High School has clearly established in recent years that its students will be successful. It is not a place that needs “fixing.”

There is a true pattern of continuous improvement at this school. Students and staff truly care about the school and are committed to making the school a better place. Student-teacher relationships resemble those of family, and they go out of their way to help each other. Staff members support students by regularly attending athletic and artistic performances, and students pitch in as well, organizing several school events and even cleaning up after dances. We have created a number of structures to address areas of growth, such as the Rewards & Remediation program, the Freshman Transition program, and a bell schedule that allows most teachers common planning time with their colleagues. Our Instructional Council is a very talented group of teacher-leaders looking to have a schoolwide impact.

In crafting a vision, I identified ideas to help us face present and upcoming challenges as well as lead to continuous improvement. The vision is built upon “building bridges” across the entire staff; strengthening our work in professional learning communities (PLCs); distributing leadership among members of the Instructional Council as well as others who wish to take on additional responsibilities; and “holding the doors open” to parents and the community.

In recent years, we have easily reached targets on SOL tests, and our staff seeks to develop students beyond minimum proficiency levels. A more worthy goal is to provide all students with college readiness. This does not mean that 100% of our students go to college, but that we prepare them to be

successful in their next stage of education if they have the desire and means to pursue it. One of the best ways we can prepare students for the next stage in their education is by developing a sequence of skills that builds as they advance through high school. For example, students who proceed through their four years of social studies classes will be guided through exercises in identifying main ideas in passages, chronology, causation, document analysis, making inferences, writing thesis statements and supporting them with evidence. These exercises will become more challenging as students demonstrate mastery. As teachers in every department make clear to students how their learning builds upon itself, we will also aspire to work across different subject areas to enrich students’ abilities in areas such as reading and writing. With shared understanding and goals, we will be able to see farther, help each other see what we can’t see on our own, open up new possibilities, and benefit from each other’s strengths.

An important piece in this vision is engaging parents and the Fairfax community and **creating valuable partnerships**. I have enjoyed hearing from so many parents receiving regular grade reports. At Rebel Roundup on November 11, parents told me they felt that the grade reports allowed them an active role in monitoring their children’s progress, and at times, “catch” them before they fell too far behind. We want to help you keep them accountable for their learning. It is my goal to make you feel in touch with the active society that is Fairfax High School, and let you have a look at what happens beyond the main office.

Because it is a vision and not a plan, there are many details that will evolve as the staff and I move through this work. In fact, the emphasis is on taking a reflective and systematic look at what we do and how we can maximize student achievement. The vision will not be fulfilled in days or months, but it is my hope that it will help the school continue to grow a culture in which all students and staff flourish and explore as learners.

I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season. I consider myself very blessed to interact with such a talented staff and student body each day. I am very thankful for all of your support, and I look forward to continuing to work with you into the new year.

Sincerely,
Dave Goldfarb



Message from PTSA President

Thank you! to all the volunteers who donated delicious food and came out very early to provide help for the teacher/staff breakfast before Rebel Roundup. The breakfast was much appreciated by the teachers. Also, a huge thank you to the day custodial staff who helped the PTSA with clean up. We couldn't have done it without you! ☺

The PTSA handed out Student Directories to those parents who had ordered them at Rebel Roundup. If you missed the opportunity, your directory will be coming home soon with your student.

This is your last chance to purchase a student directory! We will be selling student directories until Winter Break. Please click the link on the PTSA website for an order form.

Also, it is still not too late to join the PTSA. There is a link on the PTSA website for this also. Please support your PTSA by joining.

The PTSA recently forwarded two entries to the County-level Reflections Program. We would like to have even greater participation next year in this very important competition for our arts and literary students. Please contact me if you are interested in chairing the Reflections Program at FHS for 2010-11, or if you are willing to help. It is not too early to start the planning process now.

I wish you very safe and happy holidays with your families.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime at claij@cox.net or 703-830-8699.

Clai Jorgensen

PTSA Meeting Dates

- Dec 14 Holiday Dinner (*time/place TBD*)
- Jan 25 (7 pm Library)
- Feb 22 (7 pm Library)
- March 15 (7 pm Library)
- April 19 (7 pm Library)
- May 17 (7 pm Career Center)
- June 14 End of Year Dinner (*time and place TBD*)

PTSA 2009-2010 Executive Board

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Newsletter Submission Guidelines

This PTSA newsletter is normally a monthly publication, but there will be no December issue. Deadline for the January newsletter is December 23; late articles may also be submitted by January 5, 2010, if there is still room.

- Editor.....Joan Szabo
sailboatjs1@verizon.net
- Assistant.....Laurie Ross
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Have you moved? Phone number changed?

Send your student to see Mrs. Anderson, the Registrar, in G103 to get an address update packet. Fairfax County Public Schools requires that you show proof of your new address in the form of a lease or deed (settlement papers) before any addresses can be changed in our data system. A copy of the lease/deed showing the pages with the address, names and date signed should be attached to the packet and returned to the Registrar's Office. Please correct any phone number changes as well and be sure to sign both pages. Questions? Call Jackie Anderson, 703-219-2202

Fairfax HS Teacher of the Year: Tim Hoffman

Thank you for your overwhelming response to our “Teacher of the Year” nomination process. An all-time record of twenty-five faculty members were nominated. Congratulations to Jose Ascarrunz, Tricia Colclaser, Leigh Faust, Brett Gustman, Tim Hoffman, Steve Ingrassia, Kelley Jackson, Maureen Keck, Maureen Kim, Wendy Knight, Tracey Kyle, Janice Lauffer, Nancy Melnick, Lauren Millette, Kyle Morrissey, Christina Owens, Pete Peterson, Mike Replogle, Rachel Schafer, Roslyn Spector, Kirk Swientoniowski, Julia Varanavage, Cathy Williams, Rob Williams and Randy Wolfinger.

Of these nominations, Tim Hoffman, ESOL teacher and department chair, was selected the 2009-10 Fairfax High School Teacher of the Year. Tim will be forwarded as our school’s nominee for the Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. This award was established to recognize teachers who exemplify excellence in their profession, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in substantive ways to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area.

Tim Hoffman has been a professional in the classroom for nearly twenty-five years. A graduate of Ohio University’s College of Education with a focus in communications, Tim got his start in education as a substitute teacher in Columbus City Schools. It was during his job as a substitute teacher that he first gained experience teaching students in the English as a Second Language (ESOL) classroom. “It was one of those moments,” he said, “when I knew immediately what I wanted to do with my life.”

In 1990, Tim accepted an Assistant Language Teacher position in Hakodate, Japan with the Jet Programme. This was the beginning of his work with students in Japan that would span the next 14 years. Tim worked in middle schools and high schools in Hakodate, and then, after earning his Master’s Degree in Linguistics from Ohio University, he returned to Japan to teach ESOL adult education courses in the Nagoya area. His last teaching position in Japan was from 1999 to 2004, where Tim served at Chubu University as the Director of the Ohio Program for English Language Teaching, an ESOL program connected with Ohio University.

Back in the United States with his family, Tim began his work as the chair of the ESOL department at Fairfax High School at the start of the 2004-2005 school year. “What really impressed me the first time I entered the school,” Tim recalled, “was the rich diversity of the students and the warmth of the work environment.” As one of the six teachers in the FHS ESOL department, Tim said that he is especially proud of the dedication of his fellow ESOL teachers. Under Tim’s leadership, the ESOL department has become one of the strongest in Fairfax County.

“I love teaching,” Tim said. “I still believe in the mission of public education, and I still feel honored to work with ESOL students. And after living for so long overseas, I can understand the challenges that our ESOL students face. I am truly amazed by their achievements and accomplishments.”

Congratulations to all our nominated teachers and to Tim Hoffman, our Fairfax High School Teacher of the Year.

2009-2010 Fairfax High School Honor Roll

The grading and weighting changes made by Fairfax County Public Schools raised a number of questions on how Fairfax High School will recognize academic success. This school year, the FHS Honor Roll will collectively celebrate all students who earn at least a 3.0 GPA with no grade below a C while enrolled in a minimum of 4 classes for credit that quarter. Students meeting these standards will be recognized in the quarterly honor roll. The PTSA Academic Boosters and FHS staff are also developing and refining existing programs to honor student effort and achievement. We look forward to celebrating our students’ successes this year.

Student Services

PSAT Interpretation Sessions

Students will receive their PSAT results and information for interpreting the results on December 17th during Super Sized Pride Time. Parents interested in learning about their student's PSAT results should bring a copy of the results with them to the parent PSAT Interpretation night on January 7th at 7pm in the FHS Multipurpose room.



Safe Teen Driving

Partnership for Safe Teen Driving presentation for students and parents -- December 8 at Fairfax H.S., 6:30pm in the Auditorium. This will be a mandatory meeting beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

Brent Newell, Health and Physical Ed Department Chair

Student Art Displays –

See what students have been working on this year in the FHS art department! The exhibit in the glass cases by the cafeteria includes photographs from Mrs. Washburn's Photo 2 class and Self-Portraits from Ms. McDermott's Art 3 class. You are also invited to view the Mixed Media Sculpture Exhibition in the Fairfax High School library! Please stop in to view sculptures from all Art 1 and Art 2 classes. The sculptures will be on view through the end of the month.

Additionally, artwork by the Artists of the Month is on view in the main office through November.

Artists of the Month – November

Photography - Abigail Baughman
Computer Graphics - Solongo Enkhtor
Studio Art - Hamza Rashid

Tamryn McDermott

Auto Repair/Vehicle Donations

Fairfax High's Automotive Technology program offers 30-, 60-, and 100,000 mile check-ups, complete brake jobs, tune-ups, oil changes and used car check-outs.

We also are part of the Student Auto Sales, a County-run used car dealership. We accept cars, watercraft and motorcycles for a 100% IRS donation. Students do a 12-point checklist on donated vehicles, then do the work required to get the vehicle in shape to pass

state inspection and emission tests. These vehicles are then sold and 70% of the profits are returned back into the program so that we are able to purchase the most up-to-date equipment. To donate a vehicle or schedule service, call the Auto Shop at (703) 591-8589 or e-mail less.steger@fcps.edu.



African American Achievers (AAA)

Mrs. Teryl Baker, coordinator of the American American Achievers at Fairfax, has accepted the position of Parent Liaison for African American (AA) students at Fairfax High School. She has taken advantage of the wonderful opportunity to speak with some of the students during their lunch periods. As a result, AAA witnessed a tremendous increase in attendance at its second monthly meeting, with Thomas Roberts, Founder and CEO of Great Student Network as the guest speaker. AAA recognized the students who made honor roll and encouraged the other students to strive for honor roll in the future. All AA students are encouraged to attend the next meeting on Thursday, December 10 at 7 pm.

REFLECTIONS WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

Fairfax High School PTSA joined a number of other FCPS PTSA groups in sponsoring a Reflections program this year. Reflections is a national PTA-supported program which "challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme." The theme for 2009-10 is "Beauty is..." with students from elementary, middle and high school levels eligible to submit their artistic creations. Students whose work is recognized at the school level, advance to regional, then possible state and national review.

Congratulations to *Heun Ju Koo*, winner in the FHS *Visual Art* category; and to *Meredith Buck*, whose piece "Dream" is the winner in the *Music Composition* category.

Thank you to the FHS PTSA for offering this outstanding program for young artists!

WHERE ARE YOU SHOPPING? **Giant, Safeway, Bloom?**

If so, have you registered your supermarket cards so Fairfax can earn cash each time you make purchases? It's simple but you need to renew each year! Please register today!



www.giantfood.com/aplus.

School code: 01873



Safeway

www.escrip.com and click on "Yes! Renew."
School ID: 2145176.



Bloom

www.bloomforyourschool.com.
School code: 01053.

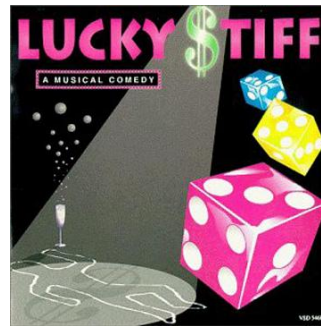
Less than 150 parents have registered their Giant cards for Fairfax High School this year. Fairfax has only earned \$467.82 from Giant's Bonus Buck's program thus far, while Chantilly High School has earned **twice** as much and Westfields High School has already earned nearly **three times** as much as Fairfax! WE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO EARN A LOT MORE MONEY FOR FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL BUT YOU NEED TO REGISTER YOUR CARDS TODAY!!

TARGET REDCARD?

If you have a TARGET REDCARD (Target credit card or Target check card), you can also help earn CASH FOR FAIRFAX. Go to www.target.com/tcoe and enter Fairfax High School or School Id. 103609 to designate Fairfax High School. 1% of purchases made at Target with your TARGET REDCARD go to Fairfax!

Lora Brzezynski

FX Players perform *Lucky Stiff*, Dec 3-6



Don't miss the hilarious fall musical *Lucky Stiff*! Mild-mannered Harry will inherit \$6 million in stolen diamonds from his Uncle Tony if he can fulfill Tony's dying wish by taking the dearly departed on a last Monte Carlo fling. If he fails, the money goes to the Home for Dogs. Come watch as Harry and Tony roll through the Riviera with everyone from the dog lady to Tony's nearsighted murderous mistress in hot pursuit. Tickets are available online (\$8) at www.fxplayers.org and at the door (\$12).

You'll also want to catch a sneak preview of our VHSL competition entry, *Henry V*, Jan. 14 and 15 in the black box at 7 pm.

Rehearsals have begun for the Production Class Theatre Arts 2-4 students' next Pulitzer Prize winning show, Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, which will be performed in March.

You can help support our talented actors and technicians by joining the FHS Theatre Boosters (see our website for a membership form) and by coming out to our terrific shows.

Save the Dates:

Nov 28-29 Luck Stiff Tech Days
Dec 3-6 Lucky Stiff Th-Sat 7:30 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.
Dec 9 Theatre Boosters Meeting, F111 7 p.m.
Dec 19 NYC day trip
Jan 8-11 ITS Conference at GMU
Jan 14-15 Henry V Preview 7 p.m.

R&R College Help Sessions for Seniors:

Seniors, if you feel overwhelmed with the college admissions process, Student Services has set up some mini-workshops during R&R for you:

Dec 3 – applying to arts colleges

Dec 9 – college interviews



CLASS OF 2010

Herff Jones will return to take **cap and gown** orders on Friday, December 18, during all lunches. All seniors must purchase their own cap and gown. The total cost for a cap and gown is \$16.70, which includes tax. Checks may be made payable to Herff Jones.

The Yearbook has just decided to extend the **DEADLINE for Senior Baby Ads!** Parents (and grandparents or friends or siblings), we encourage you to recognize your student/s as they reach this particular venture in their lives, graduating from high school and starting new goals. Baby Ad forms are still available in the yearbook room, or send a form request to vodomingo@fcps.edu. Please note that the **NEW DEADLINE is December 7.**

If you have not paid your **senior dues**, please drop them off to Ms. Varanavage in room A-154. The cost of senior dues is \$25, but will go up after December 31, 2009, which is only a month away. Checks may be made payable to Fairfax High School.

Any senior who would like to purchase a senior **t-shirt** (\$10 each) may do so by stopping by Ms. Varanavage's room, A-154.

Please pay attention to the daily announcements, as information regarding events and important dates will be posted. Also check the Senior Corner (accessible from the FHS webpage) regularly for updates of major events, order forms and contact information for pictures, cap and gowns, etc.

*Tricia Colclaser
Tammy Hawthorne
Julia Varanavage
Class Sponsors*

2010 ALL-NIGHT GRAD PARTY

Plans are well underway for the 2010 All-Night Graduation Party. The committees are formed but we still need volunteers, and in order to achieve our goal of a safe and fun graduation night, filled with games, gifts and memories for our seniors, *you are needed.*

Incredibly, it takes about 300 parents to put on this traditional all-night celebration. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes an entire school community to say goodbye to our graduating seniors in a memorable, alcohol- and drug-free gala event!

THE BONUS OF VOLUNTEERING IS THAT IT IS SO MUCH FUN!!!

Volunteer positions are available to fit your talents and resources

Activity positions range from decorating, security, publicity, fundraising, food and concessions for fundraisers, ticket sales, photography, cleanup, casino dealers, bankers, etc. For more details, call Kim Newman at 703-818-1429, or Becky Andrewes at 703-815-7204.

Contribute and encourage your community to contribute!

To keep the student ticket prices affordable, to rent the games, purchase the food and decorations, and to provide raffle gifts, we appreciate any donation you might choose to give. Please make checks payable to **FHS All Night Graduation Party** and mail to FHS, attn. ANG.

Also, please inquire at the businesses you patronize and ask if they would consider supporting our seniors by donating merchandise, gift certificates and/or cash.

Thank you for helping us make this a truly wonderful and memorable event for our **FHS CLASS OF 2010!!**

Fairfax Academy News

Congratulations! Several Fairfax Academy students have been recognized recently for their accomplishments.....

- **Alexander Darvishian** (Pro Photo, Centreville) won the High School Landscape category in the FotoWeek DC Youth division competition. He was one of 33 winners in the Youth Division selected from nearly 3000 entries. His photograph was displayed in galleries in D.C. as part of the FotoWeek DC program.
- **Manuel Lavalle and Michael Potter** (Pro TV Production, Woodson) produced a video about Woodson High School that was featured at the school's re-dedication ceremony. They were asked by the Woodson HS administration to produce the video project.
- **Aubrey May and Kelsey Cooper** (Dance, FHS) are the first two students to qualify for induction in the new FHS chapter of the National Honor Society for Dance. They will be inducted this winter.
- **Meredith Buck** (Music & Computer Technology, FHS) was selected as the Music division winner for the FHS Reflections competition, for her composition entitled "Dream". Eighteen second-year MCT students submitted work in 10 different FCPS Reflections competitions.

Musical Theatre Showcase: Students from Musical Theatre & Actor's Studio classes recently directed, staged and performed in a series of showcase events. Two evenings featured selections from the musical *Chess*. The third evening highlighted performances by second year students, cabaret style. This is the first of several showcase performances planned this year.

Spreading Holiday Cheer: Students from Professional Photography Studio classes once again were "Santa's Helper" volunteers at the annual City of Fairfax Craft Show. They managed the "photos with Santa" area of the show -- setting up equipment, taking and producing the photographs, and coaxing smiles out of children and families. All money raised goes to support the arts in Fairfax.

More Good Cheer: Academy Dance students will perform at Providence Elementary School on December 10. They are planning a Winter-themed show that will feature ballet, jazz, modern and tap dance numbers set to a variety of musical styles, from classical to pop.

Practicing Collaboration Camp CTE: Fairfax Academy recently hosted more than 20 high school and middle school counselors for an afternoon of "Camp CTE." Camp CTE activities included hands-on projects in Pro Graphics Studio (t-shirts and designs), Pro Photography Studio (lighting project and photograph) and Pro TV Production (live taping of scripted TV segment). Academy students assisted their teachers in leading the projects. They also greeted guests, modeled fashion designs, displayed Korea costumes, and performed both dance and musical numbers. Feedback was very complimentary! The counselors will spend time at all six FCPS academies in an effort to learn more about various career and technical education (CTE) courses.

CREATIVE LEADERS CONFERENCE **Entrepreneurship, Creativity, & Innovation** **FRIDAY, JANUARY 8**

Entrepreneurs and professionals from various creative, artistic and international career fields will be featured at the Academy's second annual day-long Creative Leaders Conference for students. This year, they will be joined by a number of Fairfax Academy alumni as well. The day will include workshops, panel discussions, keynote speakers and hands-on experiential activities.

This event is part of the Academy's Creative Leaders Project in partnership with Apple FCU Education Foundation.

French Language Programs Looking for Volunteers

Parents to Assist with French National Exams - March 17th (all day, 7 am to 2 pm) and March 24th (7 to 9 am and 12 noon to 2 pm).

Host Families for Students from France -- 20-30 English-as-a-foreign-language students (and their teacher chaperones) from our sister school in France, Lycée Belin, will visit Fairfax for a week in April and we need families to host them. These students are paired with FHS French language students in a year-long writing project. Some FHS students will also spend a week at Lycée Belin during spring break. For more details, contact Cynthia Van de Camp (cvandecampwas@fcps.edu).

Music Department

Winter Concerts

Tuesday, December 15th, 7:30 pm – FHS Bands and Intermediate Orchestra

Thursday, December 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the FHS auditorium. The orchestra and choirs will perform Mozart's Te Deum as well as seasonal music. There will be an audience sing-along and the concert will conclude with chorus alumni joining the choir for Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Come out and support your students! Admission is free.

Chorus Cabaret Night

Friday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the FHS café, doors open at 6:30. Individuals, small groups, and all the Fairfax choirs will perform classic jazz and Broadway songs. Dessert and drinks will be provided, and the evening will include a raffle for some fantastic gift baskets. Tickets go on sale soon; see your neighborhood chorus student or check www.fhschorus.net for additional information.

Chorus News

The **Masquerade Concert** last month was fantastic and Mr. Frels' swordplay had the choirs performing beautifully. **Spring competition trip** information went home with students and is also available on the chorus website; first payments are due before Thanksgiving. A small group of students attended a chorus **workshop** at the University of Maryland on Veteran's Day and gave a spectacular performance that evening. Thanks to everyone for coming out to Noodles and Company for our first **restaurant fundraiser**; stay tuned for additional events next year.

At **All-District Chorus** auditions, 39 Fairfax students tried out and 31 (nearly 80 percent!) were selected to the group that will perform in February. In addition, **Rachel Derrick** tied for the top scorer in the Alto II category for the District. Good job, Rachel!

The annual **choral lock-in** will immediately follow Cabaret Night; more info to come, but participating students will be up waaaay before noon that Saturday morning.

There is still time to participate in our **student fundraisers**; see the website and watch your email for more information. Chorus students' sale of White

House Ornaments help defray the costs of the music department's **spring trip to Myrtle Beach**. Your support for them and the FHS Choral Department is greatly appreciated.



Happy holidays!

Band News

The Fairfax High School Band Boosters would like to congratulate the Marching Rebels and director Meghan Benson on a fantastic season. The band placed first in all three competitions it entered this year as well as earning a Superior rating at VBODA on October 31. This is the first step toward repeating as a Virginia Honor Band. We would like to express our thanks to Ms. Benson and the students for their many hours of hard work and dedication to the band program.

Now it is on to the concert season. Please join the FHS Bands and the Intermediate Orchestra for their **winter concert** on December 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Then come again on the 17th for the music **department concert** including a performance of Mozart's Te Deum. If you truly want to make it a week of music, plan to attend the **Fairfax City Band concert** on Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. also in the FHS auditorium. While you are there, be sure to look for the bake sale and silent auction items offered by the FHS bands. It's a nice way to take up the time while you wait to enter the auditorium, and the high school bands greatly appreciate the support.

Go Green – Recycle Your Old SLR Cameras for Photography Students

Got an old SLR film camera sitting around gathering dust? Donate it to the Photography 1 classes. Please send cameras to the high school photography room, H128 or the main office. Please leave your name and address with the camera; you will receive a donation letter for tax purposes.

*Patricia A. Washburn
Art Department Chairperson*

Fairfax High School
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Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Next newsletter will be in January; Deadline for articles is December 23.

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