

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents, Guardians, Teachers, and Students:

Amazingly, the end of the first quarter of the school year is rapidly approaching. All the opportunities that the phenomenal faculty offers to our students are in clear evidence. We have daily field trips going to interesting places, special speakers and presenters coming to the campus, and lots of enthusiasm permeating the hallways and classrooms as students learn new subjects and face new challenges. We are in the midst of Homecoming "mania", which is the biggest student celebration at TJ. Our Student government and Class governments demonstrate their growing leadership skills annually as they plan for and negotiate for the various activities that they want to have in this celebration. As some of you may have heard, this year we have had a lively and healthy discussion about the acceptable forms of dancing both at sock hops and the Homecoming Dance. Our goal is to ensure a series of fun, positive activities for all who come and participate. This includes our faculty and parent chaperones, without whom these activities could not occur.

Among the highlights of the fall was an invitation for me to attend the National Summit on School Design, hosted by the University of Maryland. This three-day event presented the latest in research and design for schools of the 21st century. It gave me new hope that there are school systems across this nation who are seriously investing in new ways of building environmentally friendly school buildings that incorporate all of the best design features for a healthy, safe, and esthetically stimulating place in which students can learn and teachers can teach. TJ has long inhabited one of the oldest, most poorly designed buildings that seems to be falling down around us.

Sadly, our many building challenges easily usurp the majority of my time and that of Douglas Tyson, Assistant Principal. While the 13 new Learning Cottages gave us sorely needed classroom space, they have had many electrical and mechanical problems and posed lots of new safety challenges for fire drills, tornado drills, and the many unexpected events that we encounter. The main building has had a history of structural issues since before I arrived here six years ago, and they only seem to get worse. We closed the building for the first time ever this past summer for the roof again to be repaired and AC units updated. However, when we recently had our first big rainfall, huge new leaks

appeared that collapsed ceiling tiles in the math hall and in two of our Senior Research Laboratories, Optics and Modern Physics and Chemical Analysis. Fortunately, no one was here to be injured by the falling debris and no expensive equipment was ruined. Additionally we have had a persistent mold issue that required the evacuation of three classrooms so that our wonderful, but overworked, custodians could spend their weekend wiping down all surfaces with chemical mold removers including walls, ceilings, vents, desks, file cabinets, etc. Happily, things are much better in these rooms, but we are on constant vigilance for similar issues in a building that long ago ceased to have waterproof windows and adequate infrastructure to support our very demanding academic program. Therefore, you can see why I was so excited to participate in the National School Design Summit.

Creating a new TJHSST Building is clearly an initiative that will require our school leaders to think outside the current boundaries on school design and funding. I invite those of you who are interested in this issue to join our PTSA in bringing the capital needs of our school to the attention of those politicians and community leaders who can help create the momentum for a NEW TJ.

All the best to you,
Elizabeth V. Lodal
Principal

President's Message

Happy Autumn, TJ Community!

Although many activities scheduled for October have yet to take place as we go to press, please know I am confident they will have occurred without incident. I will refer to them in the past tense; however, with the hurricane season still here and endless problems with the roof at school, we can only hope for the best.

The PTSA Parent Forum was held on October 26th and we thank all who participated. We hope you came away with the answers you needed to help your student have an enjoyable and rewarding experience at TJ. We would also like to thank the panelists for volunteering to share their experiences and answer questions throughout the program. Special thanks to Henry Broaddus, Dean of Admissions with the College of William and Mary, Sandra Allard, TJ alumni parent of Class of 2001 and 2003, Dr. Michael McElroy, TJ

alumni of Class of 1996, Cathy Eagen, TJ math teacher, and Tom Hay, Class of 2006 and SGA Vice-President. We appreciate their willingness to contribute their time and wise advice on how parents can help their students navigate the challenging course known as high school. Our students are involved with so many activities, both academically and extracurricular, that we hope finding a balance between these activities is a priority of parents in order for the students to achieve their personal goals.

I am also confident that all Homecoming activities were outstanding and enjoyed by all. Thank you to the parents who volunteered to serve as chaperones at the Homecoming Dance. The level of support parents provide our students and the school is extraordinary. There would be no dances without parent volunteers, so thank you! Your time and energy is very much appreciated.

Fall is in the air and it's a wonderful time to enjoy the transition from one season to the next. The change of seasons sometimes reflects our lives with its changes and adjustments. Seniors are busy looking at colleges, preparing applications and writing essays – all are excited and yet a little apprehensive. It is a big step, and the opportunity before them to move forward with their lives in such a positive way, is a dream that all parents hope for their children. We wish the Seniors good luck with this important step – the college search - and wish them great success in achieving their goals.

The membership drive is ongoing and we would like to thank all who have joined the PTSA. If you have not taken the opportunity to join yet, we invite you to come to a board meeting or visit our web site to learn what your participation means to TJ. The dues and donations provided by current members are already helping to support staff development, technology purchases, cultural/arts enhancement and students. We truly appreciate your support by making the decision to become a member of our organization. I would also like to ask you to join us and have our voices heard in making a plea to Fairfax County to improve the school building that is consistently in need of maintenance and improvements so our students and staff can work and learn in a safe environment. Although our building is not among those listed on the 2005 School Bond Referendum, the PTSA intends to voice its concern to the county on several levels about the conditions of the building and about future plans for TJHSST. We need the entire TJ community's support so our voices may be heard and our concerns addressed, so please contact us so we can work together to achieve a safe environment for our TJ students and staff.

Thank you for your continuing support and advocacy for excellence throughout our TJ community!

Debbie Kilpatrick
PTSA President

PTSA Update

Highlights from the October 17th Meeting

The October 17th meeting was well attended and there was much information covered and shared:

- Building conditions: The deteriorating building conditions and the urgent need for renovations at the school were discussed (mold, leaks in roof, electrical and mechanical problems, among others) . The PTSA will task a committee to look at the best way to help the school.
- Treasurer's report: Highlighted the expenditures and income from July 1, 2005 to date. The independent audit of 2004-05 PTSA books will be presented for adoption to the general membership at the December meeting.
- Senior Off-Campus Lunch: PTSA board members are in favor of the initiative.
- Volunteers: There is an urgent need for 3-4 parents to help drive TJ student volunteers for tutoring sessions at a nearby school on Wednesday afternoons. Help is also needed for the Guidance office, JLC on Thursday mornings, and for photocopying materials for faculty. Please refer to the [Serving the TJ Community](#) page; or, send email to [ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.volunteers@tjhsst.edu)
- Jacket Sales: Next sale is planned for the week of November 28, and after the Sports and Marching Band Banquets.
- Directory: Student directories are available for purchase at the front office.
- Reflections: Topic is "I Wonder Why". Deadline for submission is November 4th. Forms are available on the PTSA website, in the front office and in the Senior and Sophomore Lounges.
- Legislation: Plans are underway to expand outreach to all legislators of jurisdictions sending students to TJ. Parents/students interested in becoming involved can send email to [TJLegislative at cox.net](mailto:TJLegislative@cox.net).
- County Council: Researching the need for cultural liaisons at TJ to assist parents with language and acculturation.

The next meeting of the PTSA is scheduled for **Monday, November 14, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **TJ library**.



Treasurer's Report

Income and expenditures from July 1st, 2005 through October 17th, 2005 were reviewed against budget. Key items included Directory income (\$14,140 YTD) representing 88% of budget; Membership income (\$18,090) representing 98% of budget; and Jacket Sales income (\$11,960) representing 75% of budget. Income will continue to be collected in all three areas, predominantly in Jacket Sales, throughout the year. Expenditures of significance included \$990 by the Diversity Committee to purchase Kaplan Study Prep texts for their workshops. Hospitality costs totaled \$714 comprising predominantly of the Teachers' Breakfast and a complimentary staff dinner on BTS Night. All expenses remained within budget.

Membership

At press time, the PTSA Membership continues to grow at 1,363, which represent 786 families and 57 faculty members. Membership dues make up 16% of the TJHSST PTSA annual budget. PTSA Membership at the school level promotes parent involvement and offers an opportunity to meet on a monthly basis with Principal Lodal, faculty and student leaders, and other active volunteers. The meeting is a significant window into our students' world. Mrs. Lodal or her representative introduces top issues of the month in a transparent and forthright manner. The PTSA provides information and discussion forums, such as the first for the year, held on October 26.

TJ's PTSA is part of a district, state and national PTA network which has a mandate to advocate for student issues and education. It is a powerful national voice for public education. When TJ parents join the PTSA, they join this network. Members are entitled to receive the traditional membership card which gives access to: 1. Online parenting resources including *Our Children* magazine; 2. E-Newsletters on parenting and legislative issues; 3. Special promotions from Member Benefits Providers, including FedEx, Kinko's and Barnes & Noble. (To access discounts, members need the username and password codes which are located on the back of the membership card.); 4. Leadership training opportunities in-person and online; 5. The discounted member rate for convention, magazine subscriptions, among others; and 6. The Member-to-Member Network, connecting members to Congress on real-time public education issues and concerns.

Many parents choose not to receive the membership card, so the PTSA is not mailing them automatically. However, if you would like to receive your card by mail, please contact Ann Besson at [ptsa.membership at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.membership@tjhsst.edu) or (703) 591-1705 to make arrangements. For more information about, please visit www.pta.org.

The Virginia PTA Annual Convention will be held November 11 – 13 at Tysons Corner. This is the annual business meeting of the Virginia PTA. According to the *District*

Dialogue, the newsletter of the Fairfax District PTA, "this year's delegates will consider bylaws amendments, elect state officers, and adopt resolutions that establish the positions of Virginia PTA."

Tracy Fu has processed all the TJ membership data and keeps the board updated on all changes. She has done an outstanding job and is a jewel in a crown of incredible TJ PTSA volunteers.

Fairfax County Council PTA

New Program Proposed at TJ: the **Cultural Liaison Volunteer Program**. After the September FCCPTA General Membership meeting, in which the main theme was "Parent Involvement", the TJ PTSA President and TJ FCCPTA Representative exchanged some ideas about how we can help culturally and linguistically diverse parents become more fully involved in their children's educational process. It won't be difficult to imagine how this process can seem a maze to parents from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds if you think back to your child's first year at TJ, when everything was new and there was so much to be learned, even for parents from the local culture and language! To fill this need, we are extending the idea of the "Phone Buddy" system that links parent volunteers with other parents who speak a common language and culture to facilitate getting answers for their important questions. A new component of this program is that the TJ Representative, Esther Yook, teaches and researches about intercultural communication, and is happy to help sort out some cultural issues or direct you to resources when needed. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer for this new program, or have additional questions and/or suggestions, please call Esther Yook at 703 642 0233. This is an important volunteer role that will help all TJ parents feel empowered and included, and we promise we will do our best to prevent it from taking up too much time from your busy schedules!

Also, on a different note, the Fairfax County Council of PTAs requests passing this information about the **School Bond Referendum** up for vote on November 8th. The proposed School Bond Referendum will add new classrooms, and support growing technology and security needs through the upgrading of power distribution and telecommunications systems and networks. Please refer to the FCCPTA website for further information.

Student Services Corner

The next Student Services Advisory Board meeting will be held on November 17th at 7:30 p.m. Parents and students are invited to join us to discuss topics pertaining to TJ students. In September we talked about internet use and abuse, senior tech labs, religious tolerance, and many others. If there is something you would like to have on our agenda please e-mail [karen.oconnor at fcps.edu](mailto:karen.oconnor@fcps.edu). See you in the Library.

Guidelines

This issue of the TJHSST Student Services Department newsletter, **Guidelines**, is available at: <http://information.tjhsst.edu/dss/media/guidelines.ep05.pdf>.

College Career Center

For more information on college visits, scholarships, financial aid, testing, volunteer programs and summer opportunities, you can visit <http://www.tjhsst.edu/~ccc/career.htm>

Serving the TJ Community

Volunteers

Wednesday Afternoon Drivers: We are actively seeking parent drivers, minivan drivers especially, who could drive small groups of TJ students every Wednesday during 8th period to nearby elementary schools. Our students want very much to pass on their skills by tutoring younger students – but to do this we must have a safe and legal way to transport them to and from the schools.

The commitment is needed for volunteers to be at TJ at 2:00pm (time may vary slightly) each Wednesday to drive groups of students to the school and then later drive them back to TJ by around 3:30 -3:40. (You could then wait for your own child to drive back home.)

If you cannot guarantee every week perhaps you could do it every second or third week and share a route. Or maybe you already come to TJ every day to drive your student home – on Wednesday you could come earlier and bring the students back from the elementary school first. A driver who needs to be home for her own elementary students could drive from TJ at 2:00pm then go home. Job sharing can work in this situation!

Clerical and Copying Assistance: Can we add your name to our list of potential volunteers to help out with occasional clerical or copying tasks? Please let us know what are your most likely available days and times and that way we do not feel like we are asking the same people all the time. Just being on our list does not commit you! We would most likely need your help during the school day at TJ but perhaps other jobs may occur that could be done at home or after hours. This is a good way to ease into volunteering at TJ as well as get to know other parents – you always come home having learned something new and useful.

Circus Acrobat or Inventor?: We would like to know what skills you do have! The sky is the limit at our school and you never know just what skills might be needed. Please take a moment to revisit the volunteer signup form – go to www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/ and look for the heading of Student Directory Form and it leads you to the link – now scroll all the way towards the end of the form. Add in your

details and hit the “submit” button. Alternatively just send us an email (résumés accepted!!). If Mrs. Lodal should ask us tomorrow for the list of flamenco dancers or patent attorneys or Peace Corps experienced parents then we want to surprise her and say “Here it is!”. Together, we can all help TJHSST in some way! Let us know what you know!

Looking for JLC Dads and Moms!: Do you want to feel virtuous as you commute to work on a Thursday morning? Then consider stopping off at TJ and being a JLC volunteer on the way there. We are looking to expand our list of JLC volunteers. With more volunteers we can job share so you might only need to come every second week. Drive your student to school in time for 8:00 a.m. and stay to help until about 8:55. During that time you might be located in a classroom – a good opportunity to catch up on the morning paper. Dads – we especially want you to know this is a great potential for you to experience life inside TJ!

To respond to any of these needs or ask any questions about volunteering contact us now! Cindy Carter and Dorry Emmer [[ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.volunteers@tjhsst.edu)].

CAC Community Meeting

CAC Community Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in the auditorium. TJ community is invited to attend a presentation by our administration and faculty about curriculum issues. Please visit the PTSA web site for more information.

Diversity Committee

The PTSA Diversity Committee is actively seeking parents of freshman, sophomore and juniors to take leadership roles as the committee is composed of mainly senior parents. In order to continue the excellent programs that the Diversity Committee sponsors, we need parents to learn the procedures and volunteer this year to maintain consistency within the committee. If you are interested in volunteering on the Diversity Committee, please contact Veronica Kinney at [VSKinney at aol.com](mailto:VSKinney@aol.com)

Custodian Appreciation

Custodian Appreciation Week was celebrated October 17-21. The PTSA would like to thank our wonderful and dedicated custodial staff for the excellent job they do every day of the year. They are always so supportive of the needs of the PTSA and we appreciate all they do.



Academic News

Spanish Honor Society Honors TJ Hispanic Community

What a great evening! On Wednesday, October 19th, the Spanish Honor Society honored TJ's Hispanic students and their families at a special dinner, as part of our celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The SHS provided an abundant entrée prepared by a local restaurant specializing in Salvadorian and Bolivian cuisine. Honor society members contributed salads and desserts, and several Hispanic families shared some of their own family favorites, such as *empanadas*, *guaba con queso*, etc. One of the highlights of the evening was the music: songs and dancing by SHS members!



Class News

2006 – Seniors

Sock-hop: November 4th after the Football game. This is Senior Night, so we expect a big turnout! Please volunteer to chaperone this dance if you haven't already. All proceeds from this dance will be donated to the Tj Katrina Relief fund. Please email [anne.little at fcps.edu](mailto:anne.little@fcps.edu) to chaperone and help this fun and worthy-cause event.

Senior Parent Night: December 7th from 7-9 p.m. in the Auditorium. This is your opportunity to get information from our Balfour Graduation Rep.

2007 - Juniors

Our "Green Eggs and Ham" Homecoming has been wonderful this year, and the junior class appreciates the continued support from parent volunteers. Our class activities wouldn't be a success without you. We hope you can join us in our coming events: Mr. Colonial in January and Capitol Steps and the Junior Camp-Out in the spring. You can always check our class website for more information, <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/2007/>.

2008 – Sophomores

The sophomore year is certainly in full swing! On October 12th all sophomores participated in a practice PSAT and essay writing. After Homecoming with its adjustments and competition, we will be focusing in on our Silent Auction, which will be on Friday, April 28th, 2006. It is the big event of the year. We'll be contacting businesses, parents, and other community resources for donations, food, and other necessities to make the Silent Auction a successful event. We are seeking volunteer parents to follow up with area businesses by telephone to solicit donations for the auction. Letters will have previously been distributed by the students to the businesses, and parents are needed to conduct follow-up phone calls. Any volunteers interested can e-mail [08silentauction at gmail.com](mailto:08silentauction@gmail.com).

The Class of 2008 will also be sponsoring the Valentine's Day Dance and other activities. Thanks to all for your continued support!

2009 - Freshmen

The freshman homecoming committee was allotted \$200, created more than 20,000 tissue flowers, and took 50 hours of parents Gene and Gail Zukosky's generous time to make a dignified Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head for the homecoming parade. Faculty advisors Judy Bello and Nancy McCormack and several parents spent October weekends chaperoning the worker frosh. Mega thanks to parents who folded thousands of squares of three-ply tissue, driving their students through the Springfield Mixing Bowl to the Zukosky's home, and chaperoning.

Thank you also to the many parents who chaperoned the homecoming dance, IBET field trips, music program competitions, sporting events, JLC, and helped with all things TJ this month. Everywhere you turn, there is a freshman class parent. Our volunteer list is a 100 strong, with 13 additional parents comprising the PTSA Class of 2009 Liaison Group. The latter will shadow other class activities and lead the massive volunteer requirements for the annual Freshmen Lock-in on May 12. Please join our list of volunteers and let your class liaison (Ann Besson, [bessons at cox.net](mailto:bessons@cox.net)) be a member of your TJ support network.

TJHSST Partnership Fund

TJ to Participate in First Thai International Science Fair in Bangkok!

The Jefferson Partnership Fund is pleased to announce that TJ students **Alexis Cook**, **Aanchal Raj** and **Peter Traverso** will accompany Chemical Analysis Lab Director, Dr. Brian Kennedy to the First Thai International Science Fair in Bangkok, Thailand in late November. This trip was made possible by an outstanding corporate in-kind donation of roundtrip air transportation for our participants from Thai International Airways headquarters in Bangkok. Once in

Bangkok, they will be hosted by the Mahidol Wittayanusorn School – the national science high school of Thailand. The foundation's executive director, Joan Ozdogan, worked with Thai Airways in New York City and Bangkok to make this international experience possible for students and faculty.

Thanks to All Back to School Campaign Donors!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Back to School Campaign. To date, over 95 families have donated a total of more than \$21,000. Contributors will be recognized on the Jefferson Partnership Fund Donor Board in TJ's Main Lobby. You may still donate by downloading a returnable donation form at the foundation's website www.tjpartnershipfund.org or online by credit card. Your financial support is needed – philanthropy will provide the "margin of excellence" in TJ's research laboratories and classrooms.

Attention all United Way – CFC Parent Donors! Please remember the Jefferson Partnership Fund - Designation Number 8208.

We want our TJ parents who will support the Jefferson Partnership Fund again this year through United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to know how much we appreciate their support given through the charitable campaigns at their workplaces. Last year, more than \$31,000 was pledged and donated through regional workplace giving campaigns!

Special Donor Education Workshop RESCHEDULED "Tax Advantages of Charitable Gifting" on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 6:30 - 9 p.m. TJ's Computer Assisted Design Laboratory – Room 116

TJ '08 parent Fred Baerenz and local attorney at law Weston Burnett will present a complimentary two-hour seminar on "Tax Advantages of Charitable Gifting" for current and alumni parents. The program will open with an informal briefing by TJ principal Elizabeth Lodal and offer invaluable information on annual giving, charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts – and will highlight benefits for both the donor – and their recipient charity.

For information and registration, contact Karen Duke, [kpduke at fcps.edu](mailto:kpduke@fcps.edu) or call 703.750.8316

TJHSST Boosters

Band Boosters

Music Education Improves SAT Scores!: The National Association for Music Education states, "Students of the arts continue to outperform their non-arts peers on the SAT, according to reports by the College Entrance Examination Board. In 2004, SAT takers with coursework/experience in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 40 points higher on the math portion

than students with no coursework or experience in the arts." Support the TJ Band program by making your **end-of-year charitable donations** to "TJHSST Band Boosters, Inc." – Mail to Band Boosters c/o Director of Bands, TJHSST.

Doughnuts for Sale on Election Day: TJ band students will sell doughnuts at polling places and metro stations in the VA/DC metro area. Please support this fundraiser; preorder two dozen to be delivered to your home or office on Tuesday, November 8. Contact [dmurashi at tjhsst.edu](mailto:dmurashi@tjhsst.edu).

Class of 2006 – TJ License Plate Frames Still Available: Need a holiday gift for a student or parent? TJ license plate frames are available for all classes. They're only \$12 each; buy two for each car! Contact [jfhurl at yahoo.com](mailto:jfhurl@yahoo.com).

Holiday Gift Ideas:

Citrus Sales [[tjcitrus at hotmail.com](mailto:tjcitrus@hotmail.com)], White House Ornament [[walchmosh at comcast.net](mailto:walchmosh@comcast.net)], Scrip, Gift cards (Gap, Borders, i-tunes, Starbucks, groceries) [[pallee10 at aol.com](mailto:pallee10@aol.com)], KidStuff Coupon Books - \$25 – Quiznos, shopping, entertainment – [[careyfamil at cox.net](mailto:careyfamil@cox.net)]

Colonial Athletic Boosters

During the first few weeks of October, the **boys' cross country** team brought home two more invitational championships, bringing their regular season total to four first place finishes and a third in major meets. On the **girls' cross country** side, senior Stephany Reaves has finished in the top six in every single race so far. **JV cross country** held their own in the district meet at Burke Lake Park on Tuesday, October 18th.



Both the girls' and boys' teams came in first place, with the boys finishing first through seventh place. A perfect score is one through fifth place. Varsity will compete in the Liberty District Championship at Burke Lake on Thursday, October 27th, which will be followed by the Northern Region Championship, also at Burke Lake, on November 3rd.

Stephany Reaves crossing the finish line. She finished in 6th place.

With just three games left in the season, the **JV volleyball** team holds on to a winning record with 6 wins and 5

losses. Now that Emily Jacobson has moved up to the varsity team, Erin Lutes joins Megan Stapleton as a co-captain. Coach Rhee continues to inspire the girls to play their best, and they show definite improvement in all aspects of the game.

The **Varsity cheerleading** squad competed October 17th in the Northern Region cheerleading competition for Liberty District and did very well. They will compete on October 24th at the Liberty District finals at South Lakes High School. We cheer for them at press time hoping they move to regionals!!!

The **Varsity Field Hockey** team, after losing eight starters from last year's squad, compiled a regular season record of 8-7-1 playing a tough schedule that consisted primarily of new Liberty Division opponents and old Concorde Division foes. The team finished tied for third out of seven teams in the Liberty Division and was scheduled to host Langley in a district play-in game at TJ on October 20 to determine whether it would advance to the district semifinals and regional tournaments.

The boosters and the athletes appreciate your continued support. Please join us for the fall banquet on November 21st and the winter sport night on November 28th. Our next meeting is on November 1st at 7:00 in the library.



Paul Norland and Hersh Singh. Paul finished 9th and Hersh finished 11th out of 342 boys. They were the first two from TJ to cross the finish line.

Crew Boosters

TJ Crew held two successful open houses at our practice facility at Sandy Run on the Occoquan in October, talking to quite a few interested students and parents. Advance registration deadline for novice rowers (new team members who have never rowed before, any grade level) is Nov 11, but regular registration is open until Feb 11. If any student is interested in rowing for TJ, please contact Head Coach Matt Shoop at [shoop2 at cox.net](mailto:shoop2@cox.net).

Winter training for all returning and novice rowers will begin on Nov 14 at TJ. These sessions are held after school until 6 PM Monday through Friday. Although attendance everyday is not mandatory, most rowers attend as many sessions as they can in an effort to be fully conditioned when they get out on the water in late February.

The Crew is sponsoring a Craft Show on Saturday, Nov 19 in the TJ cafeteria from 10:00 AM to 4:00 p.m. Craft vendors from throughout the region will be there to display and sell their wares. We hope you'll come by, find those one-of-a-kind holiday gifts and help support this year's TJ Crew! If you have any questions, please visit the team web site at <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/crew/> or contact Mark Peterson, President, at [markpusafb at gmail.com](mailto:markpusafb@gmail.com).

Choir Boosters

Mark your calendars now! The TJ Cabaret and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 12th at 6:00 p.m. Come enjoy the unique vocal talents of our students....and be amazed as our cafeteria is transformed into a true cabaret! What could be better than sitting back and enjoying the truly terrific solo and small ensemble, Broadway-themed performances over a cup of coffee and some wonderful deserts?

While you are there, feel free to bid on the interesting items available at the Silent Auction. Last year's auction items included sporting event tickets, theater tickets, weekend getaways and themed baskets along with a wide assortment of neat and unusual treats. All of the proceeds support the on-going needs of TJ's five choruses. This is the choir's biggest fundraiser of the year, so c'mon help us out, listen to some wonderful music and do some holiday shopping. All at the same time!

Orchestra Boosters

The TJHSST Concert and Symphonic Orchestras completed their first performance October 18 as part of the Fall Music Department Showcase Concert. Their next performance will be the holiday concert on December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the TJ auditorium. This concert will feature a full orchestra repertoire.

But before the December concert, the Orchestras prepare their waltz pieces, and TJ students, parents and guests dust off their dancing shoes! The ever-so-popular **Viennese Ball** returns to TJ on Friday, December 2, in the TJ cafeteria. A Viennese Holiday Winter Wonderland is the theme of this first Waltz of the school year, and will feature delicious Viennese inspired food and drink, beautiful holiday decorations and wonderful waltz music – all performed live. Waltzing lessons are offered by a professional dance instructor the first half-hour, and then the Blue Danube and many, many other wonderful waltz pieces will inspire all the lovely ladies dressed in their finest long dresses and gents

in tuxedos and other formal attire to spin around the dance floor! Also adding to the enjoyment of the evening is the TJ Jazz Band which will perform and offer an opportunity for swing and jazz dance. The Orchestra Viennese Ball is always well attended with as many as 250 participants - students and parents – all having a wonderful time and enjoying the festivities. Mark this date: December 2 - on your calendar now. Pre-sale tickets will be available as well as tickets for sale at the door.

The Orchestra Boosters are proud to offer some fine TJ inspired products that would delight any TJ student or parent: (1) white roll socks with “Jefferson” woven into the low- cut 1” navy and red cuff - perfect for sports or warming the toes on those late study nights! (2) white plush cotton velour 16” x 26” gym towel with the TJHSST orb logo – an excellent size for working on weight machines or to have handy in the gym locker, or even fine enough to serve as guest towels in your powder room! With the holidays right around the corner, one or more of these items would make perfect gifts. For the Music aficionado at TJ, we offer the TJ Music Tote bag and the TJ Music CD holder. Please send an email to [tjhsstorchestraboosters at msn.com](mailto:tjhsstorchestraboosters@msn.com) about purchasing any of our great products, or to answer any questions about the TJ Orchestras or the Orchestra Boosters, or visit our table at the Viennese Ball or in the audlob at the December 15 concert.

Announcements and Information

TJ Directories anyone?

If you didn't get your TJ Directory at Back-to-School Night, it's not too late. They are on sale in the front office for \$10 as long as supplies last.

Reflections

Reflections program “I Wonder Why...” is ending soon. If you still want to enter then please do so by November 4th. After that date the entries will be collected and sent to the respective judges. The winners at school level will be announced at the end of November. So look out for that. There will be a reception for all the participants at which time cash prizes will be awarded to the winners and certificates and ribbons to all the participants. Stay tuned for more information.

ANGP News

Yes, we need to be thinking about – and planning for – the All-Night Grad Party already. This event is the culmination of your students' time here at TJ – and it takes hundreds of volunteers to make it happen.

We are still in critical need of folks willing to offer their talents and chair one of the many committees – treasurer, publicity, decorations, casino, mementos, the Store, etc.

Please think of how you can help – maybe enlist a friend and offer to co-chair a committee so that you can cover for one another. Otherwise, call or email and let us know where your talents lie – whether it's serving on a committee or just helping at the event itself.

Please contact Joanne Rehm (Chair) at (703)425-9299 or email [ptsa.angp06 at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.angp06@tjhsst.edu) (note the change). Let's make sure our seniors cap off another great year with a night of memories!

Last chance to get TJ Letter Jacket!

BY now you know TJ is the only Fairfax County School that allows you to wear a **letter jacket WITHOUT the letter**. It means being selected to attend TJ is an accomplishment in itself!!

If you missed the first Jefferson Letter Jacket sale in September or did not win the raffle for the Katrina fundraiser, don't despair. There is one last sale scheduled for November 29 – Dec 1 in the cafeteria during lunch. Jackets will be delivered in February.

There will be sample jackets for you to try on. Sizes seem to vary each year so you **must** try one on before ordering.



The order form and more information are available on the PTSA web site. If you have questions about the jackets or would like to help out, please contact Marilyn Mutchler at (703) 690-3429 or at [vamutchler at aol.com](mailto:vamutchler@aol.com).

Thanks to everyone who helped with Jackets in September!

Call to Alumni Parents

October is an important month for most alumni parents, particularly for the Class of 2005. Most of us have gone through the parents' week end visits and having seen the kids well settled, and happy, we should be heaving a sigh of relief. This transition is not so bad after all and we survived it!

This is therefore a time for introspection. Our kids are doing well; let us pat ourselves on the back. Let us also congratulate our kids for their part in making this a memorable and happy transition. While in this happy state, let us ponder a moment and acknowledge what we owe TJ Faculty and Staff, for having helped us go through the challenging high school years. We owe them a great debt of gratitude which can not be measured in dollars and cents. Wouldn't you like to help the School that made a

difference to our kids? Our kids graduated, we did not. To serve on the Alumni Parent Committee and continue participating in the School activities, please contact [alan.krishnan at ionidea.com](mailto:alan.krishnan@ionidea.com). There is a lot to do and your help will be much appreciated.



Jacket for Katrina

Ms. Chhabra's TA will be selling tickets for a random drawing to raise money for the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. The tickets will be sold throughout the school day for \$1 from October 31st through the Friday night football game on November 4th. The winners will be announced the following Monday at school. Prizes include a TJ letter jacket provided by the PTSA and donations from local businesses.

Noteworthy Dates

<p>November</p> <p>2 CAC Community Meeting (7:30 - Auditorium)</p> <p>2 Apples for Teachers (Hospitality Refreshments)</p> <p>4 First Grading Period Ends</p> <p>4 Academic Letter reception (8th period)</p> <p>5 Diversity Committee Meeting (11:30 – Library)</p> <p>)7 to 8 Student Holidays</p> <p>10 Principal's Coffee (9:30 - Cafeteria)</p> <p>10 National Honor Society Ceremony (7:30 - Auditorium)</p> <p>11-13 Virginia PTA Annual Convention (Tysons Corner)</p> <p>11 National Merit Semifinalist Reception (2:00)</p> <p>12 Cabaret and Silent Auction [Choir] (6:00 – Cafeteria)</p> <p>14 Human Relations Committee (4:00- Career Center)</p> <p>14 PTSA Meeting (7:30 – TJ Library)</p> <p>15 ANGP Committee Meeting (7:00 - Career Center)</p> <p>15 Research Lab Night for Parents (7:30 – Auditorium)</p> <p>16 Band Banquet (6:00 p.m. Cafeteria)</p> <p>17 Student Services Advisory Board Meeting (7:00 - Library)</p> <p>17 Knight of One Axe (7:30)</p> <p>18 Knight of One Axe (7:30)</p> <p>19 Craft Show [Crew] (10 – 4:00 – Cafeteria)</p> <p>19 Knight of One Axe (7:30)</p> <p>19 Newsletter submissions due for next issue</p> <p>23 Early release at 10:30.</p> <p>24-25 Thanksgiving Holidays</p>	<p>December</p> <p>2 Viennese Ball (Cafeteria)</p> <p>6 Tax Advantages of Charitable Giving workshop (6-9:00 – Room 116)</p> <p>7 CAC Coordinating Group (7:30, Career Center)</p> <p>7 Senior Night for students and parents (7-9:00 – Auditorium)</p> <p>8 College Kick Off meeting (7:30)</p> <p>12 PTSA Executive Board Meeting (7:30 - Library)</p> <p>12 PTSA General Meeting (7:30 - Library)</p> <p>12 Concert: All bands and Jazz I (7:00 - Auditorium)</p> <p>13 Diversity Committee Meeting (7:00 - Career Center)</p> <p>15 Orchestra Holiday Concert (7:00 – Auditorium)</p> <p>20 ANGP Committee Meeting (7:00 - Career Center)</p> <p>20 Newsletter submissions due for next issue</p> <p>23-31 Winter Vacation</p> <p>January</p> <p>16 King's Birthday Holiday</p> <p>27 Student Holidays</p> <p>30 Student Holidays</p>
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Check List

- PTSA membership card anyone? Please contact [ptsa.membership at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.membership@tjhsst.edu). We will be happy to mail it to you.