
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology



Tech cetera

January 2006

<http://www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/Newsletter.htm>

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Students;

As I write this, we are preparing for the Winter Holiday. It is the perfect time to express my thanks for the many ways that you support our school both individually and collectively. The many parent volunteers who help us on a daily basis truly make the difference between a good and great school. We are blessed with wonderful leadership in our PTSA, many Booster groups, and our Jefferson Partnership Fund. The contribution of your time and resources truly makes a difference in the quality of the education we can provide our terrific students.

This fall we have focused on two school-wide character education themes for our students: DOING THE RIGHT THING and being both SMART AND GOOD. I am grateful for a talented faculty and staff who daily model these concepts for our young scholars. During this season of both thanksgiving and religious celebrations, we are especially mindful of our many blessings as a school and community. What a privilege we have to attend, support, and work in such a fine school with so many generous, creative people who truly care about one another.

So as we prepare to celebrate yet another New Year, we do so with a humble and grateful heart. How wonderful to greet a New Year with the expectations of thousands of young minds who are just beginning to realize how much they have to contribute to a better, more peaceful world. May the joy of the holidays be yours throughout a new and exciting year of life and learning. May your New Year be blessed with good health and happiness and lots of good books!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year,

[Elizabeth V. Lodal](#)

Principal TJHSST

Topic of next PTSA meeting:

State of the Building issues

Read

http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/Bldg_Initiative/BldgInitiative_FactFinding_Oct05.pdf and come voice your concerns. Jan 9th, 7:30, Auditorium.

President's Message

Happy New Year to our TJ Community!

We hope you had an enjoyable winter break and we would like to wish you all the best for 2006. We also hope that our students, staff, and volunteer parents return to school rested, refreshed, and ready to continue making a difference at TJ! While the Building Initiative Parent Committee has been trying to notify the TJ Community about our dire building issues, we are finding that there is a grassroots effort from concerned supporters to encourage people to sign the petition. This is motivating us to increase our efforts by meeting with Fairfax County leaders and giving them a tour of the school to show them first hand the repairs and improvements that need to be made. Please continue making people aware of the situation by visiting our website and signing the online petition. (See [Building Initiative](#) for location.)

TJ PTSA has taken on the mission of making sure that FCPS provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff. We also feel that the school building is in disrepair, outdated and cannot sustain the increased demands from our current student population and the increased enrollment for the next few years. The PTSA leadership believes that if we work together with our Fairfax County leaders, our building needs will be recognized and corrected so that TJ can continue providing an outstanding academic learning environment for students and staff. I invite each member of the TJ community to join us as we ask the County and State to address these issues and hopefully **they** will DO THE RIGHT THING by listening to our concerns and taking appropriate action.

We will be holding our January 9th PTSA Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium in order to provide a presentation on the Building Initiative with a Q&A period afterward. It will be a regular business meeting, but we are allowing additional time for these important matters. We would like to thank the TJ parents, teachers, and students who have signed up to speak at the School Board's Capital Improvement Plan Public Hearing on January 17th, to voice their concerns about TJ facilities. TJHSST is on the CIP renovation plan for 2011, however, we believe more can be done to repair and replace items NOW. Please let us know if you have concerns about any building issues or recommendations for improvements at our January board meeting.

The TJ PTSA Board is very appreciative of our wonderful parent volunteers and wishes to thank you for your support during these first few months of school. As we move forward with our mission of improving the school building, we will need your support even more. We are hopeful that the steps we are taking now to improve TJ, will benefit students this year, as well as future TJ students.

Thank you for your continued support of TJ and the PTSA!

[Debbie Kilpatrick](#)
PTSA President

PTSA Update

Membership

Parents, teachers and students continue to join the TJHSST PTSA. At press time, membership reached 1,413, which represents 808 families and 57 faculty members. Membership dues contribute to 16.6% of the school's PTSA budget, as well as help fund the state and national PTA. The National PTA reports a membership of about 6 million.

When TJ parents join the PTSA, they join the national, state and district PTA's. Members are entitled to receive the traditional membership card. This card provides members, as stated on the card, 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, and more; and
6. The Member-to-Member Network, connecting members to Congress on real-time public education issues and concerns.

To receive your national PTA membership card, please send an e-mail with your mailing address to [ptsa.membership at tjhsst.edu](#).

Help Wanted: PTSA Nominating Committee

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the PTSA nominating committee. The committee will propose the slate of PTSA officers for the 2006-2007 school year. The committee will meet a few times during January and February and then propose a slate to the board in mid-

March. Please let Debbie Kilpatrick know ASAP if you are interested in serving on the committee. [Ptسا.president at tjhsst.edu](#). The Executive Board will elect the nominating committee at the January 9 board meeting.

Fairfax County Council PTA

The Fairfax County Council meeting was cancelled for December, due to weather conditions. January meeting contents will be summarized in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, we continue to compile a list of parent volunteers to help linguistically diverse parents become active partners in their children's education process through our PTSA Cultural Liaison program. Please let me know if you are interested in sharing some of your time to help other parents who might be experiencing difficulties due to linguistic barriers. I will be happy to help find answers to questions you cannot readily answer. Conversely, if you know of some parents who may be in need of assistance, you can also give me a call. TJ Fairfax County Council Representative, Esther Yook, 703 642 0233.

Serving the TJ Community

Volunteers

Signing Bonus for JLC Volunteers!: Now we have your attention we need for you to know that we still do not have enough people on our JLC morning team. We need parents to monitor the tutor rooms as well as the library, gym and other areas. You do NOT need to tutor – TJ students do that – but you do need to be the adult present in the room or the space cannot be open to the students. All we ask is for you to be at school at 8:00 a.m. on a Thursday morning and sit in your assigned location for the 50 minutes of JLC time; you can leave again by 9:00 a.m. You can "job share" and come every second week if that works better for your circumstance.

Please urgently consider joining our happy team! Contact us to find out more about the job...and the special signing bonus! Cindy Carter and Dorry Emmer [ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](#)

Building Initiative

Parents - Have you signed our Building Initiative Petition yet?

To find out more about the PTSA building initiative, we invite all interested parents to the regular PTSA meeting on **Monday, January 9th at 7:30 p.m.** in the Auditorium. We will show you a power point presentation highlighting what we have found out so far regarding the immediate and short term needs of our building (with many revealing photos!). Please also review our web site at <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/> and sign our online petition at

<http://new.petitiononline.com/tjptsa/petition.html>, which addresses both the short-term health and safety needs of the students and the long terms issues with our school building.

Thank you to everyone who has emailed me and passed along your own personal experiences with the TJ building. Please keep them coming as I am documenting all these examples of things that need to be fixed within the building. We will compile all these concerns and pass them along to our school officials in upcoming meetings. In addition, a number of parents and students are now signed up to speak at the CIP public hearing on January 17th which is about the Capital Improvement Plan for the county school system. We intend to point out just how badly we need a new TJ building.

Also, If you signed up to speak at the CIP Public Hearing, please contact me via email

We look forward to seeing you at the PTSA meeting in January to discuss this issue further.

[Bernadette Saperstein](mailto:Bernadette_Saperstein@ptsafirstvp.tjhsst.edu), 1st PTSA Vice President, [ptsafirstvp at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsafirstvp@tjhsst.edu)

Class News

2006 – Seniors

Attention seniors and parents of seniors: Tickets for the All Night Grad Party (ANGP) are now being sold. It is our goal to have the entire class attend; we only have about a fourth of it so far! The party is a fun, safe way to celebrate your graduation from TJ. Come for the great activities, the camaraderie, and the prizes.

Envelopes are hanging in the Senior Hall, near the cafeteria, with forms to buy the tickets (\$90) and two emergency forms that are necessary for you to attend the party. Pick up whichever forms you need and return them (with payment) to the ANGP mailbox in the front office. Congratulations to Kamala Ghadiyaram for winning the drawing for a free ticket to the party. If you have any questions about tickets please contact Karen O'Connor at [karen.oconnor at fcps.edu](mailto:karen.oconnor@fcps.edu).

2007 - Juniors

Upcoming Events:

- Mr. Colonial: Come see TJ wizards compete in the annual Mr. Colonial competition on January 13th in the Main Gym.
- Capitol Steps: Get ready for the funniest night of your life! Enjoy comedy and laughter as you experience the incredible talent of the Capitol Steps, a musical, political satire group, 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 26, in the TJ Auditorium!

- Also: Please continue to support the SGA charity for Oceans Springs High School in Mississippi. Their school, as well as the entire school district was devastated by Hurricane Katrina and we are helping them get back on their feet. Stay tuned for upcoming clothing, toiletry and other necessary item drives as the school year progresses. Thank You.

Academic News

Japanese Program

- With the New Year upon us, I am happy to share with you the activities the Japanese program has been doing: On November 30th, the Japanese club hosted an "All-you-can-eat Onigiri for Katrina Fund," Onigiri is a very common Japanese cuisine, and is referred to as "rice balls" in America. Officers of the Japanese Club prepared and provided the ingredients for the event, which consisted of seasoned rice and seaweed. Close to 60 Jefferson students participated and collected about \$200 in donations for Katrina victims.

- The New Year is the most important holiday for Japanese people. One of the New Year's traditions is to write New Year's cards. Japanese students participated in the annual Nengajo (New Year's card) Contest sponsored by the National Council of Japanese Language Teachers (NCJLT). I would like to congratulate Jefferson's first and second place winners: Most Artistic: Jessica Lee (J2), Alisha Sharma (J1), Most Comical: Colin Buss (J5), Seon Moon (J3), Most Original: Kelley Hecker (J1), Dana Lee (J1). These six Nengajo were forwarded to NCJLT to compete against other cards submitted by high school Japanese language students in the United States. Wish us luck!

- Another tradition for the New Year is to write calligraphy. This year, students in Japanese 4 and 5 classes wrote their new year's resolutions in calligraphy. It was a First for many a student. Some of their works are displayed with some of the Nengajo in the library display case during the first week of January.

Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu! A Happy New Year!

News Round-Up and Awards

STUDENTS

- This year Fairfax County encouraged more females to participate in **golf** and sponsored three nine-hole tournaments for them at Twin Lakes Golf Course. In the first of these tournaments TJ senior Alex Hoeft placed first. In the third tournament junior April (Sun Young) Park shot a one under par 34 to take first and Alex tied for second. In addition, Alex Hoeft competed in the Virginia State Girl's Tournament at the Independence Golf Club in Richmond, VA. Congratulations to both girls.

- TJ junior Christie Falco has been nominated as one of 21 students in FCPS for the **William & Mary Leadership Award**, which recognizes students who demonstrate leadership both in the classroom and in their communities.

- Congratulations to the TJ **Chess Team** for their great performance at the National Youth Action Tournament held in Atlanta, Georgia in November. Team members were Eddie Lu, Byron Hood, Akul Kannan, Emma Pierson, Jacob Steinhardt, Ved Basu, Swi, Raparla, Nick Loffredo, and Jeff Zhang. Together they took home a total of 17 trophies and 5 plaques, including the team's trophy for their 3rd place finish in the event.

- Congratulations to the cast and crew of "**Enigma Variations**" for their performance at the Virginia theatre Association one-act play competition. Special congratulations to students Brad Wergley and Annie Brown for being chosen as all-star cast members.

- Congratulations to **tjToday** Newspaper for achieving the honor rating "All-American" from the National Scholastic Press Association. This is a first in Jefferson publications history! In addition, the tjToday staff also achieved Trophy Class for the third year in a row from the Virginia High School League. Trophy class is the highest-level award for all publications in the state of Virginia.

- TJ's **Chess Team** finished 3rd in the Nation in the recent National Youth Action Chess Tournament held in Atlanta, GA in November. The team consisting of students Bryon Hood, Edward Lu, Jacob Steinhardt, Atul Kannan, Emma Pierson, and Ved Basu finished a scant ½ - point out of first place among a tough field of teams after 9 rounds of chess. TJHSST has been a VA State High School Champion for several years running.

- In November TJ had over 19 students (the most in the region from one school) participating in the **Senior Regional Orchestra**. These students were selected by blind auditions earlier in this school year. 3 of the 19 students held the First Chair and Second Chair Violist position and the First Chair Principal Flutist position.

- Students Dan Schafer and Justin Solomon with teacher Mr. Dale Hamby presented their research projects to leading simulation and training industry minds the last week in November and early December at the 2005 **Interservice/Interindustry Training, Simulation and Education Conference** in Orlando Florida. Their trip was paid for by the company SAIC. This year I/ITSEC show was projected to draw over 16,000 visitors, making it one of the largest defense industry tradeshows in the world.

- Congratulations to TJ's **A & B Math Teams** who competed at the Duke University Math contest. They took first and second places respectively. Special congratulations to student Veronica Pillar and Menyung Lee who were in a four way tie for first place individual high scorer at the meet.

- The TJ Partnership sent TJ students; Alexis Cook, Aanchal Raj, and Peter Traverson along with teacher Dr.

Brian Kennedy to Bangkok Thailand to participate in the first **Thai International Science Fair** in November.

- The Siemens Foundation in collaboration with the College Board announced that five TJ Seniors qualified as Semifinalists in the 2005-06 Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science, and Technology. Sandeep Das, Lisa Marrone, Ankur Sisodia, Justin Solomon, and Winston Yan were among a select number of high school students recognized for outstanding research-based projects.

ALUMNI

- Alumni David Banh 04' has been featured in an article in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin entitled, "King David, David Banh is the 2005 King of Bridge". He had been a driving force behind the re-organization of the TJ 8th period Bridge Club. He now holds the rank of NABC Master, and also serves on the Northern Virginia Unit board as the youth representative. He is now a freshman at the University of Virginia.

- TJHSST class of '93 graduate Mike Montemerlo was the software lead on the Stanford Team which won the \$2M prize in DARPA's Autonomous Vehicle Grand Challenge contest.

- Sam Feller 03' won a full scholarship from the Department of Homeland Security.

- Janet Kim 05' will be published in the *The Best Teen Writing of 2005*, a collection of the best student's works of writing from the The Scholastic Writings Awards of 2005 in which her manuscript was selected from one of the 411 national nationally-recognized manuscripts from student award recipients.

FACULTY

- Mr. Shane Torbert a TJ teacher since 2001, who teaches AP Calculus, AP Computer Science, and Artificial Intelligence, has been selected as one of 21 winners nationwide for the Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished High School Mathematics Teaching by the Mathematical Association of America. Mr. Torbert was nominated by TJ students: Jesse Geneson, Peter Diao, Menyung Le, and Veronica Pillar.

- Dr. Omar Acio was recognized by the Carleton College as a teacher who most influenced a student's development by former TJ student Michael J. Feinberg 05'.

- Teaching staff member Neil Kelly earned his National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in 2005. To date a total of 244 Fairfax County Public Schools teachers have earned National Board Certification from the NBPTS.

Reflections

Reflections program was a big success this year. There were about 146 entries. The Reflections committee would like to thank all the participants for taking time

out from their busy life to do something extra. The school level results are out and the winners have gone to the council level. Please look for the time and date for the reception to be held in the honor of all the participants. Congratulations to the following winners:

Literature: 3rd place - Jesse Geneson, 2nd place - Swathi Manchikanti, 1st place - Zixuan (Jennifer) Wang; **Music:** Honorable Mention - David Kim, 3rd place - Emily Anna Wetzels, 2nd place - Colton David O'Conner, 1st place - Adam Ross Lederer; **Photography:** Honorable Mention - Timothy James Carey, 3rd place - Aanchal Raj, 2nd place - Helen N. Ye, 1st place - Andrew David Clark; **Visual Arts:** Honorable Mention - Susan Lee, 3rd place - Ildiko To'th, 2nd place - Abigail Schuhart, 1st place - Benjamin Kuebrich.

TJHSST Partnership Fund

Raising the Ceiling for student research....

The Partnership Fund is pleased to announce a major corporate gift from the **ExxonMobil Foundation**. ExxonMobil's gift of \$15,000 will enable the acquisition of an Ultraviolet/Visible Spectrophotometer that will advance Jefferson student research in the 2005/2006 academic year. Special thanks to TJ parents Elisabeth Vrahopoulou and Bob Jepsen for their leadership commitment to a TJ/ExxonMobil research collaboration.



TJ Parents and ExxonMobil employees Robert Jepsen (left) and Elisabeth Vrahopoulou (right) present ExxonMobil Foundation's \$15,000 donation to Joan Ozdogan, Jefferson Partnership Fund's Executive Director, and Joshua Strong, Division Manager Science and Technology.

Another new corporate partner **LanceSoft Inc. of Reston, Virginia** wishes TJ a happy 20th birthday with a \$5,000 donation to advance student research in Information and Computational Sciences.

These gifts come on top of another major in-kind donation of equipment from **National Institutes of Health** on December 7th that includes four Sun Microsystems network servers (Computer Systems Lab), two microscopes with cameras (Biotechnology Lab and

Biology Classrooms) and stainless steel rods and other valuable metal stock (Jefferson's Prototyping Lab) originally valued at \$308,707.

Lead Gift from Alumni Parent for TJ's Russian Language Program to Begin Plans to host faculty and students from PSKOV University in Spring '06

Henry Barratt, parent of William ('03) has made a generous gift of \$5,000 to jump-start an alumni and current parent appeal to fund six Pskov University guests at TJ later this spring. Since 1995, Russian Language Teacher Betsy Sandstrom has been leading Jefferson students and parent chaperones on a bi-annual trip to Russia. The highlight of this Jefferson Spring Break Trip has been a 3-day stay in Pskov and visits with Pskov Pedagogical State University (PPSU) faculty and students. In March 2005, TJ and PPSU celebrated the two schools' ten-year educational partnership in Pskov. Over the past decade nearly 350 Jefferson students have benefited from this educational and cultural exchange program. Current parent Sandy Ylinen (and her son, Scott '06) participants in the Spring 2005 trip are working along with Mr. Barratt to raise \$12,000 to sponsor an educational exchange visit by Pskov's Dean Anna Bizaeva and selected Pskov students at TJ this spring. For more information on how to support this special guest program, contact, Joan Ozdogan at jkozdogan@tjhsst.edu or 703.750.8317.

Happy 20th Birthday TJ – End of (Calendar) Year Appeal!

Thanks to all those who have contributed to the Jefferson Partnership Fund's End of (Calendar) Year Appeal. There's still time to respond to this birthday appeal (though itemizers will have to deduct contributions on your 2006 tax return). If your donation form has gone astray, you can download a donor form or donate by credit card online at the Partnership Fund's website, www.tjpartnershipfund.org/donate.php#mail. Results of the appeal will be announced in next month's *Techcetera* and all donors will be recognized on the Partnership Fund's bulletin board in the Main Lobby of the school. Help us to wish TJ a very happy 20th year with your thoughtful gift.

Jefferson Partnership Fund Hosts Guided Lab Tours –

The Partnership Fund's first lab tour of Jefferson's science and technology labs was held on Nov. 11, conducted by Science and Technology Division Manager Josh Strong and Jefferson Partnership Fund Executive Director Joan Ozdogan, and followed by a luncheon with Mrs. Lodal. If you would like to participate in a future tour please contact the Chairman of the Parent Committee, Ernie Isenstadt, at 703-847-4711 or EJILoch@aol.com.

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters

- Thomas Jefferson's academic teams continue their winning ways. TJ's Varsity Math Team swept in a recent competition at Duke University, taking first and second place over 30 other teams from many states. The TJ A team of Jesse Geneson, Peter Diao, Men Young Lee, Veronica Pillar, Daniel Schafer and Hai Tao Mao placed first. The B team, including Winston Yan, Calvin Hayes, Freddy Mako, Evans Xiang, and Jack Wang and Jeff Chen, placed second. Tied with two others for top individual scorer were Veronica Pillar and Men Young Lee. Hai Tao Mao had the highest individual score of any sophomore at the competition.
- TJ's debaters also continue to shine. At the national competition level, TJ debaters now routinely make it past the preliminary rounds and into the playoff rounds. At the Princeton Debate Tournament in early December, Teddy McNeil made it into the playoff rounds in the varsity division and Girish Rajagopalan made it into the playoff rounds in the JV division. Locally, two more of our debaters -- Daniel Chavez and Francis Deng -- have qualified to participate in the league's Metro-Finals tournament in March 2006.

Support our great academic teams by joining Academic Boosters Questions? Contact Boosters' president Andrea Field at afield@hunton.com.

Band Boosters

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: Congratulations to band members John Jarvis and Miles Wiley for their academic accomplishments. We apologize for omitting their names from last month's article.



TUBACHRISTMAS 2005: In December, TJ tuba and euphonium players: John Sherwood, Jack Breese, Olivia Walch, Veronica Pillar, Joey Holloway, Colton O'Connor, Lisa Anderson, and Kristin Sourbeer participated in the annual TUBACHRISTMAS concert at the Kennedy Center. They joined area musicians, both students and adults, to

promote the versatility of their instruments and enjoy "a camaraderie envied by all other instrumentalists."

Winter Showcase, February 18, 2006: TJ Band Boosters will host the Winter Showcase, a full-day competition featuring the talents of over 50 Winter Guard and Drum Line units. Participants and their families come from throughout the region. Spectators are welcome.



Advertise in the Winter Showcase Program: Business owners, please advertise with us. 700 programs will be distributed at the Winter Showcase. Advertisements (in black & white) and personal messages addressed to TJ's Showcase performers will be featured in the programs. Ad space is available as follows: 1/8 page, \$20, 1/4 page, \$35, 1/2 page, \$60, and full page, \$100. Camera-ready artwork and payment are required by January 25, 2006. Contact showcaseads@cox.net and the applicable order forms will be emailed to you.

Support Band Fundraisers: Citrus Sales: tjcitrus@hotmail.com, Scrip/Gift Cards: PLLEE10@aol.com, Innisbrook Wraps, Gifts, and Chocolates: bdlauder@earthlink.net (order online at www.innisbrook.com (school number 110170)).

Colonial Athletic Boosters

Four TJ athletes received Washington Post All-Met honors for the fall. Senior Stephany Reaves was chosen to the second team in cross-country. Honorable mention selections were junior Paul Norland and sophomore Brian Landry for cross country and senior forward Ruth Isenstadt of field hockey. Congratulations!

The TJ wrestling team has had a great start to the season. They won the first two home openers against South Lakes and against Washington and then they were off to the Nova Classic. Freshman Mike Howard brought home a 7th place medal in this tough 32 man bracket tournament. TJ came home from the Bishop Ireton Holiday Classic with 8 individual medals and the overall second place team trophy. This is the first in a long time that TJ wrestling has brought home a team trophy! In addition, Sophomore James McConnaughey won the Outstanding Wrestler of the Tournament. Congratulations to all of our wrestlers who medaled. Our two remaining home matches are Wednesday, January

11 vs Marshall (senior night) and Saturday, January 14 vs Bishop Ireton and Falls Church. Come out and support your TJ wrestlers.

Girls Basketball: Having lost six seniors to graduation this past year, and with one of the two returning seniors out for the season with an injury (we miss you, Ryan Mowery), the Lady Colonials have a young team in a new, experienced division. Captains Mowery, Katie Gofus, Veronica Holland, and Annette Dekker have tried to overcome these obstacles. We thank the fans for the extraordinary student support the team has had in the cheering section. Case in point, with a game out of reach, new varsity member Megan Stapleton hit a 3-point shot, the cheering was infectious. Hopefully this kind of support will continue each home game.

The TJ **gymnastics team** took 1st place at its first meet of the season at South Lakes High School. TJ senior, Hannah Wolford, was the 3rd place individual overall winner at the meet.

The date of the next meeting has been changed to January 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Crew Boosters

As 2006 begins, TJ Crew is in the middle of their winter training regimen to prepare for the upcoming rowing season. Winter training runs Monday through Friday after school from 4:00 to 6:00 in the cafeteria. Some TJ rowers plan to participate in the Mid Atlantic Erg Sprints on Feb 4 at George Washington Middle School in Alexandria.

There are still opportunities for interested students to join this year's Crew. An information meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the TJ Cafeteria. Both students and parents are encouraged to attend. Experience and year in school are not factors--anyone can join TJ Crew--most who join have never rowed before. If you have any questions, stop by a winter training practice or contact Head Coach Matt Shoop at shoop2@cox.net



If you have any general questions about the team or the TJ Crew Booster organization, please check out the team web site at <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/crew/> or contact Mark Peterson, Crew Booster President, at markpusafb@gmail.com.

Theater Boosters

The New Year brings several early opportunities to enjoy TJ Theatre presentations. The **Shakespeare Troupe** production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, the Bard's romantic comedy of love amidst confusion, will run January 19, 20, and 21 at 7:30 p.m. The cast list for the show, directed by students Phil Arevalo and Megan Behm, is on the Drama Boosters website at <http://arts.tjhsst.edu/theatreboosters/shows/muchado.html>.

Continuing the comedic theme, **TJ Drama** presents *Get Smart*, featuring the antics of everyone's favorite secret agents, Maxwell Smart and Agent 99 as they battle KAOS. The show, directed by Drama sponsor Vincent Pollet and student director Elizabeth Stone, will run February 24 and 25 and March 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. The cast list for *Get Smart* will be posted on the Drama Boosters website by the time you read this.

Announcements and Information

Senior Parents as Resource

Do you want your own personal tutorial on the college application process? Need to talk to someone with experience in selecting a tech lab or deciding how many AP courses to take? Need help learning the TJ jargon that your child is using? SOLUTION: How about some quality time with a senior parent? Join the All Night Graduation Party (ANGP) team. ANGP is not limited to senior parents and in fact, relies heavily on the participation of the entire TJ family. The ANGP needs freshman, sophomore and junior parents to learn about the ANGP event by participating in planning, setting-up, running and cleaning-up. Every year, we want this to be the best party our kids have ever seen because they deserve it. Parent participation year after year can only make the event better and better. Besides, what better opportunity to learn from veterans of the TJ experience than to paint decorations while chatting about the ups and downs of summer college tours? Have you wanted to be more involved in the TJ community, meet more TJ PARENTS, build lasting friendships with other parents who are going through a similar experience? Don't you want to go to graduation and KNOW another family at the event? The ANGP team is a flexible arrangement for parents to participate in the TJ experience. To volunteer, please call Cindy Jubinsky (David Canner's mom) at (703) 425-5764 or Beavigator@msn.com.

Parent-to-Parent Discussion Panel

On January 11, 2006 the Student Services Advisory Board will host a Parent-to-Parent Discussion Panel to discuss the college application process from the parent's point of view. The panel will be made up of TJ parents that have been through the application process and will consist of personal presentations followed by a Q&A period. The program will take place in the Auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m. and conclude between 9:00 and 9:30. Topics to be covered include: financing college, the interview process, safety schools, helping students deal with stress and emotions, state vs private college, large vs small, tech vs liberal arts, early action, early decision and regular decision, as well as other items. For questions contact karen.oconnor@fcps.edu.

Refrigerators?

The Athletic Boosters is in desperate need of a new refrigerator for the concession stand. If you have one you can donate, we have a way to move it. Please contact Barb Sando at sando.bh@pg.com.

2006 Summer Enrichment Fair

The event will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at the Robinson Secondary cafeteria (5035 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax, VA). Admission is free.

Many representatives from camps listed in the Guide will be there to discuss their programs. Other camps have sent materials for display. (Check www.fcag.org in case of inclement weather. Tentative snow date: January 18, 2006, same place same time.) For more information contact Nancy Levonian, Fair Coordinator: nlevonian@cox.net.



Note on @s: All @s in this publication have been changed to " a " to discourage email harvesters.

Noteworthy Dates

<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Classes begin 3 Band Boosters Meeting (6:30, Band Conf. Room) 4 CAC Coordinating Group (7:30 p.m., Career Center) 5 Research Lab/Mentorship Presentation for Junior parents (Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.) 9 PTSA Executive Board Meeting (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 10 Diversity Committee Meeting (7:00 p.m., Career Center) 10 Athletic Boosters Committee Meeting (7:00 p.m., Library) 11 Parent to Parent Panel on College application and admissions process (7:30 p.m.) 13 Mr. Colonial Competition (Main Gym) 16 King's Birthday Holiday 17 ANGP Committee Meeting (7:00 p.m., Career Center) 18 Band Showcase: Drumline & Winter Guard (Gym I) 19 Much Ado About Nothing (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 20 Much Ado About Nothing (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 21 Much Ado About Nothing (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 23-26 Semester exams 25 Course guides distributed to 9th & 11th grades 25 Newsletter submissions due for next issue 26 Second grading period ends 27 & 30 Student Holidays (teacher workday) 28 SAT I & II Testing 	<p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Curriculum Night for Parents, 7:30 (snow date: Feb. 8) 3 Report cards distributed 6 Sophomores/counselors meet – course selection review 18 Winter Guard and Drum Line – Gym I 13–24 Freshmen meet with counselors to register for courses 20 Washington's Birthday Holiday 24 <i>Get Smart</i> (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 25 <i>Get Smart</i> (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 <i>Get Smart</i> (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 4 <i>Get Smart</i> (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 26 Capitol Steps (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) <p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Student Holiday 10 to 14 Spring Break <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19-21 Birthday Celebration Super Weekend 29 Memorial Day Holiday
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**TJHSST All Night Grad Party
Don't Miss the Boat!**

Saturday, June 17, 2006
(Following the Graduation Ceremony)

Ticket Price: \$90 per student

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Parent's email: _____

TICKET PRICE \$ 90 \$ _____

(includes 1 Senior Highlights Video & 1 engraved Jefferson Cup)

Additional Donation \$ _____

(Because ticket prices do not cover the cost of the party,
Additional donations are greatly appreciated!!)

TOTAL \$ _____

Make Checks payable to "TJHSST All Night Grad Party". Your cancelled check is your receipt. No paper tickets will be issued. A list of those who have paid for tickets will be posted on the website.

Return to: "Grad Party" mailbox in front office OR mail to
Karen O'Connor
13448 Brookfield Dr.
Chantilly, VA 20151

Ticket Questions? Contact Karen O'Connor 703-631-4716; email: karen.oconnor@fcps.edu

Visit our website for more information:
<http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/>

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<http://www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/Newsletter.htm>

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Ptса.membership at tjhsst.edu

Letters to the Editor: ptsa.newsletter at tjhsst.edu

Have you ever wondered what the ANGP is all about?

The All Night Grad Party is TJs alcohol- and drug-free all-night celebration. Immediately following the commencement exercises for the Class of 2006 on June 17th the newly graduated seniors will have the whole night to be treated to a grand and memorable party with their classmates. The school is transformed with color, music and elaborate props to present a theme to make for one unforgettable night. Parents of the senior class organize and supervise the party, with significant participation by the junior, sophomore and freshman classes. The night will ensure a memorable and action-packed conclusion to your student's four-year journey through TJ. More importantly, it will keep our grads safe and will be the source of many wonderful memories for years to come.