
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

TJHSST
PTSA[®]

Tech cetera

March 2006

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

Principal's Letter

Dear TJ Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Students:

February at TJ was a swirl of student activities from creative Valentine goodies to our amazing Science Fair and winter competitions of the Academic, Athletic, Drama and Forensic teams. In the midst of all of this our students launched their new academic semester and continued to demonstrate uncanny abilities to juggle a variety of demands while still keeping their eye on the goal of academic achievement. Our Academic team is both district and regional champions. As new members of the Liberty District, TJ is the District champion for both the women and men's Indoor Track and Field teams and the men's Swim and Dive team. The women's Swim and Dive team and the Gymnastics' team came in second with all teams advancing to Regional playoffs. Our Drama program also won second place for their first District recognition in many years and will advance to the Regional competition. These achievements reflect the talent of our students and the dedication of their coaches, sponsors, and parents who spend many selfless hours helping to make our students' dreams come true.

We have also marked another, quieter achievement of true significance. After TJ stopped its aggressive, but secret, affirmative action program in the late 1990s, the school suddenly had fewer African-American (2-7) and Hispanic students (7- 10) in each class. Four years ago, we enrolled our first class that was subject to the FCPS School Boards' mandate to expand our enrollment by 30 students per year from underrepresented middle schools in the hopes of improving TJ's diversity. We were thrilled when the class of 2006 had 10 African American and 17 Hispanic students admitted. We were finally back into "double digits" which would enhance the diversity of our student body and enrich the learning experience for all students.

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President's Message

Dear TJ family and friends,

We have been making great strides over these past few months with our building initiative, our online petition and informing our community about the health and safety issues facing our students and staff. We are pleased to report that there has been a more focused plan by FCPS to repair and replace several items throughout the school during these past few weeks. However, the list of repairs is very long and costly due to the age of the building. The needed replacements of bathroom fixtures and water fountains have been noted as renovation items and will not be replaced by FCPS until the building is renovated around 2016 or beyond.

We have had to deal with air vents falling from the gym ceiling barely missing our students, theater lights in the auditorium having to be taken down before falling onto the audience, and we continue to be concerned about the safety hazards of the refueling station being so close to our school. We are continuing our mission to advocate our building needs with legislators in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia.

In late January, a TJ delegation made up of students, faculty, our principal and PTSA leadership, visited the General Assembly in Richmond to educate our Northern

Virginia legislators on the different problems facing our school. Each legislator we met stated their support of TJ and wondered how they could be of service to us. We let them know about our building needs and asked for their support.

Photo: Anne Dewey-Balzhiser, Judy Stocks, Senator Janet Howell, Principal Elizabeth Lodal, Debbie Kipatrik and Melissa Schoeplein.

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(Principal's Letter continued)

Yet sadly during their Freshman year at TJ, our new African American students were subjected to accusations that worthier students should have been admitted and that TJ's admissions process was biased in favor of minorities. The legal journal article that made these accusations was sent to many local leaders and picked up by newspapers causing a school and community uproar.

I mention this very painful moment in TJ's history because, in the time that has passed since these students were singled out for ridicule, these same students have quietly distinguished themselves as fine leaders and scholars at TJ. We recently learned that 9 of these now Senior students have earned the prestigious distinction of Achievement Scholars by the College Board, which selects the most outstanding African American high school students in the nation for this award. These same young people have become outstanding scholars in science and the humanities. They are the leaders of a variety of clubs, drama, and athletics and are clearly among the most well loved students at our school. Recently FCPS released a study that showed TJ reversing the achievement "gap" with a higher percentage of our African American and Hispanic students enrolled in our highest level academic courses than white and Asian students.

So during the waning days of Black History Month, I wish to salute these fine young people who kept their 'eyes on the prize' of academic excellence and have quietly but firmly proved their critics wrong. They have demonstrated that they are more than worthy to be students at TJ. On behalf of everyone at TJ, I extend my congratulations to them and to all of our other students and staff who reached out and demonstrated the kindness and compassion that are such important qualities of our TJ school community. You have all been trailblazers, even now in the 21st Century, as we continue to try to live out our American creed that we are created equal "with liberty and justice for all".

May March be a harbinger of Springtime and renewal in every aspect of your lives. I will look forward to seeing you at our many March events.

Elizabeth V. Lodal
Principal TJHSST



First there were old vents....

(President's Letter continued)

After our parent interest meeting in early February, we have now formed two PTSA parent groups who will be working toward different goals for TJ. I would like to thank these parents for volunteering to help achieve our goals. Of course, we will need to gain the support of our legislators to accomplish these goals. We are continually reaching out to our legislators in order make them aware of our situation and continue to ask our TJ community to make the effort to contact their local legislators and ask for their support.

What does the future hold for TJ? This will be the topic of discussion during our March PTSA Parent Forum to be held on **Wednesday, March 22** from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. The format will be similar to a Town Hall Meeting with invited legislators and FCPS representatives who can help us determine what vision Fairfax County has for TJ, how TJ will meet the specialized academic needs of its overcrowded student enrollment, on-site placement of additional trailers scheduled for the summer, and coping with needed improvements in the school building. Please join us for a very informative evening. Questions or Suggestions, please send to: [ptsa.forum at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.forum@tjhsst.edu)

Another important date to remember is **Sunday, May 21st**, when the PTSA will host a TJ Community Celebration and Picnic in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of TJHSST. We will partner with the Alumni Association and the Partnership Fund as we wish TJ a Happy 20th Birthday! Please join us for an exciting afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. More details about the planned activities will be available in our April newsletter. **Mark your calendars!** If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer, please email [ptsa.tj20 at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.tj20@tjhsst.edu).

Due to the snow and school closings, it was necessary to cancel our February PTSA Board meeting, but we would like to invite you to our March 13th meeting at 7:30 p.m. The new nominated slate of PTSA officers for 2006-2007 will be presented with elections to be held at our PTSA Board meeting on May 8th.

Thank you again for your continued support of the PTSA in our efforts to improve our TJ environment.

Debbie Kilpatrick
PTSA President



Then, they fell down barely missing the students...

PTSA Update

Highlights from PTSA Meetings

The monthly PTSA Board Meeting scheduled for Feb. 13th, had to be cancelled due to snow. The next meeting of the PTSA will be on March 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Library where the following items will be presented and discussed:

- Status of School Building Initiative spearheaded by the PTSA
- Details on the March 22nd PTSA Parent Forum **"What does the future hold for TJ?"**
- Approval of Slate of PTSA Officers for next year, 2006-07
- Draft Guidelines on Student Allocations as per Faculty Allocations Committee
- Reflections Program Update

Membership

- As of February 12, there are 1,443 TJHSST PTSA Members: 1,385 family and 58 faculty.

Fairfax County Council PTA

At the FCCPTA February board meeting, the two issues of twice exceptional children's education and school readiness were highlighted, with a motion to have a presentation on both of these issues approved by the board members. The General Membership Planning group is preparing for a conference on "Reducing the Achievement Gap" with surveys to be given to all FCPS principals, which will be reported at the conference.

Internally, at TJ our PTSA Cultural Liaison Project has been getting requests from counselors and teachers to relay messages to parents, and vice versa in different languages. If you would like our assistance in facilitating communication, or if you know of someone who may need our services, please e-mail me, Esther Yook, at [eyook at umw.edu](mailto:eyook@umw.edu).

FCPS Proposed Budget FY 2007 in CD

The TJHSST library has received a copy of the FCPS Proposed Budget FY 2007 on CD-ROM. It is available for check-out by PTSA members.

PTSA Building Initiative Continues!

Thank you to the parents who attended our brainstorming session last month. After some general discussion, we broke into two groups: one focused on immediate needs and the other on the long term vision for the future TJ building. The group leading the efforts on our long term vision for TJ will be meeting again and

taking a field trip to a newly designed school in Arlington as part of their research. Please contact Debbie Kilpatrick at [ptsapresident at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsapresident@tjhsst.edu) if you want to get involved with this. In the immediate needs group, we split up some tasks to be done such as collecting more information on the history of problems with the building, taking more photos, putting together a presentation to take to school board members and facilities staff highlighting all the worst aspects of the building. We also decided on a set of priorities which we would like to see action on soon.

While some progress has been made, we are still in need of additional help, particularly if you have any connections with businesses that could help us, e.g. construction industry, home improvement business etc. Please drop me an email if you can give us a hand in any way and don't forget the online petition which we will be presenting to the school board: <http://new.petitiononline.com/tjptsapetition.html>

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

Serving the TJ Community

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has been hard at work seeking nominations for elected positions on the TJHSST PTSA Executive Committee for the 2006 – 2007 school year. The committee has contacted many, many TJ parents who expressed a desire to serve on the PTSA or who were recommended by other PTSA members. It was refreshing to see how many TJ parents are willing to support the PTSA, if not by serving in an elected position, then in some other capacity.

In accordance with the PTSA By-Laws, the committee will nominate an eligible person for each office to be filled (President, First VP, Second VP, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer). The slate of officers will be presented at the March 13th PTSA meeting and elected at the May 8th meeting. The new officers will assume their official duties following the close of the June meeting.

Volunteers

Want Ad: Two Volunteer Coordinators Needed!!!

Job description: BEST volunteer job at TJ! Match the skills and availability of TJ parent volunteers with the appropriate volunteer opportunity. Much of the work can be done via email and telephone. Computer skills helpful but not necessary. TJ has many dedicated and capable parent volunteers. There is now electronic sign up for

volunteers to indicate their area of interest. Coordinators use the Volunteer Database to access this pool of willing volunteers. Volunteers can also recruited by advertising volunteer opportunities in the monthly PTSA newsletter and by attending various TJ functions, such as Back-To-School Night, Principal's Coffee, etc. Job starts in June with full training provided by the incumbents. Some summer hours required to prepare for start of school. Compensation: meeting and working with the most awesome parent volunteers and the most dedicated and appreciative teachers and staff! Interested? Yes, of course, you are!

Please contact Cindy Carter and Dorry Emmer at [ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.volunteers@tjhsst.edu).

Thank you to OPEN GYM Volunteers: TJ has a group of dedicated parents who supervise Open Gym every day during lunch and on Thursday mornings during JLC. Some parents come one day per week, some every other week, and some are backup when the regulars can't make it. In every case, these parents make a special trip to TJ so our students can use the gym when they would otherwise not be able to do so. Our thanks go to: Shelley Adler, Cindy Anderson, Gertrud Bojo, Sallie Casto, Lewis Cook, Joanna Dooris, Kim Hansen, Susan Regalbuto, Dori Richers, Mike Sanders, and Diane Ungerleider.

TJ@20 Great Expectations Dates

TJ@20

Saturday, May 20th:
Gala Fundraiser - George Mason University

Sunday, May 21st:
Community Celebration & Picnic
Alumni & Faculty Author Book Signing
Alumni & Faculty Art Exhibit
Chorus, Band & Orchestra Performances
Birthday Cake Decorating by TJ Clubs
Food Concessions and Children Activities

Join the Celebration of 20 Years of Educational Excellence at TJ! For information contact: Joan Ozdogan at 703-750-8317 or [jkozdogan at tjhsst.edu](mailto:jkozdogan@tjhsst.edu)

Virginia Governor's Schools Host Reception for Legislators

On January 30, 2006, the Friends of Virginia Governor's Schools hosted a reception for Virginia Senators and Delegates at the General Assembly in Richmond. Representing TJHSST were: Tom Hay, SGA Vice President, Brodie Pearson, SGA Policy Coordinator, Cheli Bleda, SAC Representative, Will Tarpeh, Sophomore Vice President, Christianna Hay, Freshman Class President, Melissa Schoeplein, SGA Sponsor, Elizabeth Lodal,

Principal, Debbie Kilpatrick, PTSA President, Anne Dewey-Balzhiser, PTSA Legislation Chair, and Judy Stocks, PTSA Legislation Committee. During the past few years our PTSA, working with the TJ administration, has tried to raise the student enrollment cap for State funding from 1200. At the present time, TJ is funded for approximately 1500 students, even though we have 1736 students currently enrolled. The other Virginia Governor's Schools are fully funded for all of their students. Due to the projected increased student enrollment over the next few years, we are now asking that either the State eliminates a cap for Jefferson or to raise the number of funded students to 2000.

Our delegation met with legislators located in districts representing TJ students and emphasized the importance of the Governor's School programs for our students. We also shared with them the news about the dilapidated condition of our facility and our vision of a new TJ in the future. They were supportive of TJ and concerned about the state of the building. It is going to take the support of our State legislators to help build a new TJ and it was important to share our vision for the future with them during our General Assembly visit.



Left to right: Melissa Schoeplein, SGA Sponsor, Tom Hay, SGA Vice President, Christianna Hay, Freshman Class President, Brodie Pearson, SGA Policy Coordinator, Senator Richard Saslaw, 35th District, Principal Elizabeth Lodal, Cheli Bleda, SAC Representative and Will Tarpeh, Sophomore Vice President.

Landscaping

While Mother Nature has been resting, so have our hearty volunteers. Spring is coming and with it TJ's Anniversary in May. Our future plans include planting some hardy and low maintenance perennials near Braddock Road and, as always, weeding. We'd love to welcome some new volunteers! Students can earn hours toward community service time required. If you would like to join us in this beautification effort, please email Michele Pitler TJ PTSA Landscaping Co-chair at [Mb1955 at aol.com](mailto:Mb1955@aol.com)

Student Services Corner

The next Student Services Advisory Board meeting will be held in the TJ Library on March 16th, at 7:30 p.m. Join us for another interesting evening of discussions covering issues regarding our school and children. If there is anything you would like to have added to the agenda for the meeting, please e-mail me at [karen.oconnor at fcps.edu](mailto:karen.oconnor@fcps.edu).

All Night Graduation Party

New Theme and Web site: This year's ANGP has a new theme "A Night with the Stars" and a new Web site – <http://www.tjhsst-angp.org/>. Visit the site for general, ticket, volunteer, donor, contacts, rules and other information about the party and for ticket, donor and other forms.



Senior Parent Volunteers Needed: Only 200 senior parents out of 800 have volunteered so far. It takes over 800 parents to plan and run the ANGP. ALL parents are needed, spouses included. "Many hands make for light work".

Check Your Mail and Contribute: All senior families are being sent a contributions package in March. A large part of the ANGP is funded by parent contributions. Not all families can afford to contribute, so if you can please contribute generously. All your contributions, whether monetary or of time and talent, are greatly appreciated.

Junior Parents Needed: Junior parents are desperately needed to help on the day of the All Night Graduation Party (June 17th) so that senior parents can attend graduation ceremonies and attend to out-of-town guests. Junior parents are also needed so they can learn how to put on a fantastic ANGP for their student and their graduating class next year. Visit <http://www.tjhsst-angp.org/> for more information or email [beavigator at msn.com](mailto:beavigator@msn.com) to volunteer.

Academic News

Foreign Language News

In preparation for an important regional tournament, the Foreign Language Department held try-outs to select the students who will represent TJ on March 25, 2006 at **Modern Foreign Language Tournament** taking place this year at George Mason High School in Falls Church.

In French, the selected students were:

- Catherine Ferraren and Kami Golding for French I-Category *Oral Interpretation of Prose and Poetry*
- Maddie Whittle, Rose Zu and Laurent Groskaufmanis for French II Category *Oral Interpretation of Prose and Poetry*
- Vinitra Rangan, Zahra Sayyid and Kevin Ng for French III – Category *Oral Interpretation of Prose and Poetry*
- Athira Nair, Rachel Eibott and David Tang in French III – Category *Original Skit*
- Corinna Pan, Sharon Ulery and Natasha Singh in French IV Category *Oral Interpretation of Prose and Poetry*
- Eleni Orphanides, Zack Yang and Sarah Davis in French V Lit. Category *Oral Interpretation of Prose and Poetry*

In Spanish, the selected students were:

- Susan Lee, Srilakshmi Karuturi and Tilani Lowman for Spanish II Category *Oral Interpretation of Prose and Poetry*
- Steven Chen, Sara Kim and Oleg Lazarev for Spanish III Category *Oral Interpretation of Prose and Poetry*
- Michael Murphy, Margaret Summers and Kaitlyn Scott for Spanish IV Category *Oral Interpretation of Prose and Poetry*
- Arjun Sreekumar for Spanish V and Lit Category *Oral Interpretation of Prose and Poetry*
- Daniel Chavez, Katie Tyson and Megan Ammirati for *Dramatic Interpretation*

The first week of March is traditionally "**National Foreign Language Week**", to celebrate learning other languages, and at the same time reiterate the multiples benefits of a strong FL component in a balanced curriculum. Stay tuned! The TJ FL clubs and Honor Societies are busy planning school wide events.

The first months of the year are also the time for all the **National FL exams** or contests that our TJ students take each year.

- The National German Exam has already been taken by most of the students in our TJ German program
- The National Spanish and French exam will take place in March
- The Latin National Exam will also take place in March.

Our students participate also in many other *Certamens* and language competitions, such as the **National Russian Essay Contest**, or the **Japanese Bowl**.

Good Luck to all the teams and individual students!

PTSA Parent Forum

"What does the future hold for TJ?"

March 22nd, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Auditorium.

Class News

SGA

The SGA is pleased to announce that the student body has reached its goal of raising \$10,000 to donate to the Bush Clinton Katrina Fund. Several clubs, sports teams, individuals, and classes contributed to the fundraising efforts. We are also continuing our partnership with Ocean Springs High School in Mississippi.

Last month, SGA launched its Blackboard discussion site to get student opinion on Homecoming concerns and dance issues. The SGA is also gearing up to plan J-Day (May 26th this year). We are also getting ready to announce the time line and procedures for the spring election cycle for next year's SGA officers.

Finally, the SGA has created a Student Dance Committee to address issues such as appropriate dancing, safe volume of music, and TJ's guest policy. In order for the committee to create the most beneficial solutions to all members of our school community, it is important to also hear parent opinion. Please send any comments you may have on these topics to Sophomore Class President Ariel Lepon who is chairing this committee [ariellepon at cox.net](mailto:ariellepon@cox.net) . Thank you!



Principal Lodal accepting the SGA's check for the Katrina Fund

2006 – Seniors

Letters were sent home to your parents regarding graduation dues and graduation gown orders; make sure you follow up on those! As of now, we have 248 of the 411 seniors who have paid their \$20 dues. Get them in to Mrs. Parnell in Room 239 (checks can be made out to TJHSST; put your name in the memo line). If you need to turn in your height and weight for your gown measurement, email this information to Mrs. Little at [anne.little at fcps.edu](mailto:anne.little@fcps.edu)

- Our *almost* annual Powderpuff football game is coming up, pitting the Super Seniors against the "Just Junior" Juniors. That'll be Friday, March 10th at 7 p.m., and the Sadie Hawkins dance is right after (you know,

the one where the girls hit the gridiron and ask the boys to the dance afterward?).

- Also, the annual TJ Talent Show is March 31st at 7:30 p.m., and will be better than American Idol and Dancing with the Stars combined! Last auditions for acts will be March 1st, and are open to any TJ student. It'll be fun for everyone, so grab your friends and family and come watch some amazing performances!

- TJ's seniors continue their outreach efforts! The Class of 2006 will be collecting new and used SAT and ACT prep books for students in the Ocean Springs community effected by Hurricane Katrina. Our goal is to support students who will be taking the SATs in May and June. Therefore, we will be collecting these books from March 1st through March 17th. There will be drop-off boxes in the library as well as in the cafeteria. The books can be written in, but please use your judgment as to the condition of the book before sending it. Please donate only books that focus on the new SAT. In addition, please keep a lookout for notices about collection of SAT II and AP preparation books as a part of this drive.

- Buy an All-Night Grad Party ticket now! Forms and information are available at the senior intersection. Also, be sure to check our bulletin board regularly for more updates!

- In case you are counting the days.... Prom is June 9th at Westwood Country Club. Graduation is June 17th at The Patriot Center at George Mason University, and Governor Tim Kaine will be the keynote speaker.

2007 - Juniors

Upcoming Junior Events:

- Powder Puff game and Sadie Hawkins Dance, March 10th.

- A hip, in touch, and always hilarious political comedy group, the Capitol Steps are once again coming to TJ on March 26th! Buy your tickets starting February 27th. The price is \$20 dollars per person, and \$15 per person for groups of 20 or more (groups by presale only). Checks should be made out to TJ memo "Class of 2007". Call TJ for more information.

2008 – Sophomores

- The Sophomore class is fervently working on our largest fundraiser of the year, the Silent Auction, which will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the evening of April 28. The evening will be centered around a "World Market" theme. If you are willing to volunteer or make a donation, please contact one of our silent auction chairs at: [08silentauction at gmail.com](mailto:08silentauction@gmail.com).

Ethics Forum

Who: All Sophomores

What: Ethics and You, Third Annual Ethics Forum

When: 13 March 2006 (Monday)

Where: George Mason University

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Buses depart from TJ at 8:45 a.m. TJ parking information will be distributed prior to the date).

Scheduled Speakers:

- Dr. Matthew Kluger, GMU (Keynote), Vice President for Research, George Mason University
- Dr. Herbert Lin, (Cyber Ethics), Senior scientist and senior staff officer at the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board, National Research Council of the National Academies
- Dr. Maryrose Franko (Science Ethics), Senior Program Officer, Graduate Science Education Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- Mr. Ron Axelrod (Personal Ethics), Staff Development Coordinator from Community of Caring
- Mr. J. David Hobbs (Educational Ethics), Chair of the University of Virginia Honor Committee

We would like to thank Price-Waterhouse for their generous contributions through the TJ Partnership Fund for transportation and thank the PTSA for providing funding for lunch for the students and parents. Our parent volunteers make this off-campus trip possible so thank you to all of our parent volunteers. Questions about this event can be addressed to [robinwilson at cavtel.net](mailto:robinwilson@cavtel.net).

2009 - Freshman

A Parents' Information & Support Planning Meeting for the 2009 Freshmen Lock-In has been set for Thursday, March 23, at 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Refreshments will be served beginning at 7:15 p.m. Conducting the meeting will be faculty advisors, Ms. Nancy McCormick and Ms. Judy Bello, as well as class officers.

The Freshmen Lock-In will be held May 12-13, 7 p.m. – 6 a.m., in designated areas of the school. The theme for the traditional, TJ-student-bonding event is *Cities across America*. Ninety parents will be needed to chaperone in three groups of 30 for the following shifts: 7-11 p.m.; 11 p.m. – 2 a.m.; and 2 – 6 a.m. (Times will be firmed up by the March parents' meeting.) If you would like to commit to a shift, please e-mail Ann Besson, [bessons at cox.net](mailto:bessons@cox.net). Thank you for those who have already signed up!

News Round-Up and Awards

- **National Merit Finalists:** Boone Adkins, Rahul Agarwal, Ashleigh Allen, Jacqueline Andros, Tara Benesch, Yang Bian, John Bird, Andrew Bowman, Michael Bradshaw, Annemarie Brown, Anna Bryan, Annie Burnette, Rebecca Butler, Peter Cabrera, Lauren Caldwell, Joseph Camarda, David Canner, Jose

Chaparro, Daniel Chavez, Chen Chen, Deborah Chen, Yidan Chen, Stephen Chi, Margaret Darocha, Devraj Dasgupta, Megan DeBettencourt, Peter Diao, Anna Draganova, Courtney Dressing, Robert Du, Elina Edson, Sarah Edwards, Peter Elliott, Geoffrey Emmer, Cecilia Esteban, Christoph Etschmaier, Eli Evans, Elizabeth Faubell, Benjamin Field, Berit Fitzsimmons, John Flatness, Spencer Fogg, Daniel Foster, Jeremy Freid, Julia Fukuyama, Jesse Geneson, Alice Gissing, Alexander Godofsky, Samuel Gross, Leslie Hansen, Catherine Hartman, Calvin Hayes, Elizabeth Heartney, Steven Herbst, Jessica Ho, Thomas Hsu, Elizabeth Hwang, Jooyeon Hwang, Dallas Joder, Matthew Jones, Akshay Joshi, Harry Kashdan, Jessica Kim, Daniel Koch, Neel Kotra, Tracy Kovach, Benjamin Kuebrich, Lindsay Lavenhar, Rachel Lazarus, Nam Le, Steven Le, Adam Lederer, Men Young Lee, Natalia Lerner, Daniel Levick, Timothy Loffredo, Ke Ma, Jesse Markowitz, Lisa Marrone, James Mathews, Ruth Metzler, Sophia Mian, Emily Miller, Rachel Miller, Raamin Mostaghimi, Joshua Mullins, Michael Murphy, Doan-Thu Nguyen, Jonathan Nussbaum, Colton O'Connor, Sonia Oh, Gregory Osborn, Long Ouyang, Kalyan Parthasarathy, Sarah Penney, Alexandra Perez, Veronica Pillar, Christina Powell, Andrew Punnoose, Matthew Pyrak, Daniel Quinn, Anna Rafferty-Fore, Vikram Rao, Bryan Rau-Jacobs, Stephany Reaves, Hannah Ro, Colleen Rossier, Rachel Ruskin, Aaron Salls, Daniel Schafer, David Scherzinger, Kaitlyn Scott, Charlotte Seid, Karen Shiells, Melissa Shue, Sarina Siddhanti, Gina Siddiqui, Sally Simms, Whitney Soble, Justin Solomon, Brian Stewart, Elizabeth Stone, Tyler Stukenbroeker, Peter Swigert, Ariana Tabing, William Tamaro, Dan Tran, Katherine Tyson, Colin Veit, Maxim Veytsman, Jocelyn Vu, Iris Warchall, Jeffrey Weaver, Miles Wiley, Wesley Williamson, Kirsten Wittkowski, Hannah Wolford, Jeeyoung Won, David Woolston, Steven Wright, Yu Xiang, Winston Yan, Elizabeth Yang, Jesse Yang, Tiffany Yeh, Anna Yergat, Meera Yerramilli, Megan Zagrobelny, Alice Zhang.

- **National Merit Achievement Finalists:** (For African American students only) Oluseyi Ayorinde, Alexis Cook, Nicole Gates, Ruth Kidane, Lindsey Leake, Christina Powell, Stephany Reaves, Robert Yamoah, Darren Ziegler.

- Dr. Richard Deivert, a TJ Staff member working with the Central Office, has selected four stellar students to participate in the **Keystone Center Policy Summit**, June 17th through the 24th, 2006: Cindy Wei, Mali Kane, Yang He, and Aras Jizan, four sophomores, will be doing research on the Summit topic: Child and Adolescent Nutrition in America's Schools, Focus on Obesity throughout the spring. Each student has a special research assignment and is assigned to get involved with local, state, federal, corporate, and non-profit stakeholders in this topic. In June they will meet with thirty six other students from nine other schools in

Keystone, Colorado to craft policy in response to this topic. The Summit is co-sponsored by the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools in Science, Mathematics, and Technology. If you are interested in more information visit ncsssmst.org.

▪ Congratulations to the following students for qualifying for **District Choir**: Keith Ainsworth, Stephen Amman, Jacqueline Andros, Adrienne Arditti, Peter Ban, Lillian Blotkamp, Amanda Cain, Emma Fuller, Erin Godla, Paul Grimm, Michael Hill, Timothy Hunter-Kilmer, Kate Kirschner, Diane Lee, Casey Little, Stephanie Marris, Emily Miller, Alex Pham, Patricia Rupinen, Sarah Salino, Jean-Marie Stewart, Katie Tyson, Pooja Vinayak. The Pre-Festival concert will be held on March 13th at 7pm. at TJ and the District Choir Festival will be held on March 24th.

• Congratulations to all the following TJ Students: Rahul Agarwal, Deborah Chen, Stephen Chi, Jeremy Freid, Christopher Gilmore, Catherine Hartman, Liangkang Hsu, Matthew Jones, Jessica Kim, Lisa Marrone, Rachel Miller, Joshua Mullins, Veronica Pillar, Matthew Pyrak, Daniel Schafer, Sarina Siddhanti, Brian Stewart, Jean Suh, Colin Veit, Joceline Vu, Wesley Williamson, Winston Yan, Elizabeth Yang, Crystal Zheng, who have been selected as candidates for the 2006 **Presidential Scholars Program**. 2,600 candidates from across the country were selected for their exceptional performance on either the College Board SAT or the ACT Assessment. Further consideration is based on students' essays, self-assessments, and descriptions of activities, school recommendations, and school transcripts. A distinguished panel of educators will review these submissions and select 500 semifinalists in early April.

Congratulations to these 2006 TJ Science and Engineering Fair Award Winners!

▪ **Category – Behavioral and Social Sciences:** First Place Team: Tara Benesh and Elizabeth Yang / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi

▪ Second Place Team: Kari Yook and Rathna Ramamurthi / Sponsor: Dr. Wood; Third Place Sarina Siddhanti / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi

▪ Honorable Mention: Alexandra Perez / Sponsor: Mr. Latham, Joonyoung Moon / Sponsor: Mr. Latham, Michaela Rothschild / Sponsor: Mrs. Stevens, Charlotte Seid / Sponsor: Mrs. Wu.

▪ **Category – Biochemistry:** First Place Sarah Wessel / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi, Jean Suh / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi, Julia Fukuyama / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi, Jennifer Wang / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi; Second Place Meghan Donohue / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi, Kalyani Parthasarathy / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi; Third Place Crystal Zheng / Mr. Gaudreault, Randy Wang / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi, Nyla Khan / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi.

▪ **Category – Botany:** Second Place Team: Evan Wilson and Dawei Qi / Sponsor: Dr. Wood; Third Place Yaraswi Raparla / Sponsor: Mr. Charnitski.

▪ **Category – Chemistry:** First Place Team: Deepti Garg and Raillan Brooks / Sponsor: Dr. Kennedy; Second Place Ram Nayak / Sponsor: Mr. Latham, Alisha Tuteja/ Sponsor: Dr. Acio; Third Place Matthew Christian / Sponsor: Dr. Kennedy, Megan Zabrobely / Sponsor: Dr. Kennedy; Honorable Mention Geoffrey Emmer / Sponsor: Dr. Kennedy.

▪ **Category – Computer Science:** First Place Men Young Lee / Sponsor: Mr. Latimer, Daniel Schafer / Sponsor: Mr. Latimer, Team: Tom Morgan, Jeff Chen and Jacob Steinhardt/ Sponsor: Mr. Torbert; Second Place David Levit / Sponsor: Mr. Latimer; Third Place Yu Xiang / Sponsor: Mr. Latimer; Honorable Mention Nadeem Kolia / Sponsor: Mr. Latimer, Deepak Srinivasan / Sponsor: Mr. Lat.

▪ **Category – Earth and Space Sciences:** First Place Team: Megan Ammirati and Amanda Andrei / Sponsor: Mrs. Hennig, Team: Jacqueline Andros, Courtney Dressing & Harry Kashdan / Sponsor: Mrs. Hennig; Second Place Xuefeng Chen / Sponsor: Mr. Latham; Third Place Team: Thomas Hay, Ben Field, and Ajay Ghadiyaram / Sponsor: Mrs. Hennig, Team: Jason Duke, Dan Koch, and Martin Volaric / Sponsor: Mrs. Hennig.

▪ **Category – Engineering:** First Place Charles Cameron / Sponsor: Dr. Jones, Matthew Pyrak / Sponsor: Mr. Latham, Frederick Mako / Sponsor: Mr. Latham; Second Place Boone Adkins / Sponsor: Mr. Latham, Mihnea Birison / Sponsor: Mr. Latham; Third Place Aanchal Raj / Sponsor: Dr. Kennedy; Honorable Mention Team: Brian Mittereder and Shannon Ready / Sponsor: Mr. Rose, Sisy Wang / Sponsor: Mrs. Wu.

▪ **Category – Environmental Science:** First Place Team: Edward Rice & Kareem El-Gohary/ Sponsor: Dr. Wood, Team: Kirsten Wittkowski and Christina Lim / Sponsor: Mrs. Wu; Third Place Helen Ye / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi, Caitlin Sheldon / Sponsor: Mr. Rose, Whitney Soble/ Sponsor: Mrs. Wu.

▪ **Category – Medicine and Health:** First Place Victor Zhu / Sponsor: Dr. Kennedy, Lisa Marrone / Sponsor: Mr. Latham

▪ Second Place Team: Christie Falco and Sydney Wang / Sponsor: Mr. Gaudreault; Third Place Stephen Chi/ Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi, Neel Trivedi / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi; Honorable Mention Team: Casey Little and Emily Hillenbrand / Sponsor: Dr. Cammer, Monica Kumar / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi.

▪ **Category – Microbiology:** First Place Manvi Goel / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi, Angela Zhang / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi; Second Place Zack Yang / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi, Shirley Chen / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi; Third Place Chloe Angello / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi, Ann Caroline McMichael / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi; Honorable Mention Samir Patel / Sponsor: Mr. Lampazzi.

- **Category – Physics:** First Place Winston Yan / Sponsor: Mr. Latham, Sarah Marzen / Sponsor: Mr. Latham; Second Place Colton O'Connor / Sponsor: Mr. Latham, William Slauson / Sponsor: Mr. Latham; Third Place Jessica Ho / Sponsor: Mr. Latham, Jesse Geneson / Sponsor: Mr. Latham; Honorable Mention Maxim Veytsman / Sponsor: Mr. Latham, Vikram Rao / Sponsor: Mr. Latham.

- **Category – Zoology:** First Place Sappho Zoe Gilbert / Sponsor: Dr. Wood; Second Place Team: Nadir Ijaz and Tim Xu / Sponsor: Dr. Cammer, Team: Geoff Kiffe and Akhil Gola/ Sponsor: Mrs. Wu; Third Place Team: Lisa Meintel and James Komen/ Sponsor: Mr. McFaden.

- **Reflections** program was very successful this year with a record 146 entries. There was a reception held for all participants and awards and certificates were given. Cash awards were given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Following is a complete list of all the winners at school and county level. Thank you for your participation.

LITERATURE: Honorable Mention- a tie - Kevin Lin & Lily Hsiang; 3rd place - Jesse Geneson, 2nd place- Swathi Manchikanti, 1st place- Zixuan (Jennifer) Wang; **MUSIC:** - Honorable Mention - David Kim, 3rd place - Emily Anna Wetzell, 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. Awards at **County level:** *Outstanding Interpretation:* Andrew David Clark – Photography, Adam Ross Lederer – Music, *Award of Excellence:* -Zixuan(Jennifer) Wang – Literature, Benjamin Kuebrich - Visual Arts.

TJHSST Partnership Fund

First Alumni Named Fund Awards Faculty Grant:

On behalf of TJ alumni donors **Ian Caldwell (TJ `94) and Dustin Thomason (TJ `94)**, the Jefferson Partnership Fund is pleased to announce that the "2006 Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason Fund for Excellence in Drama, Foreign Language" \$9,000 grant has been awarded to Emmet Rosenfeld, Milde Waterfall and Barbara Wood for their project proposal entitled "**Wood, Water & Stone: Building a Dugout Canoe.**"

Through this exciting new grant program grant one hundred and thirty freshmen will get a "boats-eye view" of history, biology, and technology as they build an authentic Native American canoe using traditional methods at a local historical site in conjunction with the Alexandria Seaport Foundation.

IBET students will discover the rich nexus of cultural and environmental influences that reside in the unlikely form of an age-old wooden canoe as they select and harvest

a tree, use indigenous stone tools to burn and scrape the rough-hewn log, and finish it with pine tar. Even before it hits the river, "Wood, Water & Stone" will send ripples through TJ, our community and beyond.

Parents Are Needed!: The benefits that the Jefferson Partnership Fund has been able to provide to TJ and hopes to provide in the future would not be possible without many generous contributions from our parent community. In the current school year, nearly 25 percent of all parents have donated to the Jefferson Partnership Fund through the Back-to-School and Year-End appeals, United Way/CFC, and the Jefferson Partnership Fund website, www.tjpartnershipfund.org.

We will be working to expand parent participation beyond these levels with a Spring issue of *TJ Partners* in late March, and a Parent to Parent Phonathon in late April. If you'd like to lend your volunteer support to the success of this event, please contact Janet Tener ('09), [janettener at aol.com](mailto:janettener@aol.com), Nancy Carter ('07), [nacarter at earthlink.net](mailto:nacarter@earthlink.net), Cora Yamamoto ('08), [ceyama1 at aol.com](mailto:ceyama1@aol.com), or Ernie Isenstadt ('06), [EJILoch at aol.com](mailto:EJILoch@aol.com).

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters

Victories At Sea and On Land

Ocean Bowl Team Wins!: This year saw the most interest ever by TJ students participating in the Ocean Bowl Team, sponsored by Mrs. Lisa Wu. More than 20 students regularly took part in 8th period meetings, practice competitions and after school activities. The students competed for slots on two teams that competed in the Chesapeake Bay Bowl Regional Competition, sponsored by the 10th annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB), at the American University in Washington, DC on February 11th. Approximately 400 high school teams from around the country compete in 25 regional competitions, with the winners moving forward to the national finals in Monterey, CA in May 2006. The top teams in the regional and national competitions are awarded a variety of prizes and educational trips. Even under the threat of our biggest snow storm this year, TJ teams would not be deterred from competing in the Chesapeake Bay Bowl. Congratulations to TJ's A team, consisting of Captain Wil Kilpatrick (06), Avi Baehr (07), Seth Waddell (07), Helen Zhang (08), and Zack Yang (06), who won the regional competition and an all-expense paid trip to compete in the national competition in Monterey, CA! Congratulations also go to TJ's B team who placed third in the region: Captain Aimee Zhang (08), Catherine Kim (08), Alex Kim (09), Oleg Lazarev (08), and Colleen Zhu (08). **Go Ocean Bowl!**

Band Boosters

Band Concert: Join us Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m.; all curricular bands, except Jazz I, will perform. Admission is free. **First-round qualifiers for class of 2010** are encouraged to attend and enjoy our award-winning band program.

All-District Bands:
Tim Carey, Emily Feeney, Michael Gold, Karen Hamrick, Gina Kim, Daniel Levick, Danielle Murashige, Sarah Peterson, Kristin Sourbeer, Mercedes Taylor, John Jaskot, Jamie Johnston, Tracy Kim, Jacob Kohn, Tyler Stukenbroeker, Peter Westman, Brett Anders, Karen Bullen, Adam Christian, Rebecca Corey, Renee Lipari, Michael

Malinowski, Joseph Muldoon, Katie Ramsey, Katy Reinsel, Colleen Rosania, Rachel Ruskin, Brian Terrill, Seth Waddell, Emily Wetzel, Vanessa Miller, Dorothy Lineer, Nicole Dallaire, Kenny Foster, and Brian Schwenk represented TJ in these selective ensembles. The highly talented students identified in bold-lettering also qualified to audition for the **All-Virginia Band** on February 25, at James Madison University. Good luck!

Winter Showcase: TJ hosted over 50 Winter Guard and Drum Line units from throughout the region. Thanks to many volunteers, this event was a rousing success! Special thanks to event coordinators Ted Zagrobelny and Ilene Slovikosky, and volunteer coordinators Jane Reinsel and Michael Gold.

Delightfully Juicy Citrus: Purchase the tastiest **Valencia oranges** and **Ruby Red grapefruit** available. Last chance to order is March 25; pickup/delivery on April 1. For more information contact: [tjcitrus at hotmail.com](mailto:tjcitrus@hotmail.com), or call (703) 765-4380.

Scrip/Gift Cards: Purchase scrip and/or gift cards at the band concert or during citrus pickup, or contact: [PLLEE10 at aol.com](mailto:PLLEE10@aol.com). See which gift cards are available at:

http://www.toward.com/tjbandboosters/Fund_Raisers/scrip.htm



Pictured left to right: Sponsor Lisa Wu, Zack Yang, Helen Zhang, Captain Wil Kilpatrick, Avi Baehr, and Seth Waddell.

Debate Team: In February the Debate Team qualified yet another varsity policy team (this time, the team of George Leef and Keshav Pillai) to compete in the MetroFinal Championships scheduled to be held on March 17-18, 2006. The Northern Virginia area allows only 16 policy teams to compete in the tournament, and this year four of those teams will be from TJ. Four JV policy teams will also be competing in the tournament. In addition, TJ will be sending five varsity and four junior varsity debaters to compete in the Lincoln-Douglas competition at MetroFinals.

Ivy League Model UN Conference. Model UN team won many awards (including 4 gavels) at the Ivy League Model UN Tournament at the University of Pennsylvania, and the team won the recent CD Hylton High School MUN tournament.



Award winners and the teams two sponsors: retiring sponsor Pat McCarthy and incoming sponsor Jennifer Bain.

Support our great academic teams by joining Academic Boosters. Questions? Contact Boosters' president Andrea Field at [afield at hunton.com](mailto:afield@hunton.com).



Colonial Athletic Boosters

Wrestling: Four wrestlers placed at the Liberty District Championship and will advance to the Regional Championship. Congratulations to Johnny Sando, Liberty District Champion.

Gymnastics: The gymnastic team had a great season, placing 2nd at the Liberty District meet and 5th at the Regional meet on February 15. Hannah Wolford (senior), Caroline Grady (District All-Around 1st place finish) and Gabby Names qualified as individual competitors to Regionals.

Track: Both boys' and girls' track teams trounced the competition to claim the Liberty District meet championship. Double winners included Stephany Reaves and Taylor Bostick, both capturing first in the 1600 and 1000 meter runs. The regular season ended on a very positive note, with the TJ varsity girls basketball beating South Lakes for their first District win. With only two seniors graduating, next year looks very promising, especially since the improvement in the team throughout the season was exceptional.

Basketball: The JV boys basketball team lost another heartbreaker in their final game, as a three-point attempt to tie bounced off the rim at the buzzer. They completed their season with a record of 4-12. Seven of those losses occurred within the last minute of the game, two in overtime.

Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, March 7th at 7:00 in the library. We will be voting on next year's officers and are in particular need of a secretary and treasurer. We would love to have some new volunteers. If your child is involved in sports, consider serving on the board so you have input into where and how the money is spent.

Spring Sports Teams Fundraiser: Silpada Designs Fine Sterling Silver Jewelry. During March and April, you can purchase beautiful, top quality sterling silver and semi-precious stone jewelry, and at the same time, support TJ's athletic teams! Silpada Jewelry is known for its exceptional quality, detailed craftsmanship, and undeniable style. The best thing is that a full 20% of the price goes directly to the teams! Jewelry will be delivered every two weeks through early May. This is a great way to shop for Mother's Day, graduation, and spring/summer birthday gifts!

There are several convenient ways for you to place an order: 1) Stop by the TJ Activities/Athletic Office to view a catalog and make your selection; 2) View the jewelry on line at www.mysilpada.com/susan.mcauliffe, and email your order to [Skozmca at aol.com](mailto:Skozmca@aol.com); or 3) See the jewelry on display in the AudLob from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., on March 22, 2006 (prior to the PTSA Parent Forum), place your order, and take the jewelry home

with you that night! Such a deal! Please tell your family and friends!

Any questions, email Susan McAuliffe (TJ parent/Silpada Rep) at [Skozmca at aol.com](mailto:Skozmca@aol.com) or Cindy Carter (TJ parent) at [cindycarter911 at hotmail.com](mailto:cindycarter911@hotmail.com).
Go Colonials!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Crew Boosters

TJ Crew has completed winter training and is finally out on the water. Although temperatures have been brisk, initial workouts have been very positive as the rowers work toward the first regatta on March 25. Known as the "Polar Bear" Regatta, it will include all of TJ's upper boats while the novices (those who have never rowed in a high school season) continue to develop their rowing skills at practice. The first full competition for our large novice class will be on Saturday, April 1 on the Occoquan River.

TJ Crew has had a great recruiting year, with 127 rowers currently registered. This number includes a large class of 43 freshmen, 22 men and 21 women along with an additional seven novice rowers in grades 10 and 12.



If you have questions about Crew, contact Head Coach Matt Shoop at [shoop2 at cox.net](mailto: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.tjhst.edu/crew/> or contact Mark Peterson, Crew Booster President, at [markpusafb at gmail.com](mailto:markpusafb@gmail.com).

Theater Boosters

TJ Shakespeare Troupe: The Shakespeare Troupe's Spring Show will be *Antony and Cleopatra*, scheduled for May 17, 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for TJ Drama's Spring show, *School For Scandal*, scheduled for April 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m. and April 22 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

TJ Drama: As we go to press, KAOS reigns at TJ. The comedy *Get Smart*, based on the 1960's television show, is being presented on March 3, 4 at 7:30 p.m. Agents 86 and 99 of CONTROL are saving the world from destruction at the hands of KAOS. The show is directed by Vincent Pollet and student director, Elizabeth Stone.



Orchestra Boosters

The TJ Orchestras are preparing for their next concert on March 7 in the TJ auditorium. This concert is in preparation for District XI Orchestra Festival which is scheduled to take place at Centreville High School March 17-18. Festival is an annual event at which each school presents its Orchestras for public adjudication, so in a sense, this is Orchestras "biggest" performance of the year! At this event TJ Orchestras will develop their reputation both musically and otherwise. All members of Symphonic and Concert Orchestras are required to participate in the District XI Orchestra Festival. Parents, friends and family are encouraged to attend these performances which are open to the public. Concert Orchestra will perform Sat, March 18, at 2:15 p.m., and Symphonic Orchestra will perform Sat, March 18, at 5:10 p.m. The Festival concerts on March 18 take place at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Rd, Clifton, VA 20124.

For the March 7 concert in the TJ auditorium, friends and parents of the TJ Orchestras can assure their favorite seating in the auditorium for concerts by becoming an Orchestra "**Whole Note**" sponsor. This level of sponsorship includes concert preferred seating, an Orchestra Boosters membership decal, and a CD recording of Orchestra performances. Contact Marilyn Myers, Orchestra Boosters President, 703-256-0324, [myers8163 at aol.com](mailto:myers8163@aol.com) about becoming a TJ Orchestra sponsor.

On January 6-7, 2006, TJ was the host site of the District XI Junior District Orchestra. 82 students and music teachers from 12 schools, and a guest conductor sequestered for 2 days of practice, learning and

rehearsals. A TJ Orchestra student designed a first-ever Junior District commemorative t-shirt for the event which was available for purchase from the TJ Orchestra Boosters.

Orchestra students are preparing for their spring trip in late March to Boston, MA where they will enjoy sightseeing as well as Boston Symphony concert performances.



Performances

Get Smart, March 3 & 4, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.
Comedy based on TV series.

The Hired Man, March 28, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

British High School to Perform Musical at TJ – One Performance Only!

The British are coming! . . . from the Oundle School in England for a one-night engagement at TJ to perform the critically acclaimed musical *The Hired Man*. One performance only! March 28th at 7:30 p.m.

Announcements and Information

TJ Do the Right Thing Award

In order to encourage and recognize students demonstrating outstanding character and behavior, the Character Education Committee would like to announce the "TJ DO THE RIGHT THING AWARD" for students. Any staff member may nominate a student whose conduct merits special recognition and serves as a model for all students.

Nominations may be made and awards will be given throughout the year. Nomination forms are available on the Character Ed Blackboard site.

Bulería

The Spanish Honor Society is hosting Bulería, a Salsa Dance, on Friday March 3. There will be a professional dance teacher from 7-8 pm. ¡Vengan todos a bailar! Those who have previously signed up will be taking the National Spanish Exam online the last week of March. Applications for the National Spanish Honor Society are now in and initiation will take place sometime in April. The Spanish Honor Society continues to offer in-house tutoring to students studying Spanish who would like help with extra review and practice.

Parents of Students with Emotional Disabilities

If you live in Fairfax County and have a child with the ED label, or a child being considered for ED label, join Email discussion group to share our experiences and discuss educational issues.

For over five years, dozens of parents and guardians from across the county have been having lively, confidential discussions about school issues. Our children are in all grades and levels of service. We can be a tremendous resource for you and hope you will share your experiences with us. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/edfairfax/> or write to Margaret Fisher [jrosenthal2 at cox.net](mailto:jrosenthal2@cox.net).

Science and Engineering Fair

The Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair is open to high school students from Fairfax County Public Schools and private high schools in Fairfax County. The fair will be held on March 17, 18, and 19 at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax, Virginia.

High School Science fair winners from Fairfax County Public Schools and private high schools in Fairfax County are selected by their science teachers to compete at the regional fair. For more information go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/sciengfair/index.htm>.

Exercise bike with flywheel anyone?

How would you like to help two dashing young lads complete the greatest senior tech lab in the world? For our senior tech lab, my partner and I are putting together a pedal powered television. Due to financial constraints we would appreciate if anyone could donate a functioning exercise bike with a flywheel, so we can continue with this project. If you have any questions or are willing to donate a bike you can contact us, Peter and Zakie, by phone at (703) 861-9883 or email at [tupaki0 at gmail.com](mailto:tupaki0@gmail.com). Thanks for your help.

Techstravaganza

On Saturday, April 1st, from 1:00-4:30 p.m., one of Northern Virginia's largest student-sponsored technology fairs, *Techstravaganza*, will be held at TJ.

Visitors are welcome to attend a fascinating session at the TJHSST Planetarium, where an in-depth program about the solar system will be presented on the vast, domed ceiling. The planetarium sessions always serve to delight both the young and the young-at-heart.

Raffles will be held throughout the day to award prizes to participants of the fair, and booths designed for hands-on science fair activities will be available to all individuals attending the event. Over 40 booths will be hosted by various companies and agencies including Exxon-Mobil and NASA. Student booths will be manned by TJ organizations such as the Student Robotics Club, and various labs, such as the home-made motor lab, will also be available for interactive participation at this event.

The fair is a unique opportunity for middle-school pupils to meet current TJHSST teachers and students to learn about TJHSST through their eyes. The fair also provides a creative and relaxed forum for those who share a passion for discussing the "latest and greatest" on the high school front of computers, science, and technology.

Tomorrow's Women in Science and Technology, with the help of several other women's groups at TJHSST, will host the 4th Annual Techstravaganza Science and Technology Fair. The fair is designed to particularly interest female students at the upper elementary and middle school levels in science and technology.

With the fair just three weeks away, visitors are encouraged to check the Techstravaganza website for additional information at <http://activities.tjhsst.edu/twist>. Entry to the exhibition is free of charge. For further information please contact:

Lisa Marrone ([twistcoordinators at yahoo.com](mailto:twistcoordinators@yahoo.com)), Nina Pitkin ([nina.pitkin at fcps.edu](mailto:nina.pitkin@fcps.edu)), Sarah Marzen ([sarahmarzen at cox.net](mailto:sarahmarzen@cox.net)), Vidya Gopinath and Alexis Cook ([techstravaganzacoordinators at gmail.com](mailto:techstravaganzacoordinators@gmail.com)),

Updating Virginia Regulations Governing Gifted Education

The Virginia regulations that govern gifted education are being revised this year (1993 regulations can be read at: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/Gifted/gftregs.html>) By submitting comments, parents of gifted students have a rare opportunity to influence the way gifted children are educated in Virginia. The deadline for public comment through the online forum is

March 8, 2006, but comments also can be submitted by email or hard copy after that date.

Before submitting your comments ask yourself:

- Do you think any statements in the guidelines that use the word "should" (optional) need to use the word "shall" (required)?
- Do you think the current method of identifying gifted students in Fairfax County Public Schools is working well? How can it be improved?
- Does the current system provide a challenging education to all gifted students, including highly gifted students and/or students who are twice exceptional? If not, what might work better?
- Does Fairfax County do a good job of measuring the efficacy of individual GT Centers and base school GT classes? Would above grade level tests improve accountability?
- Are gifted students better off learning in live classes with other academically advanced students their age, in a class with older students, or by themselves at a computer?
- Should Virginia's Department of Education mandate the availability of specific acceleration options for gifted students? Or should schools be allowed to merely "differentiate" instruction for gifted learners in mixed-ability classrooms?
- Should base high schools return to their former practice of offering regular, honors and AP level classes in subjects where there are AP courses? Or do you like the current practice of offering only AP and regular levels of these classes?
- What type of training and academic or other background do you think Virginia should require for teachers of gifted students?

To submit your comments before March 8 go to: <http://www.townhall.virginia.gov/Forum/EnterComment.cfm?Stage=3490>. After March 8, 2006 email Dr. McGonagill at [giftedregulations at doe.virginia.gov](mailto:giftedregulations@doe.virginia.gov) with your comments.

For more information contact Dr. McGonagill ([Barbara.McGonagill at doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Barbara.McGonagill@doe.virginia.gov)) or TJ parent and FCAG President Louise Epstein ([lepstein at cox.net](mailto:lepstein@cox.net)).

Hands-On Science Day

TJ Hands on Science Club is holding its annual activity for elementary and middle school students on Saturday, March 18th at TJ. HOS is sponsored through the Biology Society. in collaboration with some of the other student-led science clubs, such as Biotechnology Club, Greenhouse Club, and Chemistry Society, among others. The HOS is sponsored by Mr. James Rose and Mr. Alex Bagden, two of the Physics teachers. This annual activity is an outreach program hosted by TJ students and is partially funded by the PTSA.

British High School to Perform Musical at TJ – One Performance Only!

The British are coming! . . . from the Oundle School in England for a one-night engagement at TJ to perform the critically acclaimed musical *The Hired Man*. One performance only!



advertising the show]

"*The Hired Man* is based on Melvyn Bragg's stirring novel of Cumbrian and industrial working life, set in the first quarter of the twentieth century. It tells the story of one family's involvement with agriculture, mining and the First World War. Tragic, comic and passionate throughout, this wonderful, choral musical is one of the great, lost British musicals of all time." [excerpt from the Oundle flyer

TJ and the Oundle School initially established their connection as a result of videoconferences between Oundle students and Topics in Globalization students here at TJ. When Oundle decided to take *The Hired Man* on the road to Princeton and New York, the director suggested that they might also perform here.

The TJ Humanities Division jumped at the opportunity to provide a venue for this contemporary musical, to exchange views with British students, and to work with a different high school theater company.

The group will arrive on Monday, March 27th, attend some classes during the day on Tuesday, and perform the play on Tuesday evening.

The author of the play, Melvyn Bragg, has also written "a number of television scripts and film screenplays, including *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 1973 (with Norman Jewison), *Isadora*, and *Clouds of Glory* with Ken Russell. His novels include *The Hired Man* (1969), adapted as a musical in 1984, and winner of the Time/Life Silver Pen Award." [www.contemporarywriters.com]

Howard Goodall wrote the score for *The Hired Man*, which "won The Ivor Novello Award for Best Musical (1985), 4 Olivier Award nominations, in Holland a John Kraaijkamp Musical Award (2001), 7 Waterford International Musical Festival awards and in 2004 the TMA Award for Best Musical." [www.meettheauthor.co.uk]

At TJ we know that a 20th anniversary warrants celebration, but the Oundle School, whose history goes

back to 1556, is celebrating its 450th. A classic boarding school in the British tradition, Oundle is situated in a small market town 80 miles from London. Its students number 1055, ages 11 – 18, and about 80% of the students are boarders. [http://www.oundleschool.org.uk/]

Tickets for the March 28th performance (7:30 – 9:30) will be available starting March 14th in the cafeteria. Prices are \$3.00 for students, \$5.00 for adults, and complementary tickets for faculty and staff. For additional information, contact Ms. Marion MacLean at Marion.MacLean at fcps.edu.

Noteworthy Dates

<p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 CAC Coordinating Group (7:30, Career Center) 3 <i>Get Smart</i> (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 3 <i>Bulería</i> salsa dance (7:00 for lessons, 8:00 dance) 4 <i>Get Smart</i> (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 4 Winter Guard/Drum Line Performance (Herndon) 6 Band Concert (7 p.m., Auditorium) 6 HRC Meeting (4:00 p.m., College Career Center) 7 Orchestra Concert (Auditorium) 7 Band Boosters Meeting (6:30 p.m., Principal's Conference Room) 7 Athletic Boosters Meeting (7:00 p.m., Library) 10 District Band Festival – Combined Intermediate – 8 p.m. – Centreville 10 Powder Puff Game and Sadie Hawkins dance (7 p.m.) 11 District Band Festival – SWE – 1:45 p.m. – Centreville 13 PTSA Executive Board Meeting (7:30 - Library) 13 Ethics Forum for Sophomores (George Mason University) 14 Diversity Committee Meeting (7:00 - Career Center) 16 Student Services Advisory Board meeting (7:30 p.m., Library) 18 Winter Guard/Drum Line Performance – Edison 18 Hands on Science Day 21 ANGP Committee Meeting (7:00 - Career Center) 22 PTSA Parent Forum (7:30-9:00 p.m., Auditorium) 22 Newsletter submissions due for next issue 23 Freshmen Lock-In Information Session (7:30 p.m., Cafeteria) 24–25 Jazz Festival – Chantilly 25 Winter Guard/Drum Line Performance – Hylton 26 Capitol Steps (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 28 The Hired Man (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 31 TJ Talent Show (7:30 p.m.) 	<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Techstravaganza (1 – 4:30 p.m.) 1-2 Winter Guard/Drum Line Competition – North Carolina 3 HRC Meeting (4:00 p.m., College Career Center) 4 Diversity Committee Meeting (7:00 - Library) 5 CAC Community Meeting (7:30 - Auditorium) 6–8 All-Virginia Band and Orchestra – James River H. S. 7 Student Holiday 10-14 Spring Vacation 17 PTSA Executive Board Meeting (7:30 - Library) 18 ANGP Committee Meeting (7:00 - Career Center) 19 Principal's Coffee (9:30 - Cafeteria) 19 Newsletter submissions due for next issue 20-21 School for Scandal (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 22 School for Scandal (2:00 and 7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 28 Silent Auction (6:30, Cafeteria) <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 PTSA Executive Board Meeting (7:30 - Library) 12 Freshmen Lock In (7 p.m.) 15 HRC Meeting (4:00 p.m., College Career Center) 17-19 Antony and Cleopatra (7:30 p.m., Auditorium) 19-21 Birthday Celebration Super Weekend 20 Gala Fundraiser – George Mason University 21 TJ Community Celebration and Picnic 26 J-Day 29 Memorial Day Holiday <p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 HRC Meeting (4:00 p.m., College Career Center) 9 Prom (Westwood Country Club) 17 Graduation (Patriot Center, George Mason University) 20 Last Day of School
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**Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
All Night Grad Party – Ticket Order Form
Saturday, June 17, 2006
(Following the Graduation Ceremony)**

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

PLEASE COMPLETE FULLY AND PRINT CLEARLY

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Names: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Parent's email: _____

TICKET PRICE \$ 90 \$ _____

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

Make Checks Payable to: "TJHSST 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 web site.

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

This form, including the emergency information, must be completed by Parent/Guardian and received by the Committee by June 1st, 2006.

Please address questions to:
Joann Rehm 703-425-9299

Visit our website for more information:
www.tjhsst-angp.org

Phone # during party hours:

(_____) _____

Allergies/Reactions: _____

Medications: _____

Parent/Guardian:

Name Signature

By signing this document, I give my permission for the TJHSST All Night Graduation Party Executive Committee to seek medical attention for my child in the event that I cannot be reached during an emergency.

PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

I understand that participation in the All Night Graduation Party (ANGP) involves public property and that neither the All Night Graduation Committee, nor its parent volunteers, will have any responsibility for the condition of this property. I have been made aware of the purpose of the ANGP, and that its activities include physical games, and agree that, to the best of my knowledge, my child is physically able to safely participate in this Celebration. Also, I have had an opportunity to have all my questions concerning the All Night Graduation Party answered to my satisfaction and I understand that my child will abide by all restrictions and procedures set forth by the Graduation Party Committee.

Student Name (Print) Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature



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!

Order Your Pre-Sale Tickets Today!

Date: Sunday, March 26, 2006

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: TJ Auditorium

Ticket Price: \$20

(\$15 for groups of 20 or more - available through pre-sale only*)

Capitol Steps Pre-Sale Ticket Order Form

Name/ Group Name: _____

Number of Tickets: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Individual Ticket Sale Price: \$20 per person

Group Ticket Pre-Sale Price for 20 or more: \$15 per person

Make checks payable to: TJHSST, Memo line: Class of 2007 Capitol Steps

Mail checks to:

TJHSST
Class of 2007
6560 Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA 22312

***Ordering pre-sale tickets guarantees the best seats in the house! Your name will be placed on a list and your seat will be reserved.**

For more information, contact Sharon Kiang at sskiang@cox.net, (703) 606-3828, or Lisa Weber at RubyRose95@aol.com, (703) 328-1328.

Tech cetera
PTSA Newsletter
TJHSST
6560 Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA 22312

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

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Check List

- Mark calendars for March 22: Parent Forum.
- Join PTSA and support great programs at TJ
- Sign up/update your information with KIT to get updates on school closings, activities
<https://fcps.medianext.com/tjhsst/start.html>.
- FREE on-the-job training for underclassmen parents in preparing and running a great All Night Graduation Party for your student's class. Simply volunteer to help senior parents with this year's party. No experience necessary. More info at www.tjhsst-angp.org.