

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents, Guardians, Teachers, and Students,

Early fall is an exciting time of year for TJ students. Our athletics and activities programs are in full swing, including fun-filled Homecoming festivities during the week of September 24-29. Each year, Homecoming week is truly a spectacular event at TJ and is one where the whole school comes together for the purpose of celebrating our identity as a school and a school community. The Homecoming theme this year was "Me, Myself, and I," where each class identified a unique theme to stand out in the daily activities during the week. Events for the week included: Spirit Days, Pep Rallies, Float, Class Skit, Musical Extravaganza, a Canned Food Drive Sculpture, Spirit Banner, TJ Trivia Competition, and Class Cheer. The week culminated on Friday night with a Bonfire and Half-Time show at the Football Game and then the Homecoming Dance on Saturday Night. We thank those of you who contribute service, time, and space to allow students to be creative and show their spirit in amazing ways.

On October 4, Juan Enriquez, the author of our One Book summer reading, *As the Future Catches You*, will be giving presentations to our student body about the scientific challenges they can tackle in their future due to advances in technology and an understanding of the human genome. The underlying themes align with the skills and values we encourage in our students: critical inquiry and research, problem solving, intellectual curiosity, and social responsibility --CIRPSICSR for short (pronounced sir-sigh-sir). Students have been discussing the book through different perspectives in our curriculum, such as learning how to write a book review in English, understanding ethical implications of manipulating DNA in TA, and analyzing persuasion strategies in Leadership.

The class of 2008 has been preparing three years with Milde Waterfall to run a national conference for science and technology schools on October 18-20 for the National Consortium of Specialized Secondary Schools for Math, Science, and Technology. The conference theme, "Yesterday Never Dies," will highlight presentations from intelligence, science, and technology professionals, including a Panel Discussion on Climate Change Policy on Capitol Hill. TJ will host more than 245 visiting students from 34 schools, where our students will share the unique culture of TJ and give them a tour of area attractions, including a choral concert at the Jefferson Memorial, a riverboat ride, a tour of the US Capitol building, and a visit to the Koshland Science Museum or International Spy Museum.

I look forward to working with you to make this year one we will always remember. Everyone's contributions, at school and at home, help TJ support new and special opportunities for its students. Please join the PTSA and attend its meetings to be informed and involved. Visit with me during my **Parent Coffee on November 7**, from **8:35-11:05 a.m.** in the **Cafeteria**, which will be combined with the **PTSA Executive Board Meeting**. You also can contact me at 703-750-8306 or **Evan.Glazer at fcps.edu** if you have feedback and suggestions that will help make TJ an even better place for learning and growing.

Have a terrific autumn season,
Evan Glazer
Principal

President's Message

The PTSA remains committed to support, to serve, and to engage the TJ community. As we started the year, we set for ourselves some key goals. Some we have already achieved, some are steadily proceeding, and some are on target.

Achieved Goals:

- Produced a comprehensive directory and had it ready by Back-to-School Night! The directory committee, along with freshman parents, alumni parents, Cluster and County representatives, Cultural Liaison members, staff, faculty, and students, all took extra care in making sure that everyone had a chance to be included. Special attention was directed toward our freshman families and those with language barriers.
- Maintaining current information on our website.
- Implemented seamless online membership and contribution process.
- Provided a user-friendly online version of the Emergency form. It is worthy to note that the form was a father/son TJ volunteer effort.
- Reached out to freshman parents and students in a timely manner by organizing county and cluster specific gatherings with current students and parents.
- Supported the TJ commuters by providing carpool lists for summer school and beyond.
- Participated in informational sessions to bridge the communication and cultural gap in our community through the Cultural Liaison Committee.
- Established an effective online volunteer database that takes into account the talent and wide-ranging expertise of our TJ community. It serves as a clearinghouse for volunteers on demand. With the perseverance of the class reps we provided 80+ volunteers for homecoming, including parents who offered their homes for float building, and use of their convertible cars. Since the beginning of the school year, we also have actively provided a steady stream of volunteers to help with all of the students' and faculty needs: chaperones, drivers, landscapers, tailors, data processors, and more to come....

As for our ongoing efforts, please note the following PTSA projects:

- Will continue to manage and update our volunteer database. We encourage everyone to update their profile online as their schedule clears up. An hour of your time will be much appreciated.
- Have decided to add a student scholarships budget item to help support our students' creative endeavors. Committee members are encouraged to contact Robin Howard, our current Allocation Committee Chairperson, and join this effort with ideas and recommendations.
- Will continue to support our wonderful faculty through our faculty allocations. Even though our budget reflects half of what is really needed, we will try to stretch every penny to cover their needs.
- Since this is an important budget year, we have started an informational effort to remind our Fairfax policymakers why it is important for TJ's survival to reduce, if not eliminate, the budget shortfall. TJ gets budgeted for a lesser number of students than it actually serves. This is being done through the PTSA's Government Relations Committee.
- Will continue to keep an eye on the immediate needs and facility repairs through our one-person committee!
- Will encourage you to join the Curriculum Committee as it has an interesting mission for this year and your help is most welcome (see follow up).
- Would like to encourage you to continue supporting your booster clubs, even if your son or daughter does not belong to them. We are told that the Academic Boosters operates on a major deficit.
- Will encourage you to learn about the mission of the Partnership Fund, the history behind it, and make an informed decision about lending a hand.

- Will continue to hold our informative monthly meetings to answer your questions and prepare action plans. All of our meetings are held on the second Monday of every month with the exception of November and March. Our next one will be on **October 15 at 7:30 pm in the library**. We will have light snacks on hand to share with those that come directly from their offices. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Will make an effort to include the voice of the TJ community in statewide issues, by holding General meetings to vote on current issues.

Our community challenge:

Last year we experienced an unusual dip in parent membership. This year we want to see the trend reverse and numbers improve. Will you accept the challenge that at least one student and one parent of each family become a PTSA member? We will publish the class participation statistics in our next *Tech cetera* so stay tuned!

Membership may not have obvious benefits, but it certainly has a deep impact on the PTSA's programs for the year and how effective they can be. In my five years at TJ, I have found that the TJ community embodies the meaning of a true community, perhaps like one mom pointed out, "many hands one community," and that, we are. As some of us are at the last stretch of our student's secondary school career we want to leave a lasting impression of giving, sharing, and creating in order to foster the essence of **TJ for Life**. Research shows us that children of volunteers grow up to become volunteers themselves, so it is a "win-win" outcome.

I invite each one of you to join us on this journey and make the experience truly meaningful for our students and our most esteemed faculty. Please

become a member, give a contribution, then wait and see where it can take us.

I will end my letter by making the following assertion: Each one of us can make an impact on TJ. Get involved, volunteer whenever you can, come to meetings whenever you can, give monetary contributions whenever you can, because the student you help today may become tomorrow's doctor, the doctor that will provide you with that extra special care, the TJ way! And do not forget, the teacher that you send to a specialized conference will come back many folds richer and wiser, and undoubtedly with volumes to share.

REMEMBER, AN INVOLVED PARENT IS ALWAYS AN INFORMED PARENT.

Thank you.
Nassmah Brooks
PTSA president

PTSA Update

Highlights from the September 10 PTSA Meeting

Student Directory: Thanks again go to the many volunteers of the Directory Committee who spent

many hours during their last week of summer and first week of school to generate the Student Directory in order to have it ready for sale and distribution at Back-to-School Night. Almost 1,500 directories were pre-ordered or sold at Back-to-School Night. If you haven't picked up your pre-ordered directory, or would still like to purchase a directory, you may do so in the Main Office. We have printed a total of 2,000 copies, which leaves us with only 500 copies left for sale.

PTSA Membership: The PTSA Membership Committee would like to thank all the members who have joined the PTSA so far! During the recent Back-to-School Membership Drive, 1,300 parents and students, and 43 faculty members

**** NOTICE ****

In order to save mailing costs, the next issue of *Tech cetera* will be available online (<http://www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/newsletter.htm>). If you have signed up for Keep-in-Touch (KIT) email messages, you will be notified by email when the newsletter is available. If you are a PTSA member and would like a printed copy mailed to you, please contact [ptsa.membership at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.membership@tjhsst.edu). If you have already requested a mailed newsletter this school year, there's no need for you take further action.

showed their excitement for supporting PTSA-sponsored activities at TJ, by becoming members of the PTSA. TJHSST has more than 1,800 students. Our Membership goal is to achieve 100% participation by having a minimum of one parent and one student from each TJ family become a member of PTSA. If you are not a PTSA member yet, please join now to support the many wonderful activities the PTSA sponsors at TJ. To join, see the PTSA website:

<http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/> and click on "Support the PTSA".

Faculty and Staff Support: The PTSA funded faculty and staff meals at the Band Boosters Spaghetti Dinner before Back-to-School Night. The PTSA also distributed complimentary copies of the greatly anticipated Student Directory to the TJ faculty and staff on behalf of all of the PTSA members.

Special PTSA General Membership Meeting

A special General Membership meeting will be held with the PTSA Executive Board meeting on **October 15, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Library**. The agenda will be to **vote on a Proposed Statement to be submitted to the General Assembly from the Virginia PTA.**

The Virginia PTA proposes Legislative Action Items and Policy Statements regarding education issues in Virginia. Specifically, Legislative Action Items are requests for the introduction, passage, or defeat of specific legislation by the General Assembly and/or regulations by the Board of Education or other appropriate agencies. Policy Statements are statements of the Virginia PTA/PTSA on general issues and may be used as the basis for addressing issues before the General Assembly, Virginia Board of Education, or other appropriate agencies.

This year there is a proposed Policy Statement. Members of TJHSST PTSA are also members of the Virginia PTA and asked to vote on the Policy Statement. Please attend the PTSA meeting on October 15 to vote on this issue, as well as participate in the monthly Executive Board meeting.

You will be asked to vote Yes, No or Abstain regarding the following Proposed Policy Statement:

Policy Statement (PS) – Virginia PTA supports policy to allow distance and online learning through Virginia DOE approved coursework for credit for K-12 students who are homebound, incarcerated, or in alternative placement.

Rationale:

PTA has long held a position of support to expand educational opportunities for all children to reach their fullest potential. As technology changes, Virginia PTA believes that educational opportunities should be offered through the most innovative means possible.

In the past, incarcerated students and those at home or in alternative programs did not have access to most innovative educational programs. Many courses that were previously offered through correspondence courses are now offered only online or in distance learning labs.

In 2007 the law changed to allow online courses for K-12 students. The Virginia PTA supports this change in policy and encourages more innovative learning opportunities.

If you do have questions, please send them to [ptsa at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa@tjhsst.edu).

PTSA Forum

The first **PTSA Forum** will be on **Wednesday, October 17, at 7:30 p.m.** The topic will be "Navigating TJ: Parents' Tips for Your Four Years." The Forum will bring together members of the TJ community to share their accumulated knowledge of the true TJ experience and the long-term impact of juggling extracurricular activities and academic work. The panel will discuss what role grades play in the final college selection process. Our aim is to share, communicate, help illuminate, be supportive, and responsive to the TJ community's specific needs, including our Principal and his staff. We hope you will join us.

Treasurer's report

The PTSA website has been expanded to allow online membership applications, directory sales (until Back-to-School Night) and donations. Payments are accepted through the vendor Paypal. Responses to date have been very positive with a high level of donations. We are now able to accept credit cards and are expecting to offer them as an additional method to pay for jackets.

Projected PTSA expenses for the year will be \$53,435 on net revenue of \$41,600. The variance results from the higher than expected carryover from the prior year as well as new budgeted expenses for online costs and for student scholarships.

Serving the TJ Community

Volunteers

Volunteer Opportunities: We are still accepting online sign-ups for volunteer positions, for both new and returning parents. Please check out the list of committees and activities on the PTSA website and choose something that interests you. There are many ways to be involved in the life of TJ. In addition to weekly and monthly positions, there are opportunities for one-time-only commitments, so you may participate even if you have limited free time, and we'd love to have you! Thanks to everyone who has already contacted us.

If you have any questions about how to sign up or about the various positions available, please contact Volunteer Coordinators Rajni Goel and Jill Cook at [ptsavolunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsavolunteers@tjhsst.edu).

Library Volunteers Needed: We would like to offer students an opportunity to use the library between **4-6:30 p.m.** to work on projects and class activities. **We cannot do this without parent help.** Please contact parent coordinator Mary Phillips ([mphillips11 at cox.net](mailto:mphillips11@cox.net)) **if you can volunteer during these times.**

Hospitality Committee: We are ready for the busy season and would like to have you join us! Our first fall event is **Apples for Teachers on Thursday, October 11.** We are filling baskets full of juicy, crisp apples and a few fall goodies for the

faculty. This is a great way to show the teachers how much TJ parents appreciate the teachers' dedication to our kids. We need your home baked goodies or other creative donations and help. Please contact us at [agalvin06 at gmail.com](mailto:agalvin06@gmail.com) if you would like to donate or volunteer to help.

Government Relations Committee: The Government Relations Committee is helping to plan a Legislative Appreciation Day in early December. Invited guests include the senators and delegates who represent each of the jurisdictions that participate in our school. If you would like to help, please contact our Committee Chair, Anne Dewey-Balzhiser, at 703-578-3998 or [TJGovtRelations at cox.net](mailto:TJGovtRelations@cox.net).

Landscaping Committee: Many thanks to all the hardworking volunteers who keep the gardens around TJ looking beautiful. We hope you are especially enjoying the pansies and petunias by the Main Office, as well as the herbs and native flowers by Braddock Road.

Weekend landscaping workdays:
Saturdays, October 6 and Nov 10, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Weekday landscaping work days:
Mondays, October 15 and 29, and Tuesdays, October 2 and 23, 9 a.m. to noon

Come join us and make some new TJ friends while we plant, weed, mulch and water. No experience required. Students, parents, and siblings welcome. Please contact Carol Miranda, [cnsmiranda at hotmail.com](mailto:cnsmiranda@hotmail.com) for details.
Students earn community service hours.

Check the Landscaping website for details.
<http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsacommlandscape.htm>

Curriculum Advisory Committee

Following their first meeting of the school year, the Curriculum Advisory Committee is looking for parent feedback and involvement.

The Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) is an advisory to the TJ Principal and faculty on curricular

issues. The CAC serves the school in the following ways.

- Serves as a sounding board for parental and student concerns about policy issues related to the curriculum.
- Provides feedback to the school on draft versions of strategic plans and other documents as they pertain to curriculum issues.
- Assists with the ongoing school improvement initiatives by actively working with the Academic Goals Committee to implement the School Improvement Plan.
- Works to expand intellectual connections of TJ with the external scientific, engineering, and technological community for the purpose of increasing opportunities for student mentorship experiences and facilitating other intellectual partnerships.
- Performs other tasks as appropriate and as requested by the TJ administration.

Membership in the committee is open to everyone in the TJHSST community who wishes to assist in the committee's work.

The first meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) was on September 12, 2007, and attended by Dr. Glazer, Mrs. Sondel, and a number of parents. Dr. Glazer and Mrs. Sondel described 4 areas in which CAC can actively participate and help out:

1. **School Improvement Plan Evaluation Team** -- Louise Epstein and John Pang will be representing the CAC at the Evaluation Team meetings.
2. CAC sponsored **"Parent Curriculum"** -- Dr. Glazer would like the CAC to take the lead in crafting a parent curriculum, which spells out guidelines or recommendations that parents can implement at home to encourage students to adopt values and behaviors conducive to the TJ goals. Rupen Shah ([rshah6 at cox.net](mailto:rshah6@cox.net)) and Rebecca Jarmas ([Rdj9193 at aol.com](mailto:Rdj9193@aol.com)) have agreed to lead the effort, and you will be

hearing more from them later. Please contact them if you are interested in helping.

3. **Indicators for the 4 Academic Goals** -- TJ faculty committees have written draft indicators (i.e., observable behaviors or traits) for each academic goal, and the larger faculty community is currently reviewing this draft. Dr. Glazer and Mrs. Sondel would like feedback from the parents, as well. All comments must be received by **October 7, 2007**. The document containing the indicators can be found on the PTSA website under Curriculum Advisory Committee. If you are interested, please contact John Pang.
4. **Open invitation to faculty curricular committee meetings** -- CAC members have an open invitation to attend and participate in the curricular team meetings, and provide feedback. There are three committees, two of which are about vertical articulation: Academic Goals and Research. The third is about Tech Infusion. Any one wishing to attend should contact John Pang.

ANGP

We invite parents to get involved in **All Night Grad Party** planning for **June 14, 2008!** For parents new to this, All Night Grad Party is a BIG DEAL!

It's a fantastic alcohol-free party right after graduation for our seniors to celebrate all night long. We are still looking for chairs of the following committees: decorations, volunteers, logistics, prizes/store, clean-up, publicity, and fundraising.

All donations in cash and in kind are gratefully received and will be recognized. Here's the web site for credit card donations: <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/payments.htm>

For further information, please contact Bernadette and Ed Saperstein, Co-Chairs of All Night Grad Party 2008 at [ptsa.angp08 at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.angp08@tjhsst.edu) or 703 757 9010.

Thank you from 2007 ANGP Committee

The Class of 2007 would like to thank these personal donors who were regrettably omitted from last month's list. We apologize for the oversight. The 2007 ANGP Committee extends its sincere appreciation to all its donors who helped make the evening memorable.

Personal Donors for ANGP 2007

Queen of Hearts Sponsors (Donors of \$250 - \$499):

- o Robert Ward
- o Patricia Jepsen
- o Patricia Buss
- o Cynthia Carter

Jack of Hearts Sponsors (Donors of \$100 - \$249):

- o Shue Jen Chuang
- o Anna Toscano
- o Eileen Swoboda

Ten of Hearts Sponsors (Donors of \$1 - \$99):

- o Mary Bogden
- o Lois Coleman
- o Carol Perez
- o Elizabeth Calvey
- o John DiFazio
- o Nausicaa Stoltz
- o Rita Yaroch
- o Marcia Brooks
- o Leslie McNeill
- o C C Colglazier
- o Phyllis Payne
- o Regina Gyuricza

Student Services Corner

Student Services Advisory Board

The Student Services Advisory Board will hold its first meeting of the year on **October 18**, at **7:30 p.m.**, in the **library**. Join us as we get to know Mr. Kosatka, the new director of Student Services, and discuss any issues you feel need to be addressed. If there is something you would like to have on the agenda for the meeting please email Karen O'Connor, [karen_tj_ssab at hotmail.com](mailto:karen_tj_ssab@hotmail.com).

Guidelines

The latest issue of the TJHSST Student Services Department newsletter, *Guidelines*, is available at:

<http://information.tjhsst.edu/dss/>

SGA Update -- Homecoming Week Activities

Although only three weeks of school had passed before Homecoming Week, the week was the best experience ever for the TJ community and was the primary focus of SGA's energy since the beginning of last summer! SGA and class governments worked very hard on Homecoming projects ranging from the float to the musical extravaganza, as well as other Homecoming projects.

Homecoming Week festivities began on September 24. During break all classes assembled in Gym I to show off their elegant gowns, creatively hand-made dresses, and pristine tuxedos for the spirit day "Check Me Out" (Dress your Best). In addition, the first Homecoming competitions for most class spirit and best dressed (one female and one male representative per class) were held every day of the week.

Each spirit day of the week had a theme: Monday, September 24, "Check Me Out" (Dress your Best); Tuesday, September 25, "Count Me In!"; Wednesday, September 26, "See Myself on Stage!"; Thursday, September 27, "There's No 'I' in Theme" (Class Theme Day); and Friday, September 28, "Color Me Purple, Tickle Me Pink" (Class Color Day). Pep rallies continued throughout the week during break, except for Friday, when two, two-hour grand pep rallies were held in Gym 1, displaying the talents and hard work of each class in the following contest areas: banner, skit, musical extravaganza, and cheer. The canned food competition, newly introduced, took place Thursday, September 27, during JLC outside the school office.

On Friday there were a number of activities: bonfire—classes gathered around a campfire and cheered as loudly as possible, the Homecoming football game, TJ vs. Madison (unfortunately TJ lost), the half-time show when the Homecoming Court winners were announced and floats were driven around, and the results for competitions were announced.

The Homecoming Dance was on Saturday, September 29, from 8 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. at TJ and was centered around an Egyptian theme. A complete wrap-up of Homecoming Activities will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

Class News

2008 – Seniors

"The Class of 2008" is now winding down after an incredibly exciting, but early homecoming. We were able to finish our last TJ Homecoming with a blast! A great BIG thank you to all the 2008 parents who chaperoned at the dance. It would not be possible without your support. The next large event that we will be hosting is Powderpuff, where the Juniors face the Seniors in a girls football game. The roles are reversed, so the boys are the cheerleaders! Also, we will be selling Senior apparel later in the fall, so be on the look out! As Graduation is slowly, but surely, creeping up, we are still looking for a keynote graduation speaker. If you know anyone who would make a fantastic and memorable speaker, please contact us at [tjhsst08 at gmail.com](mailto:tjhsst08@gmail.com). And as always, our wonderful parent liaison, Robin Wilson ([robinwilson123 at gmail.com](mailto:robinwilson123@gmail.com)), will keep you informed on any parent involvement in the near future. Thank you for your unwavering support! GO 2008!

2009 - Juniors

Another exciting homecoming at TJ!! There are many people to thank for this year's success – Mr. and Mrs. Zukosky (Andrew's parents), because they were so gracious to open their home for float building those many weeks. Thanks, too, to the class officers for overseeing all aspects of the week's competitions. You are awesome! To SGA who works so successfully to organize great happenings at TJ, to our class for your enthusiasm for friendly competition, and last but not least, to Ms. McCormick and Mrs. Bello, our class sponsors, for their tremendous support to the class!! It was a fun, wonderful week for all of us. Thanks to all!

Upcoming activities for the class of 2009 include **Fright Fest** (a day of fun and physics brain power at Six Flags). This fun outing that takes place on **October 27** at Six Flags in Maryland is right around the corner! The park is decorated fully in fun Halloween flair and it's a "ghoulishly" good time. The buses leave TJ on October 27 at noon

and return to TJ at 11:00 p.m. All juniors should have received a form for this activity, so sign up today. If you didn't get a form, see Ms. McCormick in Trailer 9 to get a form. We need a few more chaperones for this trip, so parents - please email Ms. McCormick, Junior Class sponsor, at [amccormick at fcps.edu](mailto:amccormick@fcps.edu) if you are interested in taking part in this fun fall outing!

Also coming up soon for juniors is the **PSAT**. This test will be given at TJ on Wednesday, **October 17, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.**

Stay tuned for more Junior class happenings. Go Juniors – you are awesome! Keep up the great work Mighty Fine Class of 2009!

2010 – Sophomores

What a great class of parents! You make our job easy. We had offers from twice as many parents as we needed to help chaperone the homecoming dance – too many to name here, but thank you all for your help. The Buckley family was nice to open up their home to the homecoming float builders for the second year in a row, Jerry Bouchard offered his truck to pull the float at homecoming, the McGlothlin family offered their convertible for the homecoming court, and Jim Anderson helped transport the cans to the food pantry. Other parents volunteered for driving as well. Thanks for all of the parent support.

Ellen Ranard, [ESRanard at gmail.com](mailto:ESRanard@gmail.com), and Sheryl Markham, [tmarkham at verizon.net](mailto:tmarkham@verizon.net), PTSA Class of 2010 Representatives.



Class of 2010 hard at work on their homecoming float

2011 -- Freshmen

Our 2011 Class had a great start at TJ. Orientation day was awaited by many with trepidation and moderate apprehension. A new school, new friends, and so many hallways to master! But, after a few hours our Freshmen were no longer feeling totally new to the school. The speeches of many staff members and those of a few "wise" students made everyone feel at home, finally! The Big Sibs were of great help to many.

The first Soc Hop, held after our first home football game, was sponsored by the Freshman class. It was a wet, but wonderful, success. We had a tremendous response by the PTSA to our search for parent volunteers for it. The dance was masterfully chaperoned by many enthusiastic new parents under the supporting guidance of more seasoned ones. Special thanks should go to our Froshcomm committee, which brilliantly coordinated the Soc Hop chaperone volunteers, to Melissa Schoepfle, our Student Government Association Faculty Sponsor, and to Jennifer Pierce and Michael Miller, our Class Sponsors.

One more **Soc Hop** will take place on **November 2**, and two other major events will be coming up in the new year: **Freshman Lock In** on **April 18, 2008**, and **Freshman Symposium** in **June 2008**. Once again, parents' help will be needed and we will be collecting names of volunteers soon. We are all looking forward to a great academic year. Thank you all for your support!

Daniela Owen ([danielaowen at verizon.net](mailto:danielaowen@verizon.net))
Eileen Swoboda ([eswoboda at erols.com](mailto:eswoboda@erols.com))

News Round-Up and Awards

STUDENTS

151 TJ Students Named National Merit Semifinalists: Two hundred nine FCPS students have been named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) for 2008 -- TJ has 151 of the semifinalists. The semifinalists are eligible to compete for 8,200 National Merit Scholarship awards worth \$33 million to be awarded in spring 2008.

Representing TJ are: **Lillian Aoki, Morgan Bell, Sarah Benjamin, Laura Berk, Callie**

Berkowitz, Aaron Bernstein, Susanna Blauch, Bryan Bleda, Olivia Bonin, Josiah Boning, Henry Bosco, Flavia Brancusi, Ryan Brewster, Ariel Brown, Benjamin Buch, Tianhui Cai, Austin Chang, Samantha Chao, Hannah Chartoff, Jeff Chen, Michael Chen, Steven Chen, Alan Chien, Bryan Chun, Rebecca Chung, Jarel Cohen, John Coleman, Patrick Coleman, Catherine Cooper, Ioana Cristei, Stephen Cronk, Sean Cruz, Daniel Curaca-Malito, Julia Dahlin, Hannah Dee, Annette Dekker, Francis Deng, Huanqi Deng, Margaret Don, Aaron Dufour, Amy Duncan, Michael Dunn, David Dytang, Casey Enders, Ao Fan, Emily Feeney, Connor Fleming, McKenna Freese, Sappho Gilbert, Erin Glennon, John Goodwin, Phillip Graves, Megan Harries, Nabeem Hashem, Kelley Hecker, Evan Heflin, Allison Hegel, Keith Horita, Stephen Houck, Hanna Howard, Nadir Ijaz, Mohit Iyyer, Aras Jizan, Kian Kamgar-Parsi, Amalia Kane, Anna Karnaze, Samantha Keyser, Arjun Khanna, Bronwyn Koehl, Stephen Lam, Oleg Lazarev, I-Rong Lee, George Leef, Mengxun Li, Dorothy Lineer, Jinyu Liu, Renfei Liu, Michael Lowman, Robert MacGregor, Katherine Madden, Sahil Marya, James McAtamney, Amy McCormack, Eileen McFarland, William McGrath, Alex McGuigan, Robert McMullin, Steven Mechner, Danielle Meeker, Andrew Menke, James Michelli, Geoffrey Miller, Dustin Moore, Madhav Nandipati, Amilie Napier, Kevin Ng, Albert Ng-Sui-Hing, Sarah Nowalk, Michelle Oresky, Benjamin Parr, Tyler Percle, Eleanor Phillips, Keshav Pillai, Lauren Pontius, Rathna Ramamurthi, Arjun Ramesh, Kelly Ran, Kristin Rhodes, Edward Rice, Anne Rohlfing, Thomas Rudelius, Sarah Salino, Hannah Saperstein, Zahra Sayyid, Kate Schofield, Avni Sharma, Eric Shi, Rohan Siddhanti, Thomas Smilack, Morgan Snipes, Joseph Song, Marisa Sprowls, Andrew Stebbins, Elizabeth Stein, Michelle Stein, Jacob Steinhart, Ethan Stone, Bruce Sun, Sara Sun, Melanie Szwajkowski, Brian Terrill, Kate Turetsky, Cayla Wallwork, Evan Warner, Jacob Welsh, Laura Williams, Thomas Williams, Cassandra Xia, Tim Xu, William Yang, Alyson Yee, Hewon Kari Yook, Sherwin Yu, Tingting Zeng, Aimee Zhang, Felix Zhang, Helen Zhang, Xiaoke Zhou, Colleen Zhu, Kyle Zora, and Rose Yan Zu.

TJ Students Tapped as National Achievement Scholars: Ten TJ students have been named 2008 National Achievement Scholarship program semifinalists in an academic competition for Black American high school students conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). FCPS had a total of 21 semifinalists. The TJ honorees are: **Lindsay Barnes, Rani Brooks, Alexis Brown, Blakeleigh Chaney, Hanna Howard, Kyra Jefferson-George, Jasmine Lee, Taylor Stewart-Cannon, William Tarpeh,** and **Natasha Wallage.**

The semifinalists will compete for more than 800 Achievement Scholarship awards, worth \$2.5 million, to be awarded next spring. The awards will be supported by corporate organizations and funds from the NMSC. To be considered for a scholarship, semifinalists must advance to the finalist level by fulfilling additional requirements.

TJ Students Tour High-Tech Research Vessel: TJ seniors **David DyTang, Meg Barnett** and **Ariel Lepon,** and humanities teacher, **Milde Waterfall,** had the chance to learn more about science and the sea when they toured the research vessel, the Thomas Jefferson, on July 28 in Alexandria. The Thomas Jefferson, one of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's research and survey vessels, is based in Norfolk, where it conducts hydrographic surveys of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.



tjTODAY Named Finalist in Newspaper Pacemaker Competition: The National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) has named **tjTODAY** a finalist in its annual Newspaper Pacemaker competition. **tjTODAY** is the only FCPS newspaper nominated in the 16 pages or less category. In addition, **Class of 2007 alumna Lauren Ruth**

was named **second place winner** in the Story of the Year feature story category. Winners will be honored at the Fall National High School Journalism Convention in November in Philadelphia.

Five TJ Students Attend Keystone Youth Policy Summit in Colorado: **Melissa Schoeplein,** TJ English Teacher, and five TJ juniors visited the Colorado Rockies in August to study Energy Efficiency with the Keystone Youth Policy Summit, co-sponsored by NCSSSMST. The students, **Xiaoxiao Lin, Sarah Applegate, Jackson Prestwood, Nishanth Parameswan,** and **Natalie Kirchner** were featured in the Summit Daily News <http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20070807/NEWS/70807021>.

Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest Winner: TJ junior **Kate Ferraren** took home the first place honor in the annual Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest sponsored by NBC4 and Telemundo. She was awarded \$2,000 and a new laptop.

TJHSST Partnership Fund

The Jefferson Partnership Fund, a 501 (c)(3) charity, pressed its case for parent financial support at Back-to-School Night on September 19. Fund Chairman Thomas Goodwin reminded parents that their tax-deductible donations provide essential equipment, training, research, and creative opportunities for TJ students and teachers. Goodwin told the overflow crowd that 21 years ago, the "founding fathers and mothers" raised \$2 million in private monies from the business community to establish a high school devoted to science and technology. Ever since then, private donations have been critical to supplementing state and local tax dollars, which fall short of meeting the school's annual needs. Parents in the audience cheered Goodwin's parting words: "Support your school!"

In 2006-07, parents contributed more than \$225,000 to the Jefferson Partnership Fund, including direct cash gifts and donations earmarked through the United Way, America's Charities, and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The 2008 United Way, America's Charities, and CFC campaigns begin this month. TJ parents and

friends can give to the school by marking #8705 on their workplace donation forms.

Outreach to the corporate community continues through cooperative efforts of the Partnership board, parents, and Director, Gary Bottorff. Recent successes include gifts from Northrop Grumman, ManTech, and Google. Parents with contacts at companies that make cash, in-kind gifts, or matching grants to schools and other charities are encouraged to contact Parent Committee member Nancy Carter ([nacarter at earthlink.net](mailto:nacarter@earthlink.net)). New committee members are always welcome and should contact Ellen Ranard ([esranard at gmail.com](mailto:esranard@gmail.com)) or Janet Tener ([janettener at aol.com](mailto:janettener@aol.com)).

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters

Academic Boosters supports TJ's academic teams by helping pay for their registration fees and other expenses. Academic Boosters sponsors more than a dozen academic teams, including It's Academic, Biology Olympiads, BotBall (robotics), Certamen (Latin), Chemistry Olympiad, Chess Team, Computer Team, Debate Team, Future Problem Solvers, Japan Bowl, Mathematics Team, Model United Nations, Ocean Bowl, Odyssey of the Mind, Physics Team, and Science Bowl.

Last year, Academic Boosters helped more than 300 TJ students compete at local, state, regional, national, and even international competitions. Academic teams help TJ students develop extensive and advanced knowledge and skills in many subjects. They teach students teamwork, poise under pressure, and leadership skills. And, they help maintain TJ's stellar reputation.

TJ academic teams are not funded by Fairfax County. That's why Academic Boosters was created. Academic Boosters raises some money from selling merchandise and from other labor-intensive fund-raising activities. But, most of our budget comes from parent donations.

Whether or not your child is participating on an academic team this year, please join Academic Boosters. Download and complete our membership form at

<http://academics.tjhsst.edu/aboosters>. And while you're looking at the Academic Boosters website, please read about our many award-winning teams, and think about encouraging your child or children to participate!

Band Boosters

Class of 2011, Parents, Alumni, and Fans: Learn about TJ Bands and Boosters at <http://www.tjhsstband.org>. Subscribe to Booster Yahoo group by sending an email to: [tjbandboosters-subscribe at yahoogroups.com](mailto:tjbandboosters-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Volunteers always welcome!

Safeway Club Card Program: Shop Safeway, support TJ Bands. Register at www.escrip.com, band code 151809887. **Please present Safeway Card to cashier**, using phone number at register may not link your purchases to your Escrip account.

Doughnuts on Election Day: Band students will sell doughnuts at polling places and metro stations on **Tuesday, November 6**. Preorder two dozen for an early morning delivery; contact [kaboocsh at hotmail.com](mailto:kaboocsh@hotmail.com).

Thanksgiving 2007: Plan ahead! **Gourmet Pies** – Frozen, ready to bake – **Order by October 26** for delivery/pickup on November 17 – [tjpies at gmail.com](mailto:tjpies@gmail.com). **Honey-Baked Hams and Turkeys** – November 17 delivery – [TJHBham at hotmail.com](mailto:TJHBham@hotmail.com). **Citrus Sales** – Sweet, juicy! – First delivery November 17 – [tjcitrus at hotmail.com](mailto:tjcitrus@hotmail.com).

Wreaths, Swags, Poinsettias, Amaryllis: Long-lasting, aromatic, festive! Decorate home, business, or place of worship. Band Boosters are selling fresh, beautiful seasonal greens. See items available for direct delivery throughout the U.S. at www.sherwoodforestfarms.com. Great gifts! **Order by October 29** for delivery or pickup on December 1. Contact: [Va_Cruz at cox.net](mailto:Va_Cruz@cox.net) (703) 266-6748.

TJ Customized License Plate Frames: Attention all students, parents, alumni, staff...we have a license plate frame for you! Show your school or team spirit! Contact: [Sylvie at wrtc.org](mailto:Sylvie@wrtc.org), (703) 342-0215. See samples at: <http://www.tjhsstband.org>.

Holiday Gifts: Shop early! **White House Ornaments** – Easy to mail gift, \$20 – [nsitartz at att.net](http://www.nsitartz.com). See samples at: <http://www.tjhsstband.org>. **Scrip – Gift Cards** – Variety of cards available! – [kaycorey at cox.net](http://www.kaycorey.com). **Innisbrook Wraps, Gifts, and Chocolates** – Order online at www.innisbrook.com (school number 110170-A-1) – [djruskin at cox.net](http://www.djruskin.com).

Virtual Tag Day: Letters were recently distributed to TJ families requesting donations in support of the TJ Band program. Local high school bands fund their programs through annual Tag Day fund drives. During these drives, band members solicit donations door-to-door throughout their neighborhood. The TJ neighborhood is vast and far-reaching; we must rely on our virtual neighborhood. **Be a good neighbor**; mail your charitable donation to TJHSST Band Boosters, c/o Huisuk Lineer, 4955 Gainsborough Dr., Fairfax, VA 22032. Thank you for your support!

Showcase Concert: The Music Department presents the talents of the Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Jazz I, Concert Orchestra, and Combined Symphonic Band on **Wednesday, October 10, 7 p.m.** in the TJ Auditorium. Refreshments provided by performers' families will be served following the concert.

Colonial Athletic Boosters

The **Varsity Field Hockey** team participated in the Westfield Tournament in August. Losses in two exciting overtime games have contributed to a slow start in the regular season of 0-3-1. The **Junior Varsity's** record of 1-1-2 does not reflect the amount of time they have spent in their opponents' defensive zone, constantly applying pressure to the opponents' defense. The JV defense has been extremely stingy, only allowing two shots on goal in the last three games. Off the field, the teams are enjoying secret pals, spirit days, and a pool party.

The **TJ Cross Country** season got off to a great start on September 8, at the first meet of the season – the Frank Keyser Invitational in Boonsboro, MD – where the Girls Varsity and JV and the Boys JV teams all won their 3-mile races! The Boys Varsity team earned 2nd place, just one point behind Potomac Falls High School. Upcoming meets include the Oatlands Invite (September 29 in

Leesburg), Glory Days Invite (October 13 at Bull Run Regional Park), and the Liberty District meet (October 25 at Burke Lake Park).



TJ Girl's Varsity Cross Country team (from left: Allison Underwood, Ariel Schwartz, Kathleen Ryan, Neesha Schnepf, Connor Fleming, Stephanie Marzen, and Kelly Ran) wins Frank Keyser Invitational championship on September 8, 2007

Thanks to all who have sent in their CAB memberships! We need some "new blood" in the CAB, particularly people to "shadow" our concessions and merchandise efforts. The spirit, service, and proceeds these areas generate are extremely important. So, Class of 2011 parents, contact the CAB ([cfhookey at hotmail.com](mailto:cfhookey@hotmail.com)) and/or come to our **next meeting** on **October 3** and become a part of these TJ traditions.

Please visit <http://www.TJGear.com/> and check out CAB's selection of clothing and other merchandise

Crew Boosters

Thinking about joining Crew? No experience needed to join our "winning tradition." Please join us at our October open houses and crew interest meeting to learn more.

We are pleased to announce that **Todd Jesdale** has signed on as Head Coach of the boys' team. Coach Jesdale will be replacing our All-Met Coach Jim Granger (TJ alum), who recently accepted a position as Men's Head Coach at Florida Institute of Technology. Jesdale, a former Head Coach of the US Men's Junior National team, comes to the Colonials with an impressive resume. Jesdale has coached many teams to victory at the Royal Henley Regatta, including Cornell, St. Marks, Groton, Cincinnati Rowing, and Shrewsbury, for a total of thirteen championship titles. His legendary status

in crew began at Cornell, where he first rowed and later was Head Coach.

The **Crew Interest Meeting** for all students considering rowing and their parents will be held on **Tuesday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m.** in the **cafeteria**. Current team captains, coaches, booster board members, and fund raising chairs will tell you about our internationally recognized program. We'll detail membership requirements and fees along with practice schedules and training requirements, and answer any questions you may have.

Crew will be holding two **open houses** at the boathouse at Sandy Run Regional Park on consecutive **Saturdays, October 20 and 27, from 1-3:30 p.m.** You will have the opportunity to see the equipment, have your questions answered by current rowers and coaches and, weather permitting, a chance to get out on the water.

Also, please stop by TJ on Saturday morning, **October 27, between 9 a.m.- noon**, for the **TJ Crew Yard Sale**. If you'd like to clean out your home and have items to donate, please bring them to the TJ cafeteria between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Friday, October 26 (we will provide tax receipts for your donation). While dropping off your "junk" you can buy something in the "sneak preview" from 8 – 10 p.m. We sincerely appreciate your support!

Chorus/Choir Boosters

The TJ Choir and Choral Booster organizations are off to a busy start this school year. The Boosters would like to welcome Debbie Brant, Cindy Hann, Candace Fleischer and Kelli Arditti to the board this year. Thanks for jumping in and filling the shoes of some of our senior parents who moved on in June. We have a lot of activities coming up quickly, beginning with our **Potluck Supper on October 4**. Please also mark your calendars for the fifth annual **TJ Choir Cabaret and Silent Auction on November 10 at 6 p.m.** This annual event is the choir's largest fundraiser of the year. We will be accepting donated auction items through October 31. We are asking that each choir family (and all of our friends throughout the TJ community) donate a good or service that can be auctioned off that evening. Don't come just for the auction – the singing and scrumptious desserts are really what it is all about. Sit back, relax and enjoy the

choir, soloists and small ensembles as they entertain you with a wide array of show tunes.

Choir Council has already held two successful fundraisers. The car wash and pizza sales are filling the Council coffers and already helping to offset the costs of the spring trip to Orlando, FL, in April. We have lots to accomplish between now and then, including December's production of "Into the Woods." As always, we're thankful for your support of the TJ Choir program.



Boot camp: Join Choir! Get a massage!



Carwash: "Workin' at the Carwash..." From left to right – Nick Ryals, Crystal Yi, Ren O'Connor, Janie Wilner, Luke Frels, Sarah Salino, Huan Song, Jessica Szelc, Nick Mathis

Orchestra Boosters

The year is off and running. There are 156 students in the Orchestra and we need your help. You heard me or Ms. Bailey speak at Back-to-School Night about the organization and our needs. Thanks to those who have already joined the Boosters. We greatly appreciate your monetary and

volunteer support. If you did not turn in your form as of yet, please complete and send to me.

Our **first Concert** will be at **7 p.m., Wednesday, October 10**, in conjunction with the Band. **Orchestra parents have been asked to bring one 2-liter bottle of soda, punch or water.** If you are able to assist in set up or clean up for this event please let me know.

We now have a Treasurer. Many thanks go to Cheryl Sourbeer for assuming these responsibilities. Freshman parents Mark and Bobbie Herbst have also kindly agreed to oversee our Quiznos dinner program for students on nights of concerts. Thanks folks! In that regard we will have the form distributed shortly to your students for the evening of the 10th. Payment is by check only and usually around \$8.00.

An exciting year has been planned. By the time you read this, Regional auditions will already be completed. Well done to those who were selected. And for your long range planning, our Spring trip will be to Chicago, tentatively April 10-13.

Our next **Booster meeting** will be in the **Principal's Conference Room on Tuesday, October 9, at 7:30 p.m.** I hope you can join us. As always please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks as always for your support of our Orchestras! Larry Jones ([lawrencemjones at aol.com](mailto:lawrencemjones@aol.com))

Theatre Boosters

Shakespeare Troupe - Mark your calendar to see the Shakespeare Troupe's Froshfest production of ***Twelfth Night*** on **October 26 at 7 p.m.** Froshfest is an opportunity for students who have never acted in a Troupe production to demonstrate their talents. You won't want to miss the Troupe's rendition of one of Shakespeare's most popular romantic comedies.

Drama Club - The Drama Club's production of ***Inherit the Wind*** will be on **November 16 -17 at 7 p.m.** This fictionalized account of the 1925 Scopes ("Monkey") Trial is one of the great American plays of the 20th Century. Its themes of freedom of thought, science education, and religious belief and tolerance still resonate today, as demonstrated by its recent successful revival on

Broadway. If you missed *Inherit the Wind* on Broadway, you can see it at TJ in November!

Auditions for *The Knight of One Axe*, TJ's annual production of one-act plays, will be on **November 26-27**. Callbacks will be on November 28. Students interested in auditioning should sign up by selecting a time on the schedule that will be posted on the drama bulletin board. The bulletin board is in the Aud Lob to the right of the front doors.

Announcements and Information

TJ Traffic Concerns - Please Drive Carefully

Traffic around TJ has been increasing lately, and unfortunately our police officer has been writing traffic violations. Please observe the following traffic rules around the building:

- **Turn RIGHT ONLY out of the main entrance in the morning between 8-8:30 a.m.**
- **Park in designated spaces only and not in fire lanes**
- **Drive 15 mph or slower on campus**

Thanks for keeping our grounds safe for pedestrians and other traffic.

Teen Driving Seminar

An informational meeting on Teen Driving will be held on **Monday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Auditorium**. The program, "Partners for Safe Teen Driving," will include information on driver education and the licensing process, insuring the teen driver, important traffic laws, and parent tips for coaching the teen driver. For more information, contact Heidi Smith at [heidi.smith at fcps.edu](mailto:heidi.smith@fcps.edu).

JLC Thursdays

First period classes start at 9 a.m. Between 8- 8:50 a.m., students may gather in the cafeteria, the Career Center (quiet group work), the library (for quiet study), and the auditorium lobby, but they may not access the upstairs area (including lockers) or

restricted hallways on the first floor. Students who use the computers in the library should be aware that they may be limited to 15 minutes of use, depending on the number of people waiting for a turn. Administrators and parent volunteers supervise students during this time. The schedule for the day is available on the TJ portal page ("bell schedules"), in student planners, and on the Postman calendar under "Professional Development."

Science and Engineering Fair 2008

The 2008 Science and Engineering Fair will be held in the cafeteria on **Saturday, February 9**. Unfortunately, the wrong date, February 2, is listed in the student planner. Please make sure your student corrects his/her planner.

It is never too early to begin thinking about projects for the fair. If a student has an idea for a project, he or she should immediately contact a teacher whose field is related to the area of interest and ask that teacher to sponsor the project. The faculty member will review the project for safety and assist the student with the required forms. Students who have done a project outside of school must still have a TJ teacher as their official sponsor.

The TJ fair follows the rules of the International Science and Engineering Fair and requires the same forms. These forms and instructions are available online at <http://www.sciserv.org/>. Mr. Robert Latham, Optics and Modern Physics Lab Director, is serving as the director of TJ's science fair.

No Weekly Calendar Updates – Check School Calendar Often

TJ will no longer be sending weekly calendar updates because there are too many activities to report. Instead, the school has posted all activities at school on the postman Calendar. To access the calendar, go to the TJ website, click on Calendar, and then click on the category. Click on Public Calendars to see all activities at school. Questions about in-school activities and posting them on the calendar should be directed to TJ's director of student activities, Melody Modell ([Melody.Modell at fcps.edu](mailto:Melody.Modell@fcps.edu)).

Any activities away from school will not be listed on the calendar. Information about these events should be obtained through the appropriate faculty sponsor/coach.

Annual College Fair

Fairfax County Public Schools' high school students and their families are encouraged to attend the following two events to explore postgraduation educational opportunities.

- **College Fair 2007 at Fair Oaks Mall**, Sunday, October 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- **College Night 2007 at Hayfield Secondary**, Monday, October 15, 7-9 p.m.

Both events provide opportunities for college-bound students and their parents to gather information from a variety of schools. About 400 colleges and universities are represented, including two-year and four-year colleges, and business, technical, and nursing schools. In addition, College Night will offer workshops related to college admissions.

College Night workshops include information on:

- The SAT and ACT: effective test prep.
- College athletics and the NCAA.
- Considerations for students with disabilities in the college admissions process.
- Financial aid.
- Successful strategies for college-bound students.
- Writing the college application essay.
- The admissions process for students pursuing the arts.

Pertinent updated information can be found by visiting the FCPS web site at www.fcps.edu/ss/FCPSCollegeFairNight, or by contacting the FCPS College Fair liaison, Jill Kastner, at [jill.kastner at fcps.edu](mailto:jill.kastner@fcps.edu). Links to participating colleges' web sites are also available.

School counselors and career center specialists can provide additional information.

School Meals: Online Payment, Check, or Cash

Fairfax County Public Schools is pleased to announce that it now offers three ways to pay for school meals:

- **Online**—Using www.myLunchMoney.com—The service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. There is a convenience fee of \$1.95 per transaction. Once the account is open, parents may check the fund account at any time from computer or phone.
- **Check**—Write a check—made out to (School Name) Food and Nutrition Services—and bring the check to the food service manager’s office. A parent who wants his or her check payments to be for meals only (no a la carte items) should write it on the check or tell the manager.
- **Cash**—Cash may be brought to the food service manager’s office for deposit in student accounts, or students may pay cash for breakfast and lunch on a daily basis.
- School lunch menus, updated monthly, are available at <http://www.fcps.edu/parents/sch lunch.htm>.

Microsoft Products Discounts

Through a special agreement with Microsoft, FCPS students and staff members can now purchase select Microsoft products for home and personal use at great discounts. In addition, FCPS adult education students are also eligible to purchase through this program.

Student Select is part of FCPS's Technology@Home program. This program seeks to help students, faculty, and staff members with their home technology needs by enabling them to purchase directly from vendors at educational discount rates. With the latest technology, students, faculty, and staff members can make the best use of instructional and administrative resources from home.

For more information on available products, pricing, and how to order, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/techathome/studentselect.html>.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways that high school students can volunteer their time to help others. The FCPS Career Connections Volunteer Opportunities website, found at <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/CareerConnections/student/volunteer.htm>, offers a list of organizations that have volunteer opportunities for young people, as well as tips on how to become involved in volunteer activities.

Keep-in-Touch Text Option

Employees, parents, and others interested in emergency messages from the school system can now receive those messages to cell phones and other text message devices. Register for this service at the FCPS home page, <http://www.fcps.edu/>; choose 'Keep in Touch' on the left hand side.

New subscribers should start by entering an email address. Current subscribers should select the "update my profile" link. To receive emergency messages to a cell phone, simply enter the cell phone number in the fields provided. You will receive a short version of the email text. Please be aware that **text messaging fees charged by your service provider do apply**. Questions can be directed to Rose Kaspersen in the Office of Community Relations by emailing her at [Rose.Kaspersen](mailto:Rose.Kaspersen@fcps.edu) at fcps.edu.



Noteworthy Dates

October		26	Froshfest, <i>Twelfth Night</i> , 7 p.m., Auditorium
2	Landscaping Day, 9 a.m. – noon	27	Six Flags -- Juniors
2	Band Boosters Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Principal's Conf. Rm.	27	Crew Yard Sale, 9 a.m.-noon, Cafeteria
2	ANGP Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Career Center	27	Crew Open House, 1-3:30 p.m., Sandy Run Reg. Park
3	Colonial Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7 p.m., Library	29	Landscaping Day, 9 a.m. – noon
3	Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center	29	Partners for Safe Teen Driving Seminar, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium
4	Guest Speaker, Juan Enriquez, author of <i>As the Future Catches You</i>	November	
4	Government Relations Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 106	1	Government Relations Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Rm. 106
5	Home football game vs. Wakefield, 7:30 p.m.	2	Home football game vs. S. Lakes, 7:30 p.m.; Soc Hop
6	Landscaping Day, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	3	Marching Band Competition – Annapolis
8	Columbus Day Holiday	5-6	Student Holidays
9	Diversity Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Career Center	6	Band Boosters Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Principal's Conf. Rm.
9	Orchestra Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Principal's Conf. Rm.	7	Principal's Coffee & PTSA Executive Board Morning Meeting, 8:35-11:05 a.m., Cafeteria
10	Human Relations Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., Career Center	7	Colonial Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7 p.m., Library
10	Band Showcase Concert, 7 p.m., Auditorium	7	Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center
11	Apples for Teachers – Bring in your baked goods	10	Landscaping Day, 9:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.
13	Marching Band Competition – Virginia Beach	10	Choral Cabaret and Silent Auction, 6 p.m.
14	College Fair, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Fair Oaks Mall	13	Landscaping Day, 9 a.m. – noon
15	Landscaping Day, 9 a.m. – noon	13	Diversity Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Career Center
15	College Night, 7-9 p.m., Hayfield Secondary School	13	ANGP Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center
15	PTSA Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library	14	Human Relations Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., Career Center
16	Crew interest meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cafeteria	14	TJMC Banquet, Cafeteria
17	PSAT for Sophomores and Juniors, 8:30 a.m.; early release	16-17	<i>Inherit the Wind</i> , 7 p.m., Auditorium
17	PTSA Forum, "Navigating TJ: Parents' Tips for Your Four Years," 7:30 p.m., Auditorium	19	Landscaping Day, 9 a.m. – noon
18-20	Conference, National Consortium of Specialized Schools for Math, Science, and Technology	21	Students released 2 hours early
18	Student Services Advisory Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library	22-23	Thanksgiving Holidays
19	Home football game vs. McLean, 7:30 p.m.	27	Newsletter Submission Deadline
19	Reflections Submissions Deadline	27	Landscaping Day, 9 a.m. – noon
20	Marching Band Competition – Lynchburg	December	
22	Newsletter Submission Deadline	4	Band Boosters Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Principal's Conf. Rm.
23	Landscaping Day, 9 a.m. - noon	10	Winter Band Concert, 7 p.m., Auditorium
20	Crew Open House, 1-3:30 p.m., Sandy Run Reg. Park	24-1	Winter Vacation

***PTSA SPONSORED FORUM FOR PARENTS OF TJ
STUDENTS***

***WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17th
7:30-9:00 pm
AUDITORIUM***



***NAVIGATING TJ: PARENT TIPS FOR YOUR FOUR
YEARS***

***A panel of parents will present useful information about
the many aspects of the wonderful and unique TJ
community (curriculum, sports, social, extracurricular).
Please come and bring your questions.***

***For more information, or TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS IN
ADVANCE, contact Liz Ross, PTSA 1st Vice President,
ptsa at tjhsst.edu, or any of the PTSA board members.***



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology

What: Informational meeting concerning teen driving safety

Who: Parents and teens

When: Monday, October 29, 2007
7:30 pm

Where: TJHSST Auditorium

Information includes:

- Driver education and the licensing process
- Insuring the teen driver
- Important traffic laws
- Parent tips for coaching the teen driver

For more information contact:

Heidi Smith, Heidi.smith at fcps.edu

Grocery Programs

It's time again for all of us to register with our grocery programs – Giant, Safeway and Harris Teeter. This is an EASY way to raise money for our students **without cost to you!!** But we must **REdesignate TJ each September!** Please DO this now! For Giant and Harris Teeter, you can even give us the numbers and we will register them for you. **Please complete and return to the main office.**

For Giant:

You can register online or we can register for you. To have us register, please complete Giant BonusCard number (12 digits) _____
First Three Letters of Your Last Name _____

Or You Can Register

1. You will need your Giant BonusCard number (it's on your Giant card or key tag). (If you don't know your number, you can call the BonusCard hotline at: 1-877-366-2668 and Giant will register you or you can register in the store.)
 2. Go to: http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/aplus_pin.htm
 3. Fill in the required information
 4. Thomas Jefferson's Code is **2307**
 5. Review your info and hit 'Confirm my Information'
- You are DONE!

For Harris Teeter:

You can register online or we can register for you. To have us register, please complete Vic number (first 11 digits) _____
Last Name _____

Or You Can Register

1. You will need your Vic number (it's on your Harris Teeter Card.)
 2. Click on: <https://www.harristeeter.com/default.aspx?pageId=324>.
 3. Fill in the required information
 4. Thomas Jefferson's Code is 5534
- You are DONE!

For SAFEWAY:

1. If you have a Safeway card, go to <http://www.escrip.com/> If you don't have a Safeway card/account, check in the store.
 2. Click on 'Renew your commitment to Safeway Stores today'.
 3. You then provide **ONE** of the following (email address, phone # or credit/debit card info) as entered with your initial eScrip registration and hit 'Enter'
 4. You should see your name and 'Thomas Jefferson HSST PTSA' in the top right corner
- You are DONE!

If you don't see 'Thomas Jefferson HSST PTSA' in the top right corner, you will need to log in (Click on 'My eScrip') and select Thomas Jefferson HSST PTSA as your funding recipient. The number for TJ is 154534149.

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

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

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Check List

- PTSA Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library -- October 15
- PSAT for Sophomores and Juniors -- October 17 -- early release
- PTSA Forum, "Navigating TJ: Parents' Tips for Your Four Years," 7:30 p.m. -- October 17
- Teen Driving Seminar, 7:30 p.m. -- October 29