

Principal's Letter

Dear parents/guardians, teachers, and students:

I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing Spring Break. The start of spring can be stressful for students as they close out the 3rd quarter, prepare for AP exams, and hear back from colleges about their admittance. Stress is natural and can be healthy if students deal with it in moderation. Healthy stress enables students to tackle challenges, take intelligent risks, and advocate for themselves. However, unusually high stress levels can affect students' health and well being.

Therefore, I would like parents and students to work closely with the school when students show unusually high stress levels. I encourage parents to talk to their children about their upcoming schedule, and strategies he or she can take to plan rather than cram for upcoming tests. Further, I encourage students to speak with their counselors and teachers when you have difficulty learning course material due to multiple obligations. Often teachers are flexible with assignment deadlines and test dates if you notify them about a conflict far in advance. Students also need to take breaks to recharge their brains--that includes sleep and exercise. It's too easy to sacrifice those things and just drink an extra cup of coffee, but that won't keep your mind fresh and spirit healthy. Some of my best thinking occurs when I am out jogging after school because I make time to reflect on what is most important. I finish my run energized to put my ideas on paper as I start my evening homework, rather than feeling like I have a long night ahead of me.

If you cannot exercise for some reason, set aside a time to do something you enjoy because it makes you feel happy. Taking short breaks can actually help students be more productive since rewarding yourself rejuvenates an enduring task. Writing a paper? Take a break to make brownies, read a

book for pleasure, send email to friends, watch sports, spend time with a friend, or play a game. At TJ we allow the students to play cards or video games during lunch and 8th period to alleviate some of the stress. Sometimes I do math, logic, or Sudoku puzzles problems to alleviate my stress. Some parents see these breaks as being unproductive or procrastinating, and they are if done excessively. However, a key strategy to develop a successful project is to start it several days (and even weeks) before the deadline, take a break, and then revisit it to improve its overall quality. The period of time away from the project gives students time to take a second look and improve the work dramatically. Starting at midnight the day before a project is due will hardly ever yield your best work.

During this stressful month, let's work together to promote students' healthy decisions and stress levels. Parents of students taking AP exams should inquire with their child in mid-April about the pre-arranged absence form to ensure that you and your child discuss an appropriate amount of time needed away from school surrounding their exam day(s). Students should alert their counselor any time they need assistance managing academic responsibilities and stress levels. Don't hesitate to contact me ([Evan.Glazer at fcps.edu](mailto:Evan.Glazer@fcps.edu)) if you have suggestions to make TJ a better place for learning and growing.

Have a healthy and successful April.

Yours truly,
Evan Glazer, Principal

President's Message

April is an exciting month for the PTSA volunteers. Our volunteer coordinators, our directory volunteers, our Webmaster, and our loyal representatives have all been gearing up to welcome the upcoming Class of 2012 and their

families. Everyone has been diligently preparing a comprehensive plan to effectively welcome our new families to TJ and help them make a smooth transition.

On April 16 at 4:30 p.m., all the PTSA representatives will be on hand at the 2012 Freshmen Welcome Night to greet the new families. The representatives will start hosting their informal gatherings in April and some will continue until August. These gatherings are by invitation only. The new families need to initiate the contact with their representatives to get added to the master list. Since TJ accepts students from all over Northern Virginia, we have eleven representatives diligently making final plans for their respective gatherings. How to make the initial contact with the new families, presents the PTSA with an interesting challenge. We found that online sign-up works best; it prevents errors and provides efficiency. To make it easier we provide a **Welcome Freshmen link on our website:** <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/welcome.htm> and urge our new families to sign up for the directory at: <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/login.htm>. We also invite our seasoned families to contact our representatives and offer their assistance at any time.

April is also an important month for our TJ seniors. It is the month they receive their letters of acceptance from the various colleges. As a community we try to support our graduating students and their families in any way we can, by volunteering at the ANGP, by sharing past experiences and answering lingering questions: what happens during prom period; what is the best packing strategy for away colleges; when is the best time to buy the extra long sheets for the dorm and the list goes on and on... We can certainly count on our seasoned parents to make themselves available to our other parents. In May many of our TJ students will be taking various AP exams. Dr Glazer and his leadership will send clear guidelines to our families pertaining to excused and unexcused absences during that period.

Summer School Update: TJ will run its summer school program and the Summer Institute for middle school students. One credit and half credit courses will be offered. As you may know summer courses are not free; the students will have to pay

\$700 for a one credit course and \$350 for the half credit course. Applications for summer school were due out on March 24. There is no word on the anticipated number of applicants so it is not clear whether applications will be on the first come first served basis. Summer school will run from July 7 to August 7, 2008; the daily schedule is 8 a.m.-2:20 p.m. (3:20 p.m. for Chemistry). As for the planned courses:

- One-credit courses: Computer Science, Chemistry, Geometry, World History/Geography I
- Semester Courses: Economics, Psychology, 20th Century World History, World Religions, and America and the World Since 1989.

As in the past, Fairfax students are responsible for their own transportation to TJ for summer school. Please note that summer school attendance is very tightly monitored, in fact down to the minute. If your child is planning on participating in TJ summer activities, like sports, band practices, please be sure to contact your student's coach or band director, to make special after class arrangements. To insure a smooth summer experience, we urge parents to check with their kids' counselors on anything concerning summer school, including logistics before the school is out. Once this school year is over, the summer school program will have an official TJ administrator.

TTF Report and TJ Transportation Update: As you know two of our loyal TJ parents, Sandy Evans and Phyllis Payne are part of the Fairfax County School Board's Transportation Task Force (TTF). Since the start of the school year we teamed them up with some of our interested TJ parents. The team tried to find TJ related transportation concerns and took suggestions on how to improve and solve some of them. To that end, Sandy and Phyllis were instrumental in keeping TJ's interest in the forefront. After six months of numerous and long evening meetings, the task force presented their Majority Report to the School Board in March. At our March morning PTSA meeting, Phyllis highlighted the four recommendations that are of interest to our TJ students:

- Assign TJ routes to a single route manager.
- Allow our TJ students to select their bus depot stops.

- Work with TJ students, staff, and PTSA to develop routes.
- Use ES, MS, HS, and public transit to transport TJ students.

To see the TTF Majority Report, go to: www.fcps.edu/schlbdr/reports/TTF%20Final%20Report.pdf.

FY 2009 Budget Update: We continue to monitor the latest FY 2009 Budget developments on the lack of funds and encourage our families to diligently pursue local meetings and speak out their mind at public hearings as they see fit. The School Board is requesting \$63.7 million more for FY 2009. However, budget guidelines from the Board of Supervisors included no increase for FCPS in FY 2009. If the County is unable to provide any of the requested increase, FCPS will then have to cut \$63.7 million from the school budget. Although we won the transportation battle for our TJ kids, we still have to find ways to make up the \$63.7 million deficit. Ideas and options are being proposed to the general public in separate local meetings. One of the ideas that is being circulated is to raise taxes. Since only 30% of our Fairfax residents have school-age students, the majority of the 30% has to reach consensus to make a difference. We encourage all of our parents to follow up on the development of the budget as it will directly affect our students.

Upcoming Meeting and New Projects: Our PTSA meetings provide an open forum to our Jefferson community to discuss and propose new ideas as we did with the transportation team. We have invited a TJ parent to talk to us about Fairgrade's effort. Fairgrade is trying to persuade FCPS to make two types of changes to its grading policies. The first type of change would be to the "grading scale," so that 90+ = A, 80-90 = B, etc. The second is to change the weighting so that every honors course is weighted 0.5, and every AP or post-AP course is weighted 1.0. Our TJ parent is one of the four parents who started Fairgrade a few months ago. The other three parents have done a presentation at McLean HS, and have future presentations scheduled at Langley HS, Herndon HS, and the FCCPTA. We will get a brief overview after which we can decide whether we would like to follow up with a dedicated Forum at TJ.

Additionally, to answer the question what is the difference between the PTSA and the Partnership Fund, we have invited the Chairman of the Partnership Fund to give a brief presentation on the Partnership Fund's activities and take questions from our parents. Please join us and be ready with your questions. Of course we will have some light snacks and drinks waiting for your arrival.

All the best,
Nassmah Brooks, PTSA President

PTSA Meeting
April 14
7:30 p.m.
Library

Serving the TJ Community

Volunteers

Volunteers for JLC Needed – Can you spare some time on Thursday mornings? – Are you dropping off your student on Thursday mornings and can you stay for an hour?? **We need your HELP!** - JLC is Jefferson Learning Community, and it occurs every Thursday from 8-8:50 a.m. It's a great opportunity for the teachers and staff to meet in teams to set goals and direction for their subject areas and discuss departmental issues. This also provides our students a chance to study, catch up on tutoring or makeup tests, access computers - but we must have parents to monitor the tutoring rooms. This special opportunity is only available thanks to parent volunteers who must supervise certain areas (i.e. library, cafeteria, gym, assigned classrooms, hallways, etc.). We need additional parent volunteers to help cover these areas - usually a great time to read your newspaper while monitoring the area! If you are interested in volunteering during JLC every week or periodically, please contact Jeanine Montgomery at jlcvolunteers@gmail.com. JLC will continue through the end of April - and then begin again next school year. Come see what this is about now.

Hospitality Committee Needs Volunteers: It is that time of year that we celebrate and honor the Faculty at TJ. Due to numerous other activities at TJ, Hospitality will be hosting the **Teacher**

Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, April 30, from **11 a.m.** to **1 p.m.** in the Career Center.

As always, we could not make this happen without your generous support. **We need food, volunteers, and notes of appreciation to make this a special day.** Please let us know by email, what you would like to contribute! Thank you!

Atti Galvin [agalvin06 at gmail.com](mailto:agalvin06@gmail.com)
Carrie Kilgore [JCKVienna at aol.com](mailto:JCKVienna@aol.com)

PTSA Volunteers Wanted: Do you want to get involved and make a difference at TJ? Do you want to keep up to date with what's going on and network with other parents, students and teachers? Please step forward and volunteer to serve as a Committee Chair for Membership, Parliamentarian and other committees. If being a chair is not for you, you may also serve as a member of any committee. We can always find a place for you! We are in immediate need of a Class Liaison for the class of 2012. If interested, please contact volunteer coordinators Jill Cook or Rajni Goel ([ptsavolunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsavolunteers@tjhsst.edu)). Please accept our thanks for all you do for the TJ community.

Help Needed: AP Exam Proctors
Proctors are still needed to help monitor AP exams for the following slots:

- May 7, 3 People
- May 9, 1 Person
- May 13, 1 Person
- May 14, 1 Person

Exams begin at 8:30 a.m. and vary in length, but the average is 3 hours. Morning people should arrive at 8 a.m. or as close to that time as possible. Parents are needed to help distribute and collect exam material and keep tabs on the test-takers. Someone else is in charge – you are a helper. Please contact Kathy Young at 703-623-9007 or [gyoungcoach at gmail.com](mailto:gyoungcoach@gmail.com).

Welcome Freshman Parents: TJ PTSA invites all parents, new and returning, to register at <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsalogin.htm> and follow the directions to obtain a password (NEW STUDENTS: enter here) and enter your information for school directory and parent participation in the TJHSST community. *YOU MUST*

ENTER THIS INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON THE TJ PTSA MASTER LIST!

Landscaping Committee

We hope you are enjoying the beautiful daffodils and pansies blooming around the front of the school. The Landscaping Committee is excited to be partnering with the Greenhouse Club, Chesapeake Bay Club, Biology Society, and the Biodiversity Group to establish a pollinator garden in the Millennium Courtyard later this spring.

We are setting dates for working on the gardens this spring and would be very appreciative of any help. For students this work can be counted as community service. If you can join us or want to be added to our email volunteer list, please contact Carol Miranda, [cnsmiranda at hotmail.com](mailto:cnsmiranda@hotmail.com), or 703-281-2913. We will be working most Friday mornings, some Friday afternoons and also on one weekend each in April, May, and June.

- ❖ April - To be determined
- ❖ May – Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ❖ June – Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

You can also check our webpage for planned garden workdays at <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsacommlandscape.htm>

Student Services Advisory Board

The Student Services Advisory Board will meet one more time this school year on **Thursday, April 17, 2008**. For those of you who have never attended a meeting, join us for lively and informative discussions about a variety of issues that affect your children. The meetings are quite informal and snacks are served!

We meet in the **Library at 7:30 p.m.** Anyone with suggestions for the night's agenda should send them to [karen_tj_ssab at hotmail.com](mailto:karen_tj_ssab@hotmail.com). Loyal attendees, be sure to come to this last meeting so that we can thank Brandon Kosatka for being so supportive of the SSAB during his first year as Director of Student Services.

Friends of Virginia's Governor's Schools (FOVGS)

The Friends of Virginia's Governor's Schools (FOVGS), an organization founded to improve the knowledge of government and community leaders about the enhanced educational opportunities for students provided by Virginia's 18 Academic-Year Governor's Schools, brought more than 100 representatives from Governor's Schools across Virginia to Richmond for a "Day at the Capitol" on **February 4**. Students, parents and supporters met with legislators from the General Assembly and Senate to talk about the importance of Governor's Schools and what being involved with these special schools means to them. In a year when severe budget cuts were being considered at the state level, students and parents shared how unique and successful Governor's Schools are, how they meet the needs of their students and parents, and how cuts in state or local funding could directly impact each of the 18 schools.

After a tour of the newly renovated Capitol building, which included a visit to the House Gallery to observe the Assembly at work, students divided into several groups and visited with legislators who represent their school districts. Overall, the legislators were very supportive of our cause, and promised their support. Following several hours of legislative visits, FOVGS held a reception in the Capitol for all legislators. Students manned their school's display, talked about the Governor's Schools, and shared a personal "story" about the contributions of these schools to both students and the Commonwealth.

Under the recent budget adopted by the legislature, the Governor's Schools fared very well. Not only were funds not cut, but there was a slight increase in funding.

Representing TJ on the trip were: student government leaders **Ariel Lepon, Natalie Villacorta, Lisa Nam, Biqi Zhang, and Zach Brunt**, as well as PTSA President Nassmah Brooks, PTSA Government Relations Committee member Frank Lu, and Dr. Evan Glazer. Below is a photo of the group with Del. Robert Tata, Chair of the House Education Committee. Special thanks go to the TJ Government Relations Committee (Mike Mapes, Christal Karnaze, Lilly Cheng, and Anne Dewey-

Balzhiser) for doing the behind-the-scenes planning for this important day.



Dr. Glazer, Natalie Villacorta, Lisa Nam, Zach Brunt, Senator Tata, Ariel Lepon, Biqi Zhang, Jennifer Adler, and Nassmah Brooks

ANGP



It's hard to believe that we are in the final quarter of the school year and that graduation and ANGP are right around the corner. ANGP volunteers have been hard at work planning an out-of-this-world celebration. We are asking parents of all grades to step forward and volunteer their time and talents to make this event extra special.

Senior parents: Where are you? Come on! ANGP is not possible without the support of all senior parents. Don't let your student talk you out of it! You do not want to miss the opportunity to be part of this memorable event celebrating your student's TJ journey. If you haven't already signed up, please don't wait a moment longer. Also, be on the lookout for the Spring ANGP newsletter which will arrive at your home in April and will contain important information about ANGP.

Underclass parents: It won't be long before you will be planning ANGP for your class. This is your chance to experience first hand how to stage this awesome event. It will make your job so much easier when your turn rolls around (and it arrives faster than you think!). **Important:** it is customary for Junior parents to "shadow" ANGP committee chairs to gain valuable on-the-job training for next

year's ANGP. There are only two months left to learn from them!

Volunteer Opportunities: Please visit the ANGP website at <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty> to learn about volunteering and get involved by contacting Sue Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator, at [tjangp.volunteers at gmail.com](mailto:tjangp.volunteers@gmail.com). Remember, you will not be admitted to ANGP unless you are on the volunteer list.

Ticket sales: April is the last month to purchase a ticket for \$100; effective May 1, the price will increase to \$115. Remember, we expect to **end ticket sales on June 1**. Tickets will **not** be sold at the door! Ticket order forms are available in the Front Office and on line at <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty>. If finances are a consideration, contact your student's guidance counselor. No student is denied a ticket due to financial hardship.

ANGP Baby Photo Contest: The Classic Senior ANGP Baby Photo Contest is back! Dig out those old photo albums and select your cutest (4 x 6) baby photo (0 – 5 yrs old) for everyone to see! No originals please; these pictures will not be returned. Drop off your baby photo along with your **wallet-sized senior picture** in the Baby Photo box in the Front Office. Remember to **print your name on the back** of each photo. Photos will be collected through **Friday, June 6**. All photos will be displayed at the ANGP.

ANGP meetings are held the **first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.** The remaining meetings are **April 1** and **May 6**, in the **Career Center**, and **June 3**, in **Room 106**. Information re ANGP is available at <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty>, or contact the ANGP Co-chairs, Bernadette and Ed Saperstein at [ptsangp08 at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsangp08@tjhsst.edu).

Special Thanks: The ANGP committee would like to acknowledge Teresa Wallage, Eileen Atwood, Chris Atwood and Tiffany Cai in producing a series of ANGP logos for our web site, newsletter etc. We would also like to thank parent volunteers Holly Markwalter and Emily Kobayashi for making reminder calls to senior families about buying their

ANGP ticket sooner rather than later since the price goes up to \$115 in late April.

Student Services Corner

Guidelines

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

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

Academic News

German News

Debjani Saha, a German AP student, has been awarded the GLOW National German Achievement Award, based on her score on the National German Exam and on her performance in an interview with a number of German professors. This is the first year that GLOW (German Learning Opportunities Website) has presented awards. Debjani will receive a certificate and a gift certificate, and will have her name posted on the GLOW Internet site (www.GLOWService.net).

Congratulations to **Suzan Ok**, a German III student, who has been awarded a summer study program in Germany. Suzan was one of a number of TJ German students who applied for the trip. They are all to be congratulated for having scored so well on the National German Exam, and for putting themselves through the rigorous application process (including an interview in German in front of four German professors). We are so pleased that Suzan has received this award. She will spend close to a month in Germany this summer, living with a local family, attending school, and becoming immersed in German culture.

German students were actively involved in TJ's first Foreign Language Olympics, sponsored by the SGA. Though they did not win the most medals, they worked hard before the Olympics to prepare cheers, and to sew team badges for the players, and many German students showed up with great fanfare to cheer on their teams.

Students in AP German and German V are completing the interview process with native speakers of German. Their recorded interviews will

soon be turned into a podcast series. Meanwhile German II and German III students are completing scripts for their class podcasts, and have begun recording the episodes.

German students, and others interested in current European issues, had the opportunity to attend a talk by a representative from the German Embassy, who visited us during 8th period on March 19. The topic of her talk was Germany's role in the world, and particularly in the European Union.

Russian News

Congratulations are due for several of our AP Russian students who received Gold medals at the Advanced Level for writing in the United States National Russian Language Essay Competition! Their essays were forwarded on to Moscow for judging at the International Russian Language Essay Contest. **Mary Carol Anderson, Samantha Keyser, Sasha Scott, and Ana Vucetic** all received Silver medals for their essays. **Bronwyn Koehl's** essay earned a Gold medal in Moscow!

The American Council Teachers of Russian selected four essays from the USA to publish in their next ACTR Newsletter. Congratulations go to **Bronwyn Koehl** (Advanced Level) and **Jessica Tyler** (Intermediate Level) whose essays were selected as samples of Gold Medal standards for their levels.

Finally, the **Russian Honor Society** is having a pizza sale on **April 16**. Be there, or go hungry!

French News

Over Spring Break sophomore **Grace Wang**, seniors **Kelly Ran** and **Monica Li** along with Kelly's mom accompanied Madame La Salle to France with the educational organization ACIS. The small group travelled with three other small groups from around the country. Out of the 26 participants nine were students and the rest were adults. Their itinerary took them to Paris for three days, then on to Provence, where they visited the cities of Avignon and Aix-en-Provence, the aqueduct across the Gard River and the Roman arena in Nimes. The last three days were spent in Nice visiting perfume and candy factories, medieval villages, and Monaco. The weather overseas was

similar to what we experienced at home: cold, windy, sometimes rainy. However, the cool temperatures did not prevent Grace and Kelly from taking a quick dip in the Mediterranean.



Kelly Ran, Lucy La Salle, Claire Humphrey (guide), Grace Wang, and Monica Li

Next year's trip will be to Normandy and the Loire Valley. If anyone is interested contact Mme LaSalle.

Class News

2008 – Seniors

Graduation

Saturday, June 14, 7:30–10:30 p.m.

Patriot Center

ANGP to follow graduation at TJ.

Senior Prom

Friday, June 6, 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

Westwood Country Club

800 Maple Avenue, E Vienna, VA 22180

* Parking costs are covered by the class.

Senior Picnic

Thursday, June 12, 2–5 p.m.

Lake Accotink Park

Senior Picnic after the 1 p.m. Graduation Practice

Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield VA 22150

* Permission forms will be given out to all seniors.

Seniors, please mark your calendars for these not-to-miss events. For questions or more information, please e-mail your class officers at [tjhsst08 at gmail.com](mailto:tjhsst08@gmail.com) or [robinwilson123 at gmail.com](mailto:robinwilson123@gmail.com)

With the whirlwind of college decisions and post-acceptance visits, the Class of 2008 is nearing the end of their high school journey. However, some of the best events are still yet to come! Be on the lookout for the Senior Class Picnic, Prom, Graduation, and All Night Grad Party.

Senior Class Picnic: We are still **looking for parent volunteers on Thursday, June 12, at Lake Accotink.** Please email [robinwilson123 at gmail.com](mailto:robinwilson123@gmail.com) if you are interested. If you want to help out the class before they graduate, this is your chance!

ANGP: Don't forget to buy your tickets! Visit <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/index.html> for more information.

As always, **don't forget to bring in \$25 for your senior dues**, which cover for prom, graduation, cap and gown, and also senior picnic! We will be collecting dues every first Monday of every month in the cafeteria. We accept cash and checks (memo: 2008 senior dues)

And as a reminder: Senior boys, prom is right around the corner...

2009 - Juniors

Mr. Colonial, a fun TJ tradition, was held March 7. It was a huge success! The winners were: First Place – **Brian Terrill**, Second Place – **Keegan Cotton**, and Third Place – **A.J. Smith**. Thanks to all who worked to make this event a success.

To kick off spring break, the Juniors held a beach party on Friday, March 14, at the outdoor classroom. It was a fun mixer with volleyball, tacos, ice cream, and conversation!

Save the Dates:

On April 26, 7-11 p.m., the Junior class-sponsored Spring Formal will be held. Asking week is April 14-18. This is a dance everyone looks forward to each year, so don't miss out! Tickets will be sold at The

Armory the week before the dance and at the door the night of the event.

On May 30 and May 31 (starting at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 30) the Junior Campout will take place on the football field. Stay tuned for details!

2010 – Sophomores

Attention all TJ Parents (and in particular the parents of sophomores): Please mark your calendar to support the sophomore class by attending the Silent Auction on **Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m.** in the **TJ cafeteria**. The theme of the silent auction is ***As Seen on TV*** and the HUMs will have fun baskets for you to bid on based on the theme (e.g., The Travel Channel, ESPN, Game Show Network, Home and Garden). The students have received a variety of interesting donations from parents and businesses, including:

- 5 days in Disney World in August
- 1 week at the Marriot Golf Resort in Williamsburg
- 3 credit course at Marymount
- Brand new foosball table from Sharper Image
- Four hours of professional tree services
- Large Love Sac Bean Bag Chair
- Lots of Restaurant Gift Certificates
- Tickets to Local Sporting and Theater Events

Please plan on joining us – this will be a great chance to chat with other TJ parents and enjoy refreshments (sandwiches and salads will be available for purchase, along with free desserts), all while supporting the Class of 2010 in its largest fundraiser.

If you have not sent in your HUM basket donation, please do it now! Also, think about what else you can donate – Tickets? Gift certificates? Services? Round of golf? Sports coaching? Decorating Advice?

- Please check out the class website at: www.tjhsst.edu/2010 for detailed information, including donation forms, business solicitation packets and ideas on what you can donate.

Volunteer opportunities: I am still looking for parents to help with the “creative packaging” – to organize all of the donated items into fun baskets for the auction (this work will be done the last two weeks before the auction). We also need parents to help the day of the event – with **set up (probably from 3–7 p.m.)** and during the **event (probably between 7-10 p.m.) with food, logistics, clean up, etc.**

If you would like to volunteer, you can sign up through the class website or by contacting Ellen Ranard, Class of 2010 Liaison, at [ESRanard at gmail.com](mailto:ESRanard@gmail.com).

2011 – Freshmen

We are rapidly coming up to the end of another quarter and, as we are writing this brief article, our Freshmen and their families are enjoying a well deserved break. It is difficult to believe that already one year has passed since all of us were anxiously waiting for the TJ letters of acceptance!

Just before the beginning of our spring vacation our students had a good time participating in the TJ Olympics. Both spectators and “athletes” had a lot of fun and the games were characterized by the great “TJ team spirit” which distinguishes our school.

The much anticipated **Freshman Lock-in Night (May 2)** is approaching fast and we would like to thank all the parents who keep offering their help. Please keep sending in your much appreciated emails. Very soon Connor Barrett, our Class 2011 Student Officer in charge of liaising with the volunteers, will be sending out an email to parents with detailed information about the event. Please do not hesitate to contact us ([danielaowen at verizon.net](mailto:danielaowen@verizon.net); [eswoboda at erols.com](mailto:eswoboda@erols.com)) for any clarification or additional questions. Many thanks again for your support!

News Round-Up and Awards

Students

2007-08 Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement: Congratulations to **Tiffany Cai** for being named one of two national winners in the 2007-08 Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement.

Cai was recognized for being one of the top-performing American high school students in AP science and math courses and will receive a \$5,000 scholarship from Siemens. **Cassandra Xia** and **Jack Wang** were named state winners in the Siemens competition. They will each receive a \$2,000 scholarship from Siemens.

TJ Top Winners in the Regional Science and Engineering Fair: Congratulations to the many TJ students who presented projects at the Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Fair this past weekend. All of the students representing TJ were recognized with category and/or association awards.

The Grand Prize winners who will represent Fairfax County at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta in May are **Alex Kim** and **William McGrath**, and the team of **Phil Grisdela, Joy Lee, and Sumit Malik**.

First place in their categories and also nominated for the Grand Prize are: **Alex Kim, Juyeon Park, Janet Shin, Russel Glorioso, Anne Rohlfing, Rohit Dasgupta, Christine Hiemstra, Jeff Chen, Madhav Nandipati, Nabeem Hashem, William McGrath, Ryan Brewster, Dawei Qi, Varun Bansal, Phil Grisdela, Joy Lee, Sumit Malik, Evan Warner, Jacob Steinhardt, Francis Deng, Sappho Gilbert, Bo Fan, and Arielle Kahn**.

The following students were First Place winners and will advance to the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair: **Rebecca Chung, Thomas Williams, Anirudh Saraswathula, Prashasti Agrawal, and Yasmin Kamal**.

Model Judiciary Win: Congratulations to **Byron Hood**, who became one of only three Northern Virginia high school students to compete (with other students selected from competitions in other parts of the state) in the Supreme Court round of the Virginia Model Judiciary competition. This is the fourth time that a Jefferson team has been selected for the finals of this prestigious competition, and no Jefferson team thus far has ever lost at this level.

National High School Moot Court Competition Win: Congratulations to two Jefferson students, **Nina Garcia** as counsel for the petitioner, and

Rathna Ramamurthi for the respondent, who entered the competition. Both Nina and Rathna made it to the quarter finals of the competition, a significant distinction in itself, in that the majority of the participants were eliminated in the preliminary rounds. Rathna made the sixteen person semi-final cut, and ended up being one of the four students selected to argue in the Final Round of the competition. And, after her argument in the final round of the competition, she took the Best Respondent prize, defeating her opponent from Bella Vista High School, a California school.

TJ Track Athletes Earn All-American Status: Four TJ track athletes earned All-American status at the National Scholastic Indoor Track Championships in New York City on March 21. **Evan Heflin, Robert Stephens, Timmy Galvin** and **Brian Landry** placed 6th in the Distance Medley Relay at the national meet, running 10:25.28, the fastest time posted by a Virginia team this year, and the 8th fastest time in the nation.



Timmy Galvin, Robert Stephens, Brian Landry, and Evan Heflin

TJHSST Partnership Fund

News Flash: Partnership Fund Director of Corporate and Community Outreach Gary Bottorff is pleased to announce that **Battelle**, “an international science and technology enterprise that explores emerging areas of science, develops and commercializes technology, and manages laboratories for customers,” **has pledged \$10,000 to TJHSST through the Jefferson Partnership Fund.** In addition, Gary has been working with Representative Tom Davis (R-Va.) on several different legislative approaches to support increased research at the high school level.

Many thanks to the following volunteers who made the Third Annual Parent-to-Parent Phonathon on March 9 a success: Jerry Bouchard, Atul Kapoor, Carol Pixa, Cindy Carter, Nan Coleman, Mary Jane Gutkowski, Faith Mitchell-Brown, Mary Jo and Mike Patterson, Liz Ross, Thu Van Vo, Esther Yook, Corinne Valle, Mary Beth Morrell, Jane Yang Li, Nassmah Brooks, Eileen Swoboda, Christal Karnaze, Jan Willner, Ellyn Krouse-Pontell, Bonnie Perman, Carrie Kilgore, Barbara Heard, Cora Yamamoto, Nancy Carter, Carolyn Cukierman, Tom Goodwin, Ellen Ranard, and Janet Tener. The volunteers contacted more than 600 TJ families to ask for their support of the Partnership Fund. Special thanks also to Dr. Evan Glazer for sharing the afternoon with us and for his very generous personal gift to the Partnership Fund.

There’s Still Time to be included in the 2007-08 Jefferson Partnership Fund Honor Roll of Parents. Make a donation today to the Jefferson Partnership Fund at www.tjpartnershipfund.org.

Do You Work for ManTech or know a TJ parent, alumni parent or graduate who does? If so, please contact parent Nancy Carter ([nacarter at earthlink.net](mailto:nacarter@earthlink.net)) or Partnership Fund Director of Corporate and Community Relations Gary Bottorff ([gary.bottorff at fcps.edu](mailto:gary.bottorff@fcps.edu)).

Questions contact Janet Tener at 703-242-8858 or Ellen Ranard at 703-759-4266

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters

As some teams begin to wind down, we would like to recognize the more than five hundred students who have participated on one or more academic teams this year, and who have learned a lot in the process. In addition, congratulations and good luck to the many TJ students who will be competing at state, regional and national competitions over the next few months!

Biology Olympiad: Thirty TJ students scored high enough on the open exam to be invited to take the semi-final exam for the USA Biology Olympiad: **Michael Chang, Luke Cheng, Udaysan Chockanathan, Rebecca Chung, Francis Deng, Huanqi Deng, Joshua Hahm, Daniel Holohan, Jonathan Hsu, Tingyu Hu, James Janopaul-Naylor, Min Jang, Arjun Khanna, Alexander Kim, Esther Kim, Aaron Koenig, Andrew Lam, Oleg Lazarev, Jessica Liu, Joseph Muldoon, Juyeon Park, Brian Rud, Anirudh Saraswathula, Vish Sridharan, Bruce Sun, Arvind Thiagarajan, Jack Wang, David Wu, Cassandra Xia, and Hanwen Xu.**

Chemistry Olympiad: : Two TJ students, **Meng-Yang Chen** and **Ryan Brewster**, are the school's nominees for the National Chemistry Olympiad, which only allows two students per school to compete in the day long exam. The Chemistry Olympiad Team has had a variety of practices and tests throughout the year, all during 8th Period, to help prepare, select, and nominate our two nominees.

Only four TJ students were allowed to take the local Chemistry Olympiad exam on March 26: **Ryan Brewster, Michael Chang, Meng-Yang Chen, and Nadir Ijaz.** The National Exam will be at Catholic University on April 21. It consists of a series of multiple choice problems, free-response problems, and a lab practical in which they must design and complete several experiments to solve lab-based problems.

Chess Team: The Chess Team won its tenth straight State Championship title on March 7-8. When the dust settled, the TJ team scored 4.5 points more than the second place Lake Braddock team, with 19.5 out of a maximum of 24 points.

Joey Regalbuto, Eddie Lu, and Aryan Khojandi placed first, second and third, respectively. In addition, **Byron Hood** placed 8th, **Tim Chen** placed 10th, **Craig Saperstein** 12th, and **Madhu Karamsetty** 24th.

Computer Team: The Computer Team won first place and \$2,500 at the University of Maryland Programming Contest on March 8. **Jacob Steinhardt, Haitao Mao, Brian Hamrick, and Jack Chen** represented TJ. Among forty teams from the Washington, DC, area they were the only team to solve five of the eight problems.

The Computer Team competed in the March USACO contest on-line over the weekend of March 15-17. In the Gold Division, **Jacob Steinhardt** and **Brian Hamrick** were among those tied for 4th in the country. In the Silver division, **Tom Georgiou** was 1st in the country. In the Bronze Division, **Ryan Brewster** and **Mary Linnell** had perfect scores. Complete results are at <http://ace.delos.com/MAR08results>.

Debate Teams – Overall: TJ received the 2nd Place WACFL 2007-2008 Judy L. Seward Sweepstakes Award for its overall cumulative performance in the JV and Varsity divisions of Public Forum Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Policy Debate, and Speech. In addition, each TJ debate team participated in the WACFL regional Metro Finals, and some will be sending representatives to nationals.

Lincoln Douglas-Debate: At Metro Finals, the LD team won first place with a perfect score of 192/192. **Viola Li** won the Ellen E. Wright Spirit of Competition Award for attending every WACFL tournament. In Junior Varsity, **Rebecca Friedman** placed as 2nd speaker and six of the eight quarterfinalists were from TJ: **Akaash Gupta** (2nd place), **Jackson Prestwood** (3rd place), **Kushal Seetharam** (4th place), **Tilani Lowman, Anirudh Mohan, and Katherine Wang.** In the Varsity division, **Emma Pierson** won 1st place speaker and was named the WACFL Metrofinals 2007-2008 Champion. She and two other TJ varsity students qualified for Nationals: **Christine O'Donnell** (4th place), and **Lily Hsiang** (5th place).

Policy Debate: At Metro Finals, TJ's policy debate team placed fourth. **Hannah Clark** won the

Eleanor E. Wright Spirit of Competition Award for attending every WACFL tournament. In JV, **Chris Lee** won 5th speaker, and the team of **Andre Kessler** and **Graham** placed 6th. In Varsity, **Kathy Hutchinson** won 6th speaker, and the team of **Kathy Hutchinson** and **Lisa Pang** placed 3rd and qualified for Nationals.

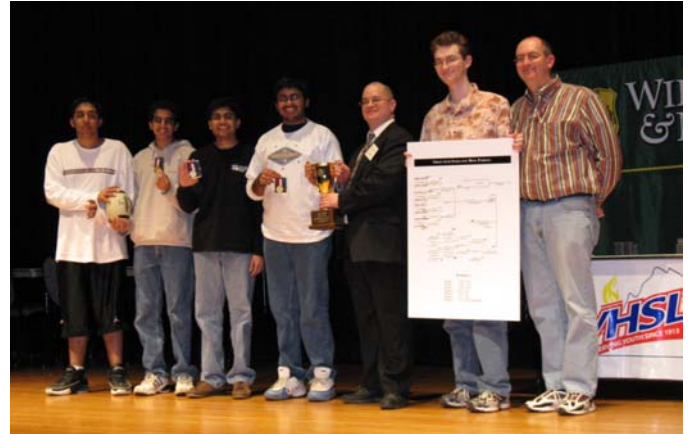
Policy Forum Debate: At Metro Finals, **Emily Yu** and **Rebecca Friedman** won the Eleanor Wright Spirit of the Competition Award for attending every Public Forum WACFL this year. In JV, **Emily Yu** and **Rebecca Friedman** qualified as quarterfinalists, and placed seventh in the JV division. In Varsity, the team of Co-Captains **Sumit Malik** and **Francis Deng** placed 5th, were 3rd Speakers, and qualified for Nationals.

Forensics: TJ placed third overall in the Virginia High School League District competition, with eight students who placed at the District level and advanced to the Regional competition. In Original Oratory, Co-Captains **Aditya Palepu** and **Sumit Malik** placed 1st and 2nd, respectively. In Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking, **Naren Tallapragada** placed 1st and Co-Captain **Rohit Dasgupta** placed 2nd. **Emily Yu** placed 1st in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, **Ashley Afranie-Sakyi** placed 2nd in Impromptu Speaking, **Greg Vernon** placed 3rd in Prose Interpretation, **Maya Chaudhuri** placed 3rd in Dramatic Interpretation. At the WACFL Speech Metro Finals, **Sumit Malik** placed 7th in Original Oratory.

Future Problem Solvers: Twenty-five TJ students qualified to attend the FPS State Bowl. In the Senior Division (grades 10-12), five teams qualified: (1) **Jonathan Pan, Dawei Qi, Erika Lee, and Joyce Fang**, (2) **Rose Zu, Cassandra Xia, Jesse Liu, and Oleg Lazarev**, (3) **Logan Gates, Alexis Barrett, Clarice Lee, and Kevin Casto**, (4) **Lily Hsiang, Lisa Pang, Ellen Huang, and Huan Song**, and (5) **Sasha Scott, Cindy Wei, Rachel Cackler, and Nabeem Hashem**. In the Middle Division (grades 7-9), **Daniel Sun** qualified as an individual competitor and one team qualified: **Roneil Rumburg, Ashu Goel, Jason Miller, and Xavier Ferrier**.

It's Academic: TJ's *It's Academic* team won the VHSL Group AAA State title on March 1, at the College of William and Mary. TJ's team, consisting of **Keshav Pillai, Phil Graves, Naren**

Tallapragada, Mohit Iyyer, and Bali Gupta, went undefeated in the 4-round playoffs, defeating in-state rival Maggie Walker Governor's School in the final round. **TJ has won 8 of the 11 VHSL State titles since 1998.**



Bali Gupta, Mohit Iyyer, Naren Tallapragada, Co-Captain Keshav Pillai, tournament director Shawn Pickrell, Co-Captain Phil Graves, parent coach Mr. Richard Graves

Physics Team: Last month, **fifteen TJ students** were among the 158 students in the United States who qualified to take the third round exam for the US Physics Olympiad: **Tiffany Cai, Kevin Casto, Luke Cheng, Aaron Dufour, Brian Hamrick, Soonwook Hong, Oleg Lazarev, Daniel Li, Casey Mihaloew, Will Minshe, Emma Pierson, Will Pitler, Jacob Steinhardt, Jack Wang, and Yangbo Xu**. TJ had more qualifying students than any other high school; the two other schools with more than 4 students were rivals Montgomery Blair HS (8) and Phillips Exeter Academy (6).

Band Boosters



All Things Band Night

All Things Band Night, April 17, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium: TJ band students enthusiastically welcome and invite the **Class of 2012** to explore the many programs within our band department. In addition to curricular band, many students are members of the **Marching Colonials**, TJ's marching band. "Away" band camp in late August provides marchers an opportunity to bond with their classmates. By the time school starts, the freshmen make a smooth transition in to TJ life.

District XI Band Festival: Congratulations to the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and combined Symphonic/Concert Band who recently performed in graded concerts, earning ratings of "superior" and "excellent," respectively. The bands were evaluated by judges provided by the Virginia Band & Orchestra Directors Association.



District XI Band Festival

Chantilly Jazz Festival: In March, Jazz I performed in this festival described as "the premier scholastic jazz competition on the entire East

Coast." Band members competed for scholarships and prizes. Results will be posted here in May.

American Youth Philharmonic: Many TJ students perform with these prestigious ensembles. Enjoy the talents of these skilled musicians, attend an AYP concert. Calendar and ticket information: <http://www.aypo.org/events/concert-schedule.php>.

Support TJ Band Fundraisers: Customized License Plate Frames: Great gift, only \$20. Contact **Sylvie** at [wrtc.org](http://www.wrtc.org), (703) 342-0215. See samples at <http://www.tjhsstband.org>. **Scrip – Gift Cards** – Variety available! – [kaycorey at cox.net](http://www.kaycorey.atcox.net).

We Need You! Many band boosters are graduating in 2008. New volunteers are needed now! Learn about TJ Bands: <http://www.tjhsstband.org>. Subscribe to Booster Yahoo group: [tjbandboosters-subscribe at yahoogroups.com](http://www.tjbandboosters-subscribe.atyahoogroups.com). Mail charitable donation to TJHSST Band Boosters, c/o Huisuk Lineer, 4955 Gainsborough Dr., Fairfax, VA 22032.

Colonial Athletic Boosters

Indoor Track: At the State Championships for Indoor Track, the following TJ boys earned **All-State Honors**:

- **Brian Landry** – 2nd place 3200m
- **Evan Heflin** – 6th place 3200m
- **Logan Gates, Timmy Galvin, Evan Heflin, Brian Landry** - 8th place Boys 3200m relay

Connor Fleming, Lisa Junta and **Aaron Bernstein** had great races as well, with **Fleming** and **Junta** finishing in 10th place in the 1600m and 3200m respectively and **Bernstein** finishing in 13th place in the 3200.

Boy's Lacrosse: The Boy's Varsity Lacrosse team has high hopes for a successful season under first-year head coach Alex Gorman. Coach Gorman comes to us from West Springfield High School where he works as a guidance counselor and was previously head coach of the JV lacrosse team. He is also a member of the Danish National Lacrosse team. Velkomst! This year's Varsity is led by a

quartet of experienced Captains, seniors **Karl Leswing** (attack), **Patrick Coleman** (defense), **Andrew Lutes** (goalie), and junior **Stefan Kowalski** (midfield/attack). The JV team, led by coach Joe Long, has plenty of enthusiasm and is looking good. Both teams have been sharp in spring scrimmages against Annandale and West Potomac (varsity), but each suffered setbacks in the first game of the season against Chantilly. The teams plan to bounce back after spring break and hope to see plenty of students filling the stands at each home game!

Girl's JV Soccer: The Girls JV Soccer Team is off to a great start! Led by coaches Luis Gendive and Aldo Zito, they won their home scrimmage against the Oakton Cougars, 4 (TJ) – 2 (Oakton) and they won their first game against the Lee Lancers, 3 (TJ) – 0 (Lee). The JV team consists of returning and new players: **Natalie Cauley, Christina Choi, Claire Cooper, Amanda Cordray, Simone Dallaire, Marie French, Jasteena Gill, April Hyon, Kyleigh Johnson, Candice Kaplan, Alison Kosmacki, MC Larme, Ginny Lehman, Maren Leibowitz, Anna Mazur, Kathryn Moore, Elizabeth Pina, Melissa Reardon, Ranjani Sarma, Janet Schirm, Katherine Shipman, Claudia Trigo, Lyndsey Wheeler, Nichole Yu, and Amy Yang.** The JV's current record of 2 (wins) – 0 (losses) shows great promise for the spring 2008 soccer season.

Girl's Varsity Lacrosse: Following a busy and productive off-season, the TJ girl's lacrosse team lost its season opener to Concorde District powerhouse Chantilly 8-18. TJ took an early 3-1 lead after goals by Senior captains **Katie Hempenius** (2) and **MC Anderson** (1). In the latter portion of the first half Chantilly took the lead and remained in control for the rest of the contest.

Katie Hempenius led all scorers in the game with five goals. In addition, **MC Anderson**, sophomore **Amelia Gonzalez**, and freshman **Catherine Zucker** each contributed one goal. On the defensive end of the field, senior **Katie Sourbeer** led the team with six ground balls and caused one turnover. Junior captain **Jenny Jones** captured three ground balls and caused one turnover while Senior captain **Jessy Shelton** snagged three ground balls.

Crew Boosters

After two postponements due to inclement weather, we were finally able to hold our very well attended ALL-FAMILY MEETING. We have an impressive number of returning rowers along with a respectable motivated group of novices. The crew team has been on the water practicing for several weeks now and will begin the competitive season with our first Regatta scheduled on Saturday, March 29, where our two top boys and girls boats will be competing on the Potomac and our boys and girls third and fourth boats will be competing in the Polar Bear Regatta at Sandy Run Regional Park on the Occoquan River.

Our Occoquan Regattas will be held on April 5, 12, and 26. The first true test of the season will be when the entire team travels to Middleton, DE, on April 19 where they will be competing against several top teams from around the Northeast. In May, the team will compete in the Virginia State Championship followed by the Stotesbury Regatta in Philadelphia and concluding the season at the SRAA National Championship in Oak Ridge, TN.

Back by popular demand, there will be a free shuttle bus from Silverbrook ES to Sandy Run Park for the Occoquan Regattas. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us at the river for any of our regattas. It is a great opportunity to cheer on the team and learn about the sport. If you have any questions about the team or the TJ Crew Booster organization, please contact Jeff Hoel, Crew Booster President. We are optimistic to continue TJ crew team's Winning Tradition... GO TJ CREW!



The men's varsity eight warms up for its race at the St Andrew's Regatta in Middleton, DE

Chorus/Choir Boosters

This column is normally about Choir, and Choir Booster activities but this month we would like you to read about a successful, student-run, choir-based initiative, as told by **Adrienne Arditti**. **Go TJ Madrigals! --**

"**Alexa Silverman** and I have both been interested in madrigals since freshman year and this year we decided to start a full-blown madrigals group. We held auditions for the TJ Madrigals at the beginning of this school year, and by October we had a full mixed-voice ensemble. Members are currently: **Adrienne Arditti** and **Kimmy Hann (Soprano)**, **Lizzy Stein** and **Becca Cohn (Mezzo)**, **Alexa Silverman** and **Amanda Vest (Alto)**, **Patrick Gould**, **Caelan Garrett** and **Alex Pham (Tenor)**, and **Andrew Palmer (Baritone)**. We participated in the East Coast A Cappella Summit High School Competition, hosted by CASA (Contemporary A Cappella Society), at which we won first place. We competed against six other groups. For the competition, we sang "Now O Now I Needs Must Part" by John Dowland, "Adieu, Sweet Amarillis" by John Wilbye, and "Baba Yetu," by Christopher Tin.



We are entirely student-run: I am the musical director, Alexa is assistant director and treasurer, Amanda is head of fundraising, Lizzy is performance coordinator, and Becca and Patrick are heads of publicity.

Rehearsals are Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7:30 a.m. to 8:25 a.m., at minimum, and frequently have lunch rehearsals as well, especially before a performance. Those in leadership positions also meet outside of rehearsal. We mainly sing madrigals, but we also arrange rock, pop, and gospel songs.

The members of our group are extremely dedicated and put in a ton of hard work. We are preparing for many upcoming performances. We will be putting on a big performance at someone's church soon, and will extend an invitation to the whole school."

Orchestra Boosters

Congratulations to the entire three TJ Orchestras, all of whom received the highest possible scores at the Regional Festival competition conducted at Westfield Orchestra recently. The students sounded terrific, kicking it up a notch from an already outstanding pre-festival performance the previous week at TJ. Well done! An additional congratulations goes out to those previously mentioned students who participated in the All-State Orchestra, held in Harrisonburg on April 5, where a variety of challenging pieces were played, including the West Side Story Overture.



Ms. Bailey leads the Orchestra at the Festival Competition

By this time, the Orchestra Trip to Chicago will have been completed. Many thanks to those chaperones who volunteered to accompany the trip. It was a very busy schedule, which in addition to some orchestra performances and a variety of tours about the Windy City, also included attending a performance of the Broadway hit musical "Wicked."

Thanks once again for supporting our Orchestra's through your time, contributions and CD purchases. It really makes a difference for the students. As always, please contact me if you have any questions or would like to help. Larry Jones ([lawrencemjones at aol.com](mailto:lawrencemjones@aol.com))



Samuel Griffis, Susan Ok, Billy Manaker, and Ben Tuben enjoy the post concert reception with Ms. Bailey

Theatre Boosters

The **Drama Club** will present its Cappie spring show of *Macbeth* on **Friday and Saturday, April 11-12, at 7 p.m.** in the **Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door.**

Approximately 27 **Shakespeare Troupe** members participated in a community outreach effort on March 26 at Frost Middle School. During 8th period, the Troupe taught the middle school students techniques in performing Shakespeare and how to stage the plays. This was the second community outreach effort of the Troupe this year. In February, the Troupe sponsored Shakespeareance, an all-day activity to promote an appreciation of Shakespeare to elementary and middle school students in the area. These activities take a lot of planning and commitment by the students and members of the Booster Club, so thank you to all involved. We especially thank Ms. Judy Bello, Troupe sponsor, who will be stepping down at the end of the school year. Under her encouragement and leadership, the Shakespeare Troupe continued to grow as an organization that is recognized for its community outreach and for producing excellent student-directed Shakespeare plays. **Thank you, Ms. Bello**, for your commitment to the Troupe and for sharing your love of Shakespeare with the students.

Congratulations to **Cara Newlon** for being selected as one of the ten finalists in the Washington Regional Competition of the National Shakespeare Competition sponsored by the English-Speaking Union of the United States. The competition was held on March 10 at the Lansburgh Theatre.

Congratulations also to the Troupe members who performed in the **Folger Theatre Festival** for high school students. The acting distinction award was given to **Olivia Bonin**, the convincing combat award was given to **Kevin Place** and **Robby Tracy** and the acting with distinction in a minor role award went to **Albert Tholen**. Ms. Bello separately awarded the entire cast an acting ensemble award and bestowed the student director's award on the only student directors in the festival, **Talia Czapski** and **Kevin Deisz**.

Announcements and Information

Techstravaganza

Techstravaganza is an outreach program sponsored by **TWIST** (Tomorrow's Women In Science and Technology) will take place at TJ **Saturday, April 19, from 1-4:30 p.m.** in both gyms and several classrooms. Maps to various activities will be available at the auditorium lobby entrance.

Student volunteers from the National Honor Society (NHS), Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS), and Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) will conduct hands-on demonstrations focused on encouraging middle school girls to pursue their interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Parent support is encouraged and more than welcome. Volunteers will assist in registering visitors, providing general supervision, and working at various exhibits. We would also welcome participation by your employers in science and technology-related areas. For more information, contact Jim Rose, TWIST sponsor, at jim.rose@fcps.edu.

Tough Budget Year Ahead

Like many other school districts in the region, Fairfax County Public Schools is tightening its financial belt as it faces the realities of a slumping local housing market and less funding from the state. Dr. Dale worked closely with the School Board to identify cuts before the budget was sent to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for review.

Budget reductions of approximately \$33 million and more than 300 positions were taken including an increase of .5 students in class size across the school system, \$10 million in central office cuts, and a redesign of summer school.

After making significant budget reductions, the School Board has requested a transfer increase of four percent from the county because it must continue to meet high community expectations, rigorous student achievement goals, and a growing student population.

The Board of Supervisors has said, at this writing, that it will not increase the transfer at all. If the schools do not receive the four percent increase, the School Board will make deeper cuts of more than \$63 million, including the possibilities of a reduction of a market-scale adjustment for employees and further class-size increases.

FCPS relies on local funds for almost three-quarters of its budget and receives only 21 percent of its funding from the state. It is almost certain that revenues from the state will be reduced, further aggravating the schools' budget difficulties.

Because property values have declined in recent years, county property tax revenue will be lower even at the same tax rate as last year. One option under consideration is for the Board of Supervisors to increase the tax rate (the amount of tax paid for each \$100 of property value). Doing so would not increase the amount of tax that the average property owner would pay compared to last year because of declining property assessments.

Scheduled to approve the schools transfer on April 28, the supervisors are accepting comments and

input from the community to aid them in their decision. The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on March 31, April 1, and April 2.

By the time you read this, there may be further developments, but there is no question that the situation will be dire. Dr. Dale urges community members to stay informed as the county budget process continues. For more information on the budget, please visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2009.htm>.

Student Essay Contest

The Fairfax County Public Schools MentorWorks program is sponsoring an opportunity for students to showcase their writing ability and to acknowledge an individual who has "made a difference" in their lives. Students may submit a one page essay describing a mentor, tutor, school volunteer, or business partner who has had a significant impact on their education or life. Essays are due by the close of business on Tuesday, April 15.

Winners will receive a \$200.00 savings bond from Apple Federal Credit Union and will read their essays at the Partners in Education and MentorWorks Celebration on May 21 at Falls Church High School. To receive an application or for contest details, contact the business partner coordinator or counselor at your school or go to the MentorWorks web site at www.fcps.edu/ss/MentorWorks. For additional questions, contact Shelley Prince, MentorWorks specialist, at 571-423-4432.



Noteworthy Dates

April	May
1 Band Boosters Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Principal's Conf. Rm.	1 Last JLC
1 ANGP Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center	1 Government Relations Committee Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Rm. 106
2 Colonial Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Library	2 Freshman Lock-In
2 Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center	5-16 AP Exams
3 Government Relations Committee Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Rm. 106	6 ANGP Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center
5 SGA Leadership Conference	7 Colonial Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Library
7 Student Holiday	7 Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center
8 Diversity Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library	12 PTSA Executive Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library
8 Orchestra Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Principal's Conf. Rm.	13 Diversity Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center
9 Human Relations Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., Career Center	13 Orchestra Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Principal's Conf. Rm.
10 Chorus Boosters Meeting, 7 p.m., M-8	14 Human Relations Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., Career Center
11-12 Drama Club, <i>Macbeth</i> , 7 p.m.	15 Chorus Boosters Meeting, 7 p.m., M-8
14 PTSA Meeting Executive Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library	17 Landscaping Work Day, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
16 Class of 2012 Welcome Night, 4:30 p.m.	19 Newsletter Submission Deadline
17 All Things Band Night, Welcome Class of 2012! 6:30 p.m., Auditorium	19-29 SOLs
17 Student Services Advisory Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library	22 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center
19 Techstravaganza, 1-4:30 p.m.	26 Memorial Day Holiday
21 Newsletter Submission Deadline	June
24 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center	3 ANGP Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Rm. 106
25 <i>As Seen on TV</i> Silent Auction, Class of 2010, 7 p.m., Cafeteria	4 Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Career Center
26 Class of 2009 Spring Premiere Event, 6-11 p.m.	5 Government Relations Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 106
30 PTSA Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Career Center	6 Senior Prom, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Westwood Country Club
	7 Landscaping Work Day, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
	9 PTSA Executive Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library
	11 Human Relations Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., Career Center
	12 Senior Class Picnic, Lake Accotink
	14 Graduation, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Patriot Center
	14 All Night Grad Party, after graduation, TJ
	17 Last Day of School

ATTENTION ALL TJ FAMILIES!



IT'S TIME FOR THE SILENT AUCTION!

Theme: **As Seen on TV**

The Travel Channel, ESPN, Game Show Network, Food Network, Home and Garden TV, Learning Channel, Animal Planet and much more

**Friday, April 25th
7 to 10 pm, TJ Cafeteria**

Our silent auction will start at 7:00 pm, followed by a live auction for some of our bigger items.

Just a few of things that we have already collected from generous donors:

- 5 days at a Disney World Resort in August
- 1 week at the Marriot Golf Resort in Williamsburg
- 3 credit course at Marymount
- Brand new foosball table from Sharper Image
- Four hours of professional tree services
- Large Love Sac Bean Bag Chair
- Lots of Restaurant Gift Certificates
- Tickets to Local Sporting and Theater Events

Please plan on joining us for the evening – this will be a great chance to chat with other TJ parents and enjoy refreshments (sandwiches and salads will be available for purchase, along with free desserts), all while supporting the Class of 2010 in its largest fundraiser.

Join the PTSA Today!

VISIT:

[HTTP://LEADERSHIP.TJHSST.EDU/PTSA/SUPPORT.HTM](http://LEADERSHIP.TJHSST.EDU/PTSA/SUPPORT.HTM)

***IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE PTSA
FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR!***

**If you enjoy reading the *Tech cetera*
you know how busy TJ is**

**Please consider joining the PTSA to continue
making a difference in our children's lives!**

Get a copy of the 2007-2008 Directory at half price

PTSA Memberships are valid through October 30, 2008

Dear Seniors/Parents,

The school year is almost over, and the senior issue of tjTODAY is fast approaching. Five years ago, tjTODAY started a new policy of allowing seniors to place personal ads in this issue. The product was highly successful so we are offering this opportunity to you again. Our printing expenses for this one-of-a-kind 32-page issue continue to rise so our ad prices have gone up a bit over last year, but all involved would say, it's worth it!

<p><u>Suggestions for Advertisement Design</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Take a look at advertisements printed in older and current editions of tjTODAY. Look for advertisements that appeal to you.2. Collect pictures and photos that you would like to use in your advertisement.3. The simpler the advertisement design, the better. Pictures should generally be the same size and shape to retain a professional layout in your advertisement. Collages are not always the best choice.4. Make sure to select lighter colored photos, as advertisements will be printed in black and white. Dark photos may not show up as easily as lighter photos in the print edition.5. Your advertisement must be fully laid out and camera ready. <p>Digital/electronic submission is preferred. Send to Jennifer.Seavey at fcps.edu</p>	<p><u>Advertisement Packages</u></p> <p>A: Full page (\$250) 10.25" x 15" B: Half page (\$175) 10.25" x 7.5" C: Quarter page (\$125) 5.125" x 7.5" D: Eighth page (\$75) 5.125" x 3.75"</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 20px; text-align: center;">A \$250</div><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">B \$175</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">C \$125</div><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">D \$75</div></div>
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tjTODAY

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
c/o Jennifer Seavey, Room. 107
6560 Braddock Alexandria, VA 22312-2206
(703) 750-8375

Deadline for all advertisement submissions: **May 16, 2008**

Please retain a copy of all materials submitted, as tjTODAY will not return submissions.

We recommend that you send in a copy and keep the original. Thanks!

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-----CUT OUT

Student's name: _____ Parent's name _____

Telephone number: (____) _____ -- _____

Address: _____

Package (circle one only): A B C D Amount of check: \$ ____

_____ . ____

Today's Date: _____

Thank you for your order!

tjTODAY seniors: Laura Berk, Johnna Vogel, Amy Duncan, Judith Yang and Stephen Matthews

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

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 6339
Merrifield, VA

Tech cetera is available online on or around the first of the month at:
<http://www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/newsletter.htm>

If you are a PTSA member and would like a printed copy mailed to you each month, please contact:
[Ptsa.membership at tjhsst.edu](mailto:Ptsa.membership@tjhsst.edu)

Contributions: [ptsa.newsletter at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.newsletter@tjhsst.edu)

Check List

- Student Holiday – April 7
- Macbeth* – April 11 and 12
- PTSA Executive Board Meeting – April 14
- Class of 2012 Welcome Night – April 16
- All Things Band Night – April 17
- Silent Auction, Class of 2010 – April 25