

## Principal's Letter

Dear parents/guardians, teachers, and students:

It's hard to believe the holiday season is approaching us already. The old adage "Time flies when you are having fun" is definitely true with life at TJ. Since we move at the speed of a rocket launching a satellite into space, I thought I would take a moment to stop and smell the roses - not pondering over our many successes, but instead thinking of all of the people who contribute to the success of our students.

To our parents and guardians, not only do you give care and attention at home to your child, but you also spend countless hours at TJ helping teachers and other students, either chaperoning events, volunteering in numerous offices, locating scholarships, fundraising to provide new resources to the school, and serving on many committees. I notice the difference you make in our school community and the teachers appreciate how you spoil them with treats and thank yous to make them feel special.

To our teachers, not only do you focus on challenging our students with innovative curriculum and instruction, you are active members of the school community, either through mentoring new teachers to our school, serving on curriculum teams, working with students' new 8th period activities, chaperoning school events, leading new initiatives, and networking with a community of professionals around the world. I feel privileged to be among the finest educators in the world who understand learning extends beyond the classroom.

To our students, I am inspired every day by your ideas and your motivation to take action on them. You are our future leaders and the reason why all of us love being at TJ. I recognize your commitment to advancements in research and your attention to social responsibility beyond TJ.

I am thankful you are motivated to take on some of our world's most challenging problems in our future.

To our support staff, you make everyone's life easier. The administrative assistants work behind the scenes to set us all up for success. The custodians work late at night to minimize germs so we can remain healthy. The security specialists monitor the safety of our environment to ensure we have a trusting environment. The cafeteria workers make sure we are nourished each day. Our school could not function without this team.

To our school's leadership team, you face the most challenging issues within and outside our school using great reflection, care, and compassion. You constantly communicate with your constituents, bring forward their needs, and mediate the most difficult conversations. You are champions of new ideas and do everything you can to support the success of your colleagues. Each day I marvel at your wisdom, diplomacy, and enthusiasm to make TJ a great place for teaching and learning.

To our external partners, you provide new opportunities for our students, off-campus through mentorship and on-campus through new equipment to support their research. At times when public dollars fall short, your partnerships enable these special opportunities for our students that would otherwise not be possible.

For many of us, this is the time of year where we give gifts to those who are important in our lives. I want you to know I see these gifts not just in late November and December but everyday at TJ and this is why I love being your principal. Please don't hesitate to contact me (Evan.Glazer@fcps.edu) if you have any ideas to help TJ become even a better place for learning and growing. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Yours truly,  
Evan Glazer,  
Principal

## President's Message

Happy holidays and congratulations!

Thanks to the hard work of our staff and students, Thomas Jefferson has again been recognized by U.S. News as the #1 high school in the nation. We are very thankful for the talent and hard work that make our school such a great place to grow personally and academically. November was an event filled month at TJ. We celebrated the success of our students with several important events: National Honor Society induction, Academic Letter Awards and the National Merit Semi-finalist reception. Special thanks to **Carrie Kilgore** and all the members of the Hospitality Committee who provided volunteers and donations for these receptions and also for the Thanksgiving lunch. Wow! What a spectacular marathon effort. Senior Night was a hugely attended event for senior parents preparing for end of the year and graduation festivities. Many thanks to all who helped make it such a successful and informative night, especially 2009 class sponsors **Judy Bello** and **Nancy McCormick**.

The executive committee has continued to work very hard providing feedback on the school profile. From our review of other profiles it is very apparent that our students are an extremely talented group, both personally and statistically, at all levels of comparison. Our school profile reflects the rigor of the TJ program and the remarkable achievements of our kids. Thanks to Dr. Glazer and Mr. Kosatka for inviting our participation. The Curriculum Advisory Committee (**Ed Saperstein/Chair**) met this month and has outlined their plan for the year. The Student Services Advisory Board (SSAB- **Linda Russ/Chair**) also met for the first time and discussed multiple issues including the profile, grade distribution, "senior slump" and college acceptances. Please plan on attending some of these meetings to stay informed.

The budget remains a major concern for FCPS schools. Everyone will suffer cuts, but the extent of the four tiered proposal remains uncertain. Loss of programs and staff, with increases in class size seem inevitable, at least to some extent. For TJ, afternoon transportation may suffer along with some extracurricular activities like gymnastics and winter track. Please follow these discussions and plans carefully in order to help us be strong advocates for our kids and our school.

We appreciated having **Mr. Bob McCormick** at our last PTSA meeting to review the parking situation. Parents are again reminded to only park in legal spots. After 9am you may park in student spots, but leave a note in the windshield. Finally we will be making an attempt to improve the efficiency of the lost and found.

### FYI

**TOYS FOR TOTS** – **Mr. Barry Potoker** is sponsoring this great activity. Guidelines are as follows:

- Toys should not be wrapped in order to determine intended age and gender.
- Do not donate toys which may be either used for, or considered as weapons.
- Please donate only NEW toys.
- Age range for toys should be from toddler to 16 years of age.
- Each toy should have a \$15 value, in many cases this is the one and only toy a child will receive.
- They will be collecting toys from now until December 12. Toys may be turned into the 8th period office.

For questions please contact [Barry.Potoker at fcps.edu](mailto:Barry.Potoker@fcps.edu)

**LOST AND FOUND** – Please remember to check the boxes of lost and found items opposite the security office prior to the holidays. Items are generally displayed on tables leading up to the

holidays and then they are donated if they are not claimed.

**HOLIDAY ABSENCES** – Please remember to call in advance, or provide for arranged absences for your students, if they will miss class time during the holidays.

**PTSA POSITIONS** – We are still looking for a PTSA Parliamentarian (no pay/great food). Let me know if you are interested in serving on the bylaws committee. Also, our annual nominating committee will be forming in the next few months. Look for an announcement in Techcetera.

Please see the attached flyer for an IT committee which is forming to look at the data handling needs of the PTSA and affiliated committees.

**SCHOOL DIRECTORIES** are now on sale at a discounted rate of \$5 through the front office.

Thanks!  
Liz Ross  
PTSA President

## Committees

### ANGP



**Senior Parents: ANGP Tickets**  
**Make Great Holiday Gifts**  
**for Seniors**

Looking for a great holiday gift for your senior? An early bird ticket to the All-Night Grad Party (ANGP) fills the bill!

**Buy in December and get a special gift certificate with the ANGP logo and your student's name on it in time for the holidays.**

Every year about **98% of all TJ seniors** attend the capstone celebration of their four years here, the All-Night Grad Party (ANGP). While June 13 is still several months away, parents are urged to buy their student's ticket for this fantastic event

NOW, rather than wait. Here are some reasons why:

- If you buy early, your money will definitely go toward YOUR student's party, the one for the Class of 2009, rather than being held over to the Class of 2010. Every year, some of the spring collections are held over to the next class's party. This is because organizers need to be careful not to go over budget in their planning, which is going on *right now*.
- The current price for the ANGP is **\$90**. **On January 15, the price goes** up to \$109. The price is all-inclusive for food, music, activities, door prizes, etc.
- Buy in December and receive a special electronic gift certificate with ANGP logo and your student's name on it, ready to download and print out for the holidays.

#### **Here's how to purchase:**

1) Fill out the form attached to this newsletter or go to <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/tickets.html> for the Ticket Order and Acknowledgement of Risk form. Write a check to "TJHSST PTSA-ANGP," send it with the form to: Julia Villacorta, ANGP '09 Tickets, 8304 Hunting Hill, McLean, VA 22102. OR drop form and check off in the TJ front office in the "Grad Party" box. Over half the class has their tickets!

**Baby Photos Needed:** It's a longstanding ANGP tradition to display baby photos of our adorable seniors! So pull out your photo albums today and



select the cutest baby picture of your senior. We are collecting a 4x6 baby photo (0 - 5 yrs old) of each senior accompanied by his/her wallet-size senior picture. Print the student's name on the back of each print. No originals please as the photos will not be

returned. Drop the photos in the ANGP Baby Photo box in the Front Office or mail to: Tracy Parlett, 709

Santmyer Dr SE, Leesburg, VA 20175.

**Donations:** There is still time to honor your student by making a "Dedication to your Senior". Dedications will be published in the ANGP Newsletter and posted in school. For more information, visit the website: <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/donors.html>. Some examples are: "The Amazing Awesome Amanda", "Kites fly highest against wind", "Jonathan – You made it", "Congrats, Alex! Keep Running", "The incredible gift that is TJ!"

### ***Free Money Program***

**Avoid Traffic and Long Lines Get Great Prices and Earn \$\$\$ for TJ as you shop Every time** you start your shopping on Amazon.com, enter the Amazon.com website by clicking-through on the Amazon icon on the PTSA Homepage (<http://tjhsst.edu/ptsa>) and TJ earns about 6.5% of your purchase! Buy and use Amazon.com gift cards for double the contribution!

For a product sale to be eligible, you must click-through our special link to the Amazon Site, and then add the Product to your shopping cart or purchase the Product via the 1-Click feature during the session. The session ends upon one of the following events: (a) 24 hours elapses from the your initial click-through, (b) you order the Product, or (c) you access Amazon through a different link. Use your wish list as a way to make this really easy. Go to the page now and set up a bookmark so you can go directly to the link whenever you want!

Questions or comments? Contact Nora Callahan at 703-319-9434 or [NoraVA at Verizon.net](mailto:NoraVA@Verizon.net).

### ***Landscaping Committee***

Fall is time for planting! The Audubon Society of Virginia sponsored TJ as a planting site for local native trees, shrubs, ferns and flowers rescued

from areas slated for construction as part of their Together Green project with Toyota. Many thanks to the Audubon volunteers and TJ students and parents who came out Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> to help with the planting. You can see the results under the maple tree near the sculpture as you exit TJ. We especially want to thank Elaine Franklin from the Audubon Society for organizing this, and all the TJ students who spent their 8<sup>th</sup> periods clearing the planting area for the rescue plants and for the adjacent Monarch Way Station.



TogetherGreen Audubon Plant Rescue



The whole crew planting Arrowwood Viburnums, Boneset and ferns

The Landscaping committee would like to thank the Administration and PTA at Great Falls Elementary School for their very generous donation of shrubs, ferns and flowers that needed to be moved due to the GFES building renovation. Most noticeable are the two Oakleaf Hydrangeas we have planted by the Aud Lob door. We also would like to thank the Cackler family today and for many years to come for donating a Virginia Fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) to

TJ. This pretty little tree will be covered with beautiful white blooms at the end of May. Look for the blooms this spring in the area between Senior lot and the Braddock Rd. Exit.

## Student Services Corner

### ***Student Government Association***

Hello Colonials,

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving break! Last month's biggest event was Debate '08 followed by the Jefferson Mock Election. The SGA held a successful mock election the Wednesday through Friday before Election Day. We teamed up with the Young Democrats and the Teenage Republicans to tape a series of 4 one-minute debates whereby the members of these two clubs spoke as Senator Obama and Senator McCain, respectively, and SGA officers moderated. The debates were filmed thanks to the members of the Videotechnology Lab and Mr. Montgomery, and they were aired every day leading up to the mock voting. Topics included the War in Iraq, the state of the economy, environmental and energy issues, and health care. The voting took place for three days during lunch in the cafeteria. "Voters" registered with SGA "election officials" and voted via paper ballot at the polling stations. Even faculty participated! In the end, 688 students voted, electing Obama. The votes of the TJ students followed the national trend as only four days later, Obama was elected in the national election. Thank you for all of your help in promoting civic involvement!

Next up for SGA is the Richard Slivoskey Grant, Winter Sports Rally, a winter accessories drive, and painting inspirational quotes on the walls of TJ. Look for more information about these coming event on the SGA website: [tjhsst.edu/sga](http://tjhsst.edu/sga).

As part of the Richard Slivoskey Grant, SGA gives \$1000 every year to a club that would improve the Jefferson community and/or reach

out to all students. The grant was named after Richard Slivoskey, the teacher who took on the challenge of organizing 8th period in 1989 and continued to do so until the end of 2006 - 2007 school year. This year, the application is due December 2nd in Room 210. Make sure you don't miss the deadline!

Just one more month and it will be the year 2009! Make your last month of 2008 memorable and amazing! Happy Holidays!

TJ SGA

### ***Guidelines***

The latest issue of the TJHSST Student Services Department newsletter, ***Guidelines***, is available at: <http://academics.tjhsst.edu/dss.html>

## Academic News

### ***German News***

German students had the chance this month to hear their friends talk about their summer experiences in German. At an 8<sup>th</sup> period event, students who had traveled through Germany with family, students who had won the chance to spend a summer in Germany, and those who had attended Virginia's Governor's German Academy gave "show and tell" presentations for their friends. Students who attended this annual "German Students Abroad" event enjoyed seeing beautiful travel pictures and eating cookies brought back from Nuremberg.

The German program is again seeking native speakers of German who would be willing to talk with our students. Please send any possible contact information to the German teacher, Carter Vaden, at [carter.vaden@fcps.edu](mailto:carter.vaden@fcps.edu). We will get in touch with these people to either set up visits to TJ, or to have our advanced students come interview them in German.

### ***From Russia, with love***

The Russian program has had a very successful start to this school year! On November 4, the Russian Club sponsored an Election Day Bake Sale here at TJ. Students from all levels of Russian volunteered to bake food and stand in front of TJ to sell yummy goodies to hungry voters. The students raised over \$1300!

On November 11, *SLAVA*, the Russian Honor Society, hosted the Annual Russian Dinner in TJ's cafeteria. Russian speaking families in the TJ community as well as Russian students were invited to attend. The speakers included Peggy Lyons, parent of TJ alum-Russian student, Samantha Keyser, '08. Ms. Lyons talked about the high demand for people with knowledge of the Russian language in combination with a Science and Technology background – necessary for many international and government jobs. Students in all levels of Russian finished the evening by performing Katyusha, a popular Russian folk song. Next up was the annual National Russian Essay Contest, on November 18, 2008.

TJ Russian students and their teacher were happy to report great success on their new outreach program. Students who are in Fairfax County Schools, grades 7-12, where Russian is not offered, were invited to take advantage of our Russian Language Classes offered Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. There is no charge for these classes and we are pleased to have 14 students, including a curious 6<sup>th</sup> grader who could not wait until next year to begin learning Russian!

More outreach! The Russian Honor Society is conducting a toy drive for children in Pskov, Russia. This is only one phase of our joint community service project with students in Russia. Thank you for your donation of *small* toys (we have to pack them to take to Russia in big duffel bags) to help us begin our collection. Toys may be brought to Room 223.

Inductions for new SLAVA members will take place during our December 5<sup>th</sup>, A – Block Meeting. Dress nicely!

Applications for the Summer 2009 Russian Governor's Academy can be found posted on Blackboard. Interested students in Levels 2 and 3 are encouraged to apply.

Want to be included in Russian Podcasting? Contact **Stuart Maier** for more information.

Best wishes to **Aaron Koenig** as he reads scientific articles published only in Russian to help prepare him with his research for his upcoming science fair project. Russian and Science – perfect together!

To contact the SLAVA officers, email: [slavaofficers at gmail.com](mailto:slavaofficers@gmail.com)

## Class News

### *2009 – Seniors*

Have a great holiday season and get those college applications going. Our next event is Talent Show on January 23. Plan to participate and have a wonderful time.

2009 Class Laison  
Anjana Desai

### *2010 - Juniors*

December is an important month for junior parents and students: it is time to think about senior research labs and the college application process.

### **Senior Research Labs:**

In December, juniors will be completing and submitting applications for their senior research labs and/or mentorships. You can access information about the process as well as the applications on your student's or your Blackboard account.

Parents, don't forget to attend the Science & Tech Division Parent Meeting on Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 pm to learn about the senior research labs and mentorships. Students will be visiting the labs and attending their own meetings during 8<sup>th</sup> periods that week.

### **College Admissions Process:**

Don't miss Junior Parent College night on Thursday, December 11 at 7:30 pm. Junior parents will meet with the guidance counselors to learn about the college admissions process. Students will be meeting with their counselors on December 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> during TA – attendance at one of these meetings is mandatory for students. Parents and students can make individual appointments to meet with guidance counselors about colleges from January to June. Each counselor will provide more information about the sign ups at the December 11 meeting.

For students only:

Tell your students about the TJ Alumni panel on Monday, December 22nd. Recent TJ graduates will talk about their college experiences. This panel is during 8<sup>th</sup> period and for students only.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Ellen Ranard, [ESRanard at gmail.com](mailto:ESRanard@gmail.com)  
PTSA Class of 2010 Representative

### ***2011 – Sophomores***

First a BIG thanks to the parents who chaperoned the Sadie Hawkins Dance on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The sophomore class joined the senior class in sponsoring this very well-attended dance for the school. Next on the agenda is the Class of 2011's Silent Auction scheduled for May 1, 2009. This event, like last year's Freshman Lock In, will necessitate a huge volunteer effort. The auction's purpose is to raise funds for graduation, in addition to simply having a great time. There will be several ways in which you can volunteer. Right now, we are looking for a group of organizers to

meet in January. We expect to have a parent chair for the event and other key parent-led committees. Please send an e-mail to **Daniela Owen** [danielaowen at verizon.net](mailto:danielaowen@verizon.net) or **Eileen Swoboda** [eswoboda at gventerprises.net](mailto:eswoboda@gventerprises.net) and let us know of your interest. It is not unusual to meet parents of TJ grads who, when learning that you have a student at the school, beam and share their gratitude for the school and their own child's experience there. TJ is what it is not only because of the students, faculty and administration but because many parents generously devote their resources to make the school a better place for all our kids. Opportunities to support the auction range from being part of the organizing group, helping out the day of the event, contributing items to donate, and simply supporting the event monetarily. All are welcome.

### ***2012 – Freshmen***

We made it through the first quarter at TJ! Hope your first quarter was a good one. We heard the second quarter is one of the better quarters from a time perspective with many holidays and the winter break. So let's cheer to that!

The class officers for this year are:

President	<b>Daniel Kim</b>
Vice President	<b>Nishant Garg</b>
Secretary	<b>Richard Wan</b>
Treasurer	<b>Shriram Sundararaman</b>
Co-historians	<b>Allison Crow &amp; Stacey Zhou</b>
Senator	<b>Caroline Woods</b>

By now, all the kids have been grouped and are working on their IBET projects. They are busy documenting and sharing preliminary ideas for their research papers. Our freshmen are also getting acclimated to 8<sup>th</sup> period activities. Some have participated in local competitions as well.

It is never too early to volunteer for the Freshmen Lock-In. We still need a lot of volunteers. Please e-mail your interest to [TJClassof2012 at cox.net](mailto:TJClassof2012@cox.net). As soon as we get more information about the spring activities, we will relate them to

you. Have a good December and may the New Year bring you and your family peace, health, and success in your all your endeavors.

Ann Nguyen  
Janet Tasker  
PTSA Class of 2012 Representatives

## News Round-Up and Awards

### BSA Eagle Scout Rank Achievement

**Kyle and Daniel Markwalter**, Class of 2009, have achieved the Boy Scouts of America rank of Eagle Scout. Their Court of Honor will be held on Saturday January 3, 2009. Kyle's Eagle Scout project was a Hands-On Science Fair for Eddie's Club, an organization that provides a social and recreation program for children and teens that have any form of disability. Daniel's project was the construction of 400 medical kits to be distributed internationally by the United Methodist Committee on Relief to refugees of war or natural disasters. Daniel and Kyle would like to thank the TJ students who volunteered to help with their projects.

### Alumni named 2009 Rhodes Scholar

**Lucas Brown (TJ'05)**, an economics major at Oberlin College, has been named a 2009 Rhodes Scholar. He will spend next year at Oxford. This is the second consecutive year that a TJ Alum has been named a Rhodes Scholar.

## TJHSST Partnership Fund

### New Partnership Established - Lockheed Martin Provides TJ Research Dollars

On Monday, November 17, five senior Lockheed Martin officials participated in an official signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between TJHSST and Lockheed Martin. The MOA establishes a Steering Committee and a

formal process to fund research to TJ students. All monies are directed through the Partnership Fund. During the ceremony, LM presented a check for \$10,000. Additionally, they will provide \$2,000 to the Chemical Analysis Research Laboratory (TJ teacher Brian Kennedy) for the initial research effort. Congratulations all around to TJ administration and staff and to Lockheed Martin for a bold start to an exciting partnership.



Tom Goodwin, TJPF Chair, Julie Strategos, Vice President, Technical Operations Undersea Systems, Lockheed Martin, and Dr. Evan Glazer

### Partnership Fund distributes \$50,000 for TJ

#### Faculty Needs

At the November faculty meeting, PF Chairman Tom Goodwin presented Dr. Evan Glazer a check for \$50,000 from the Partnership Fund. This check is drawn from parents' gifts to the Partnership Fund designated as unrestricted funds. With this money the school will purchase items off the TJ Faculty Wish List for the astronomy, electronics and energy systems labs, and for biology and physics classes. THANKS SO MUCH TO PARENTS!

#### HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING IDEA

In November's mail you received the Jefferson Partnership Fund Year-End Appeal and the new "In Honor of Gifts" program. An "In Honor of Gift" will not only show the student or family your support of them and their school, but will also

highlight the value of giving in these complex times. In addition to parents, this is perfect for grandparents, relatives and friends to show their support of TJ. Many of you have already responded — thank you for your generous donations!

**REMINDER:** You can also support the Thomas Jefferson Partnership Fund through the Combined Federal Campaign/United Way Appeal at the workplace. Check number 81947 to designate TJ as the recipient of your gift.

**SUCCESS!** In the 2007 December Tech Cetera, we were seeking parent connections to Lockheed Martin and see what happened in one year – a new thriving partnership! Parents please contact Gary Bottorff (703) 750-8317 with your corporate connections and see what can happen.

Have a safe and restful holiday season – Sincere wishes from the TJ Partnership Fund!

## TJHSST Boosters

### *Academic Boosters*

This year, over 600 TJ students are participating on one or more academic teams. As of November, eighteen of TJ's twenty-one academic teams had submitted funding requests for over \$50,000 in registration fees, over \$13,000 in teacher sponsor expenses, and over \$60,000 in other expenses.

Because Academic Boosters does not have unlimited resources, students on academic teams pay their own travel expenses, plus some registration and other costs. However, so far this year Academic Boosters has purchased textbooks for the Biology Olympiad team, study materials for the Ocean Bowl team, and has subsidized registration fees for Botball (robotics), Certamen (Latin), Chess Team, the Freshman and Senior (10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>) Computer Teams, tournaments

for multiple debate teams, Future Problem Solving, Japan Bowl, Math Team, Model UN, Odyssey of the Mind, and Physics Olympiad.

Meanwhile, TJ's academic teams are doing a great job.

### **Certamen**

TJ Certamen has experienced a great deal of success so far this year. At the VJCL Kickoff Certamen held October 25 at St. Stevens and St. Agnes School in Alexandria, the Latin I team, consisting of **Jared Golant, Elizabeth Steele, Sam Sohn and Billy Nguyen**, received third place, the Latin II team, consisting of **Zach Seid, Mitchell Lee, Yohan Sumathipala, and Richard Nguyen**, received fifth place, the Latin III team, consisting of **Catherine Zucker and Siddharth Hariharan** received third, and the Upper Level team, consisting of **Chris Kilgore, Amith Ananthram, Vivaek Shivakumar, Anne Marie Creighton, Soonwook Hong, and Alexander Spalding** received second.

At the Ad Fontes certamen held at George Mason University on November 15, the Latin I team, consisting of **Rachel Goldstein, Jared Golant, Billy Nguyen, and Sam Sohn**, received first place. The Latin II team, consisting of **Zach Seid, Akhila Ananthram, Mitchell Lee, and Richard Nguyen** received second place. The Latin III team, consisting of **Katharine Zucker, Ashwin Raja, Dave Warrington, Connor Cheong, and Nate Skolnik**, received second place. And the Upper Level team, consisting of **Chris Kilgore, Amith Ananthram, Vivaek Shivakumar, Anne Marie Creighton, and Alexander Spalding**, received second.

### **Student Congress Debate Team**

TJ's Student Congress Debate Team attended its first WACFL tournament on Saturday, November 8. **Anirudh Mohan** placed 8th at the tournament, **Lauren Frank and Nikhil Prakash** placed 12th, and **Jerry Liu** placed 13th.

## Lincoln Douglas Debate Team

The TJ Lincoln-Douglas (LD) Debate team has had a strong season so far. The weekend of October 18-19, the team attended two tournaments: WACFL 1, the local tournament, and the Liberty Bell Classic at the University of Pennsylvania. At WACFL 1, **Varun Bansal** (Varsity) and **Aman Kansal** (Junior Varsity) qualified for the regional Metro Finals, and **Aman** placed sixth in JV. At UPenn, **Tilani Lowman** placed fourth in the preliminary rounds and broke to octafinals.

On November 15th, the team attended WACFL 2. In varsity, **Ani Mohan** and **Christine O'Donnell** qualified for Metro Finals, and Christine placed sixth. In JV, **Elizabeth Denning** qualified for Metro Finals with a perfect 4-0 record and a third-place finish. In novice, **Kimee Moore** and **Kevin Boehm** had perfect 4-0 records and placed second and third, respectively.

## Policy Debate Team

At WACFL 2, four two-person varsity teams qualified for regional Metro Finals. In varsity, the team of **Han Kim** and **Franklin Zheng** placed fifth, and the team of **Hannah Clark** and **Andre Kessler** placed sixth. Both teams qualified for Metrofinals, as did the team of **Abigail Xu** and **Rachel Marzen** and the team of **Katie Lin** and **Chris Lee**.

Two JV teams qualified for Metro Finals. The team of **Johnny Kim** and **Max Wang** placed fifth, and the team of **Akshay Deverakonda** and **Sulan Zheng** also qualified for Metro Finals.

In the novice division, the team of **Billy Nguyen** and **Christina Lee** placed fourth, and the team of **John Chae** and **George Liang** placed fifth. In addition, **Billy Nguyen** won the 3rd speaker award.

## Public Forum Debate Team

At WACFL 2, three Public Forum Debate teams qualified for regional Metro Finals. The varsity team of **Kittie Helmick** and **Kevin Sun** placed sixth, with a 3-1 record. Two JV teams also qualified for Metro Finals. **Emma Pierson** and **Stephen Drodge** placed second, with a 4-0 record, and **Jane Hu** and **Timothy Yuan** placed sixth, with a 3-1 record.

## Future Problem Solving

This year, the FPS team registered 9 senior (10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) teams, 4 intermediate (9<sup>th</sup> grade) teams, and 1 senior individual. The results from this practice problem will help participants improve their performance on the upcoming qualifying problem, which will determine which teams are invited to attend the Virginia State Bowl.

## It's Academic Team

The It's Academic Team sent two teams to the University of Pennsylvania's first Quizbowl competition, the Quaker Academic Competition, on November 22, 2008. Team A, consisting of **Naren Tallapragada**, **Joshua Hahm**, **Kevin Casto**, and **Harry White** placed 5th in a field of 48 teams. Team B consisting of **Greyson Lewis**, **Michael Eng**, **Arjang Navab**, and **Jacob Kannarkat** placed 5th in the consolation bracket. Within the past month, the team has also competed in Quizbowl tournaments at the Cavalier Classic XIII at UVA on October 25, the Ben Cooper Memorial Tournament at GDS on November 8, and the VCU Fall High School Tournament on November 16.

## Math Team

The Varsity Math Team participated in (and won) its first major tournament at Duke University. The TJ-A team (**Brian Hamrick**, **Daniel Li**, **Kee Young Lee**, **Arvind Thiagarajan**, **Akshar Wunnava**, and **Chris Olund**) placed 1st overall and the TJ-B team (**Casey Mihalow**, **Sam**

**Rush, Allison Koenecke, Renjie You, Jimmy Clark, and Ming-Yee Tsang**) tied for 5th overall. Two hundred eighteen (218) students participated in the tournament, but TJ students swept the individual awards, with 1st place winner **Brian Hamrick**, 2nd place **Daniel Li**, and 3rd place **Kee Young Lee**. **Arvind Thiagarajan, Ming-Yee Tsang, and Renjie You** were part of a 12-way tie for 4th place.

Five members of the Varsity Math Team (**Chris Au, Divya Garg, Greyson Lewis, Sam Rush, and Akshar Wunnava**) traveled with Ms. Frome to the Colonial Math Challenge at George Washington University on Friday, November 7. All five placed in the top 50 (out of 250) in the first part of the competition, Colonial One, and were invited to take the second part of the competition, Colonial Two. The team of **Akshar, Divya, and Chris** placed first in the "Colonial Bowl," a single-elimination team tournament. **Akshar** also placed in the top 5 in the Colonial One contest. **Akshar** and **Sam** placed in the top 10 in the Colonial Two and will receive a merit scholarship for \$80,000 (\$20,000 per year) if they choose to attend GWU.

### **Model UN**

At the Fairfax Model UN, TJHSST received the "Secretary General's Award for Best Large School Delegation." Best Delegate Awards went to **Rishita Bollam, Bryan Cheong, April Hu, Aaron Koenig, Mica Moore, Arjang Navab, Jennifer Park, Mohima Sanyal, Vish Sridharan, and Cheng Xu**. Outstanding Delegate Awards went to **Andrew Barlow, Sid Bhatia, Nate Coddington, Mike Crumplar, Greg Romais, Miller Ke, Jeff Pontell, Anirudh Saraswathula, Sam Speers, and Dennis Wang**. Honorable Delegate Awards went to **Amar Desai, Brendan Greenley, Akaash Gupta, Aman Kansal, Kamna Kathuria, Neal Milstein, John Pulice, Anurag Shyamala, Shiyong Yang, and Andy Yang**. In addition, verbal commendations were given to **Kevin Casto, Ashu Goel, Lauren Groskaufmanis,**

**Salini Hota, Betty Huang, Ankit Kapoor, Kate Kingsbury, Christine Lee, George Li, Serena Saffarini, Naren Tallapragada, Swati Teerdhala, Alice Wang, and Sam Zhang**.

TJHSST was awarded the Secretary General's Award for Best Large School Delegation at WMHSMUN. Best Delegate Awards went to **Aaron Koenig, Aman Kansal, Anirudh Saraswathula, Ashu Goel, Carolyn Scoggins, Christine Lee, Kylene Smart, Salini Hota, Swetha Pasala**. Honorable Mention Awards went to **Amar Desai, Brendan Greenley, Brian Yu, Curtis Mills, Greg Romais, Kamna Kathuria, Naren Tallapragada, Neal Milstein, Shiyong Yang**. Verbal Commendations went to **Adam Mounts, Collin Jones, Matt Lycas, Rishitha Bollam, Vish Sridharan**.

### **Band Boosters**

**TJMC are State Champions!!!!** After two straight wins and the third competitive victory of the season, can the Thomas Jefferson Marching Colonials pull it off one final time? Late in the evening of Saturday, 25 October, the resounding answer was YES!!! TJMC's Battle at the Coliseum swept their division, triumphing in every single category and was crowned STATE CHAMPIONS in their division in the USSBA State Finals at Salem Stadium in Salem, Virginia. It was a glorious and crowning finale to a dazzling year for TJMC.



TJMC color guard flag exchange during the big win in Salem, Virginia on October 25



TJMC celebrates finals win in Salem. Head drum major Ryan Johnson is lifted, drum major Andrew Hendricks holds the sign.

The day didn't begin quite so sparkling. After scarce rain for two weeks, Mother Nature decided this was a good day to dump a deluge. The marching band students and a host of chaperones headed south under threatening skies and steady drizzle, albeit brilliant leaves, for the long bus trip to Salem in southwestern Virginia. During warm ups, the wind whipped up with some worries that the color guard flags would furl in all directions like so many errant sails. But the skies cleared just in time, the wind held still, and except for temperatures more suited to hot chocolate, TJ's marching band put on an elegant, tightly orchestrated show.

Congratulations and warm thanks must go to band director Mary Ulrey, head instructors Steve Ballard and Samantha Lee, technical instructor Dawn Comber and the entire band/color guard. And last but not least, THANKS to all the band parent chaperones who dedicate so much of their time, energy and money for a variety of band activities – home football games, away games, competition trips, events and fundraisers - all through the year.

**Condolences:** Our joyous TJMC season ended on a sad note. The TJ band family mourns the death of Rae Ann Murashige, who passed away

on Monday, November 10, 2008. Rae Ann and her husband Allen have been very active members of TJ Band Boosters for eight years while their children, Lance and Danielle, attended TJ. Danielle graduated in June and is a first year student at University of Virginia. Rae Ann worked tirelessly on band booster activities and is remembered especially for organizing Citrus Fundraising. If you wish to make a donation in Rae Ann's memory, the family suggests contributions in support of the TJ band program. Please make checks payable to TJHSST Band Boosters with the memo line stating "Rae Ann Murashige" and mail to: Henry Ruempler, 5415 Waycross Dr, Alexandria, VA 22310.

**TJMC Banquet:** Marching band/color guard students and families attended the gala on 12 November and were treated with opening remarks by our principal, Dr. Evan Glazer. A colossal thanks to Ann Besson for planning and organizing the huge gathering. Thanks also to all the volunteer parents who helped out that evening. For the third year in a row, the dinner was catered by Carrabba's Restaurant of Centreville, VA. This holiday season share a meal at Carrabba's near the intersection of Highways 29 and 66. \$25 Carrabba's gift cards are available from Band Boosters - contact [Kaycorey at cox.net](http://Kaycorey@cox.net).

**Concerts:** Winter Band Concert: Wednesday December 3. Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Jazz I, and Symphonic Bands will perform. Admission is free; donations are greatly appreciated. Fundraising items will be available for purchase. Refreshments will be provided by band families and served after the performance.

**Tuba Christmas Concert:** Tuba and euphonium players will perform on the Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center, 6, p.m. Monday, December 8. Admission is free.

## Announcements

**Mouth-Watering Citrus:** 2008 The freshest succulent grapefruit and naval oranges for sale! Order by December 12th for delivery/pick-up on December 20<sup>th</sup>

**Holiday Gifts:** Shop early! White House Commemorative Ornaments – Easy to mail gift, \$20 [fns5 at aol.com](mailto:fns5@aol.com) See samples at: <http://www.tjhsstband.org>. Gift Cards – A variety available! – [kaycorey at cox.net](mailto:kaycorey@cox.net) Innisbrook Wraps, Gifts, and Chocolates – Order online at [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com) (school number 110170-A-1) – [djruskin at cox.net](mailto:djruskin@cox.net).

**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>.

Need a Tax Deduction? Support TJ band programs. Local school bands hold neighborhood Tag Day fund drives. The TJ neighborhood includes five counties! We must rely on our virtual neighborhood. Please mail your charitable donation to TJHSST Band Boosters, c/o Henry Ruempler (see address above). Thank you!

### Noteworthy Dates:

- December 2: Band Booster Meeting- 6:30 pm–  
Principal's Conference Room
- December 3: Winter Concert – TJ auditorium,  
7:00 pm
- December 8: Tuba Christmas – Kennedy  
Center, 6 pm
- December 20: Delivery/Pick-up of citrus orders

## Colonial Athletic Boosters

A Great Fall Sports Season! TJ **Boys Cross Country** and **Girls Cross Country** teams repeat as Liberty District Champions! The Girls went on to be Regional Champions and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at

States. TJ **Field Hockey** at 9-11 (3-3) made it to the quarterfinals in Regional playoffs. **Volleyball** had a winning season (10-6), securing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the District. For only the second time in 20 years, TJ **Football** made it into the post-season, wrapping up a very respectable season with a 4-6 (3-4) record – better than nine other teams in the Northern Region. A complete wrap-up of the fall season is available on the CAB website under publications – *Fall '08 Sports Banquet News*.

Winter season sports are now in full swing. The complete schedule is on our website – Google: Colonial Athletic Boosters or click here (<http://sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters>). In addition to Boys and Girls basketball, there's also swim & dive, indoor track, wrestling, gymnastics, cheer, and dance. Again this year the TJ SGA has generously “pre-paid” TJ Student admission to all HOME basketball games. Students will need to show their school ID. CAB passes also are welcome. Regular admission is \$5. There are two gymnastics meets and three wrestling matches at TJ during the season, and support for these events is really appreciated. FCPS Superintendent Jack Dale has put forth the elimination of gymnastics and indoor track as money-saving possibilities in the upcoming, very tight, school budget. School Board consideration will follow over the next several months. While the CAB will weigh in on this issue and does represent its members, **individual parent input** has the most impact on the elected School Board. Please make your voice heard.

Our newly redesigned TJ coffee mug or classic striped knit scarf make great Holiday gifts! Check them out, along with other TJ logo merchandise and apparel, at our website. Credit cards accepted and shipping is available.

**Junior Varsity Girls Basketball:** The team won their first scrimmage against the Jeb Stuart Raiders on November 15. The game consisted of 6 sessions; TJ won 5 of the 6. The final score was

70-28 for TJ and all players scored! The JV Lady Colonials are off to a great start!

### Varsity Cheerleading

**Fall Cheer:** The squad had an **outstanding** fall season! The team was led by Coaches Melissa and Jessica Barg.

The squad supported the Varsity football team at every home and away game. On Halloween, the cheerleaders donned the football players' jerseys, cheering them on to District playoffs against Stone Bridge and, of course, at the District playoff game itself, which was held at Stone Bridge.

The squad finished their competition season on October 24<sup>th</sup> at the finals of the Northern Region Cheerleading competition for the Liberty District with a seventh place finish. They received **zero technical deductions** for their routine at the final competition! Three of the four teams from the Liberty District that competed at the Regional semi-finals moved on to the final eight at the Northern Region finals, reflecting the immense competition that the TJ squad faced at the Liberty District competition.



Varsity Cheer squad at South Lakes football game donning the football players Jerseys.

Seniors **Alexis Barrett** and **Lauren Wolbarsht** were the squad's Co-Captains. In addition to the captains, members of the varsity squad included: **Laura Barnes** (senior), **Madeline Byrd**, **Alice Chae** (senior), **Ariel Coronel** (senior), **Michelle Gahagan**, **Nora Gayer**, **Amanda Gilbert**, **Adrea Jackson**, **Min-Young (Megan) Jang** (senior), **Hyun Ji**, **Victoria Kedzie**, **Marika**

**Lohmus** (senior), **Daniella Miller**, **Christina Moore**, **Minh Nguyen**, **Emily Saitta**, **Kathy Shi**, and **Cheng Xu**. Joining the team at the District competition were alternates **Mary Kim** and **Dayoung Ko** from the Junior Varsity squad.

**Winter Cheer:** Following the end of the fall season, winter tryouts were held for the Varsity squad for the winter season. The squad has begun practicing and will cheer for the basketball teams. There are 13 members of the squad. The captain is **Marika Lohmus**.



Varsity Cheerleaders stunting in a pyramid at District Cheer Competition.

**Varsity Field Hockey:** The following players have been awarded District and Regional honors: 1st team All-District: **Nadya Muchoney**, **Bobbie Pelham-Webb** and **Hope Smith** 2nd team All-District: **Toby Loewenstein** and **Allison Smedberg** 1st team All-Region: **Nadya Muchoney** 2nd team All-Region: **Bobbie Pelham-Webb** Region All-Tournament Team: **Toby Loewenstein**

The team ended the season with a 9-11-0 record. The end of season and post-season saw the girls achieve some well-earned success. Wins over Chantilly and Langley capped the regular season. In the District playoffs, TJ defeated Marshall 1-0 and earned a meeting with eventual District Champion Woodson which resulted in a 1-0 loss. In Regional play, TJ beat Yorktown 4-0

and made the quarterfinals of Regionals where they lost a closely contested game to Annandale.

**Freshman Football:** The freshman Colonials season has come to an end. But we would be remiss if this 2008 team wasn't recognized for the raw talent that was evident on the field this fall. For 29 young men, most of whom had never played football before, they proved that years of experience don't necessarily make for a dynamic football club. But rather guts, determination and the desire to "play as a team" do.

Led by a wonderful coaching staff of **Tom Norton, Hennessey Green** and **Jeff Duncan** – the freshman Colonials should be proud. Their parents certainly are.

As for 2009? Watch out Varsity! It looks like you may have some rivals for your positions.

To the 2008 team – **Ben Boiney, Joe Buellesbach, Ed Cai, Jeongwan Choi, Saul de la Barra, Mark Elias, Aki Gao, Matt Greenspan, Stewart Hahn, Doug Hearney, Tom Hillenbrand, Carson Hotard, Eashan Kaw, Jerry Li, Mike Maccannan, Avi Mehta, Dimitre Nitchev, Alex Park, Arjun Rao, Stas Schaller, Jaewon Suh, Bryce Summers, Ryan Tasker-Benson, Mike Taylor, Benjamin Torczon, Zach Williams, Joseph Yoon, Patrick Yu** and **Alex Zaita** – CONGRATULATIONS!!

**Junior Varsity Football:** The team began their intense preparation back in August during two-a-day practices and continued to show dedication and fortitude during the entire regular season. Under the leadership of head coach **Joseph Rucker** and assistant coach **John Puvogel**, the JV squad has put forth a valiant effort against much larger squads. These coaches have been an inspiration to the players and have earned the great admiration of parents and players alike. We very much look forward to Coach Rucker's guidance next year, but must bid a fond farewell to Coach Puvogel, who will be relocating and must leave the coaching staff.

Attrition and injuries during the season cut the average squad size down to roughly 14 players per game; giving most team members the great opportunity to play both offense and defense for entire games. Some JV members moved up to varsity to replace injured players and subsequently, two freshmen moved up to JV to fill in much-needed positions; **Ian Ladner** replaced **Sungwon Byun** at quarterback and **Luke Birch** joined the squad at linebacker, replacing **Jason Schwartz**. Due to the small numbers of JV players compared to the opposing teams (who averaged 30-45 players each), the varsity team was kind enough to "lend" us some athletes for key games, but one game had to be forfeited for lack of a minimum squad. Despite this seeming disadvantage, our team played hard and enthusiastically all season, and impressed our competitors with their tenacity! This test has made them all stronger and determined to continue to bring success to the TJ football program in 2009!

These team members made us so proud this year: For the offense: **Ian Ladner**, quarterback; **Daniel Yoo**, running back; **Daniel Choo**, running back; **Andrew Watson**, offensive line; **Andy Crump**, offensive line; **Myles Cook** (who also played center the entire year without missing an offensive play), offensive line; **Nathan Hamal**, offensive line; **Joseph Scholle**, offensive line; **Alex Harasty**, wide receiver; **Chris Carey**, wide receiver; **Jim Skehan**, wide receiver and **Luke Birch**, wide receiver. Playing for the defense were **Joseph Scholle**, defensive end; **Will Mannon**, defensive end; **Andy Crump**, defensive end; **Andrew Watson**, defensive tackle; **Jay Iqbal**, defensive tackle; **Calvin Hartanto**, defensive tackle; **Nathan Hamal**, linebacker; **Myles Cook**, linebacker; **Daniel Choo**, linebacker; **Luke Birch**, linebacker, **Alex Harasty**, strong safety; **Chris Carey**, free safety; **Mark Lee**, cornerback; **Jim Skehan**, cornerback.

Several JV players dressed out for varsity games, and in the regular-season game against Northern Region powerhouse Stone Bridge, the following players saw action that gave them a taste of the challenges they may face next year: **Daniel Choo, Nathan Hamal, Myles Cook, Chris Carey, Daniel Yoo, Andy Crump** and **Mark Lee**. Please come out next year and cheer on this great group of student-athletes!

**JV Volleyball:** The team ends on a high note with a win! The final game of the season, TJ's last home game held on Senior Night, was against the South Lakes Seahawks. This final game determined whether the JV team would have an even or a losing season. The Colonials lost the first set 24-26 but rallied back to win the second set 26-24. With this added momentum, TJ fought for the third set and won, 15-12.

The JV Colonials were led by **Coach Kristy Wright**, with assistance from managers **Katie McAtamney** and **Aria Sharma**, and co-captains junior **Biqi Zhang** and sophomore **Limor Steinberg**. For the season, **Biqi Zhang** led the ace count, followed by sophomores **Candice Kaplan, Sara Gokturk, Limor Steinberg,**



**Back Row:** Sara Gokturk (30), Candice Kaplan (11), Rachel Nissen (26), Coach Kristy Wright, Kaitlin Kressin (18), Shannon Eriksson (13), and Rebecca Kolkmeier (25).  
**Front Row:** Biqi Zhang (23), Lydia Luu (10), Anna Hicks (17), and Limor Steinberg (3).

**Shannon Eriksson, Rebecca Kolkmeier, Kaitlin Kressin** and freshman **Anna Hicks**. The season kill count was led by sophomore **Rachel Nissen**, followed by sophomore **Shannon**

**Eriksson**, were junior **Biqi Zhang**, and sophomores **Candice Kaplan, Sara Gokturk, Rebecca Kolkmeier, Kaitlin Kressin** and **Limor Steinberg**. Throughout the season there were terrific digs, especially by Steinberg, Kaplan and freshman **Ashley Paek**, and fantastic sets by sophomores Kolkmeier and Gokturk. Rounding out the team was junior **Soo Han** and sophomore **Lydia Luu**. With this last win, the final record was even, with 7 wins and 7 losses. Great team playing all season by the TJ JV volleyball team!

**Varsity Volleyball: Girls Varsity Volleyball has a Winning Season!**

After losing their opening matches against top-ranked Westfield and Langley, the Lady Colonials came back to win 10 of their next 14 competitions. They defeated McLean and South Lakes in the final two matches of the season to achieve third place in the Liberty District with an overall record of 10-6.

Senior outside hitter **Suzy Hastings**, with 145 kills, 118 digs and 29 service aces made the Liberty District First Team and All-Region Honorable Mention. Senior setter **Meghan Kelly** (1,563 set attempts, 245 assists, 37 kills, 29 service aces), senior middle hitter **Molly Patterson** (99 blocks, 67 kills), and freshman libero **Angela Liu** (211 digs, 11 service aces) received All-District Honorable Mention. Team awards went to seniors **Kami Goldin** (Most Improved), **Meghan Kelly** (MVP), and **Becky Moyer** (Spirit Award).



Senior middle hitter, Molly Patterson, makes a block backed up by Suzy Hastings (#27).

Other members of this year's varsity squad are seniors **Clara Bergeron**, **Samantha Burdett** (manager), **Stephanie Marris**, and **Camille Vu**; junior **Emily Schultz**; and sophomores **Blair Graham** and **Kathleen Roche**. **Suzy Hastings** and **Meghan Kelly** served as co-captains. The Lady Colonials are coached by **Charlee Johnson** assisted by **Kristy Wright** and **Thao Luc**.



Senior middle hitter, Stephanie Marris, goes up for a hit backed up by Meghan Kelly (#15) and Suzy Hastings (#27).

### **Crew Boosters**



Rowing is an exciting, competitive sport involving skill, teamwork, strength, and endurance. Anyone can join the team, and most rowers have no prior experience.

A number of new and returning rowers have been working hard at winter training. Winter training is important to build strength for the spring rowing season. Rowers work out on the erg (rowing machine), in addition to exercising, running and weight training under the supervision of coaches. Winter training is open to all, and generally runs Monday through Friday after school until about 6:00 pm in the TJ cafeteria, as well as occasional Saturday mornings.

It is not too late to join us. If you are not doing a winter sport and you plan to row in the spring, we encourage you to attend as many practices as possible this winter. If you have questions or think you might be interested in joining one of the top high school rowing teams, stop by the cafeteria after school to meet the coaches and watch a practice. Also, please contact the crew captains at [TJRowing at gmail.com](mailto:TJRowing@gmail.com) to get on their email lists. Even if you are doing a winter sport, we encourage you to stop by the cafeteria to introduce yourself to our coaches and team captains and meet some of the other rowers.

Please visit the **team web site** at <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/crew>. If you have questions, please email the Head Coach, Matt Shoop at [shoop2 at cox.net](mailto:shoop2@cox.net) or the Booster President Teresa Zeng at [TJCrewPresident at gmail.com](mailto:TJCrewPresident@gmail.com)

### **Chorus Boosters**

On Saturday evening, November 8, the TJ choir students performed at the choir's annual Cabaret Night in the TJ cafeteria. Several group performances were heard as well as many solo acts. A silent auction ran throughout the evening and delicious cakes and pies were served by students and parents at intermission. Attendance at this event was fantastic and many thanks to those volunteers who spent all or a good portion of the day and night in the cafeteria setting up

and cleaning up. Also, many thanks to those who donated auction items.

Many TJ choir members auditioned for District Chorus on Saturday, November 15 at Centerville High School. Congratulations to the following students who were selected for this district-wide choral performance in February-**Aditi Gadre, Adrienne Doebrich, Margaret Coad, Rachel Kumar, Adrienne Arditti, Arianna Geneson, Jessica Gorman, Ali Ruth, Kimmy Hann, Raquel Tripp, Meghan Clark, Caroline Odom, Emma Fuller, Natalie Lubsen, Alexa Silverman, Maggie Voth, Becky Moyer, and Alex Pham.**

On November 20-November 22, three senior choir members participated in the Senior Honors Choir in Homestead, VA. Congratulations to **Ali Ruth, Alex Pham** and **Adrienne Arditti** for obtaining this honor.

Upcoming choir events include caroling in Old Towne Alexandria on Friday, December 19, 2008, the Winter Concert on Thursday, January 15, 2009, and District Chorus to be held February 12 through February 14, 2009. Upperclassmen will have the opportunity to audition for All-State Choir on February 12, 2009.

Remember all parents are welcome to attend TJ Choral Booster Board meetings. We meet on the third Thursday of the month in the music wing. Your input is always welcome!

### ***Orchestra Boosters***

A "Well Done" goes out to all our students who participated in the Northern Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra on November 15th. The performance of "La Mer" was particularly impressive. A few dates for your schedules - Our next concert will be January 13th. Prior to that will be our annual Viennese Ball held in the TJ cafeteria on Friday evening January 9th. This is an outstanding venue open to the entire school when our students are dressed and ready for an evening of elegant waltzes. It is truly a marvelous

experience for all involved. We need parent help. More to follow, but Keiko Nakamura is the Booster POC for this event. Please reach out to her or myself to offer your help.

Our next Booster's meeting will be on Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Principal's Conference Room at TJ. Thanks for your support of the program and I wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season! Larry Jones ([lawrencemjones at aol.com](mailto:lawrencemjones@aol.com))

### ***Theatre Boosters***

Congratulations to **Kevin Place** who was named to the Virginia Theatre Association All-Star Cast at the association's one-act play competition in Reston, Virginia October 31-November 2. Forty-four schools participated in the competition and only 24 students were selected for the all-star cast. TJ Drama students performed *Six Days to Melissa* in the competition

Don't miss TJ Drama's performance of ***Oklahoma!*** on Friday and Saturday, December 12-13 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 14 at 2 p.m. in the TJ Auditorium. Discounted tickets for \$8 each can be purchased in advance of the show two ways: (1) purchase tickets in the cafeteria during lunch the week of the show (December 8-12) or (2) print out an advance ticket order form from the TJ Drama website at <http://arts.tjhsst.edu/theatreboosters> and place your order form and check in a box located in TJ's front office between December 1-11. Pick up your tickets the night of the show. Tickets can also be purchased at the door the night of the show for \$10 each.

Auditions for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Knight of One Axe will be held January 5-6. Call backs will be on January 7. Interested students should watch the TJ Drama bulletin board for the audition schedule.

## Announcements and Information

### Help Build the TJ Library Collection

TJ's specialized curricula and programs require specialized library resources and services to succeed. The average cost of science and technology hardcover books is about twice the average cost of all hardcover books combined. And the TJ Library subscribes to more science and technology databases than any other school in FCPS.

Although all school library fund allocations from the county were cut this year, the TJ Library's fund was cut by a larger percentage than any other school. The smaller allocation has resulted in a materials budget shortfall. That means that we will be unable to purchase most of the resources we've already selected to support TJ's classroom and research curricula, to update and fill gaps in the collection, and to support our community of readers; nor will we be able to fill teacher and student requests for materials to support new lessons or specialized research projects.

In the hopes of easing the budget shortfall for our Library community, we have established a Wish List on Amazon.com, which can be found at <http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/2WZXXF7KC9LC4/?tag=tjlibrary-20> or by searching for "TJHSST Library" in Amazon.com's Wish List database. Our Wish List includes a list of just a few – approximately 60 – of the resources selected from professional review journals and requested by teachers and students that will help to continue building our collection this year. If you decide to make your purchase through Amazon.com, you can earn TJHSST more money by either 1.) using the active link above to access the wish list or 2.) entering Amazon.com by clicking on the special link on the PTSA web site, <http://tjhsst.edu/ptsa>, before you place an item from the wish list in your cart and pay within 24 hours.

If you are able to make a generous donation to our school's Library by purchasing an item from our Wish List, please email the Head Librarian, Becca Ferrick ([Becca.Ferrick at fcps.edu](mailto:Becca.Ferrick@fcps.edu)), to let the Library staff know to expect a shipment – we'll want to thank you properly and to make a note that the selection has been purchased so that we can avoid duplication.

Becca N. Ferrick, Head Librarian  
Thomas Jefferson HS for Science & Technology  
6560 Braddock Road - Alexandria, VA 22312  
703-750-8325 / -8326  
[Becca.Ferrick at fcps.edu](mailto:Becca.Ferrick@fcps.edu)

### Good news -- MAH JONG is becoming a popular activity.

Bad news -- not enough sets for everyone to play. If you have a Mah Jong set that is gathering dust, please consider donating it.

email: [stephen.rose at fcps.edu](mailto:stephen.rose@fcps.edu)

### TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair Is Now on FCPS Blackboard

There is a new FCPS Blackboard link for the TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair that can be accessed by all TJ staff, students, and parents. It is listed as one of the "courses" under the title of "TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair". This will serve as the repository of all entry forms, schedules, announcements, helpful hints, etc. related to the school's science and engineering fair scheduled for February 7, 2009. Sensitive project entry submissions were due November 20, 2008 and all other entries are due January 8, 2009 in Room 121WK. FCPS Blackboard is located at

<http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/port al/frameset.jsp>.

### Meeting about Senior Research Lab Selection Process for Parents of 11th Graders

Parents : On the evening of Thursday, December 4th at 7 pm in the TJHSST Cafeteria there will an information meeting for the parents of all

eleventh graders for the purpose of the upcoming Senior Research Lab selection process. Several TJHSST staff members will be at the meeting to give you an overview of the application process. This program will be very similar to the 11th grade meetings for students which will take place during eighth period on Monday, December 1st. The agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

- 1) An overview of the thirteen Senior Technology Research Laboratories
- 2) The application process timeline
- 3) The application is located on BlackBoard  
<http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>
- 4) The graduation requirement
- 5) Mentorship option
- 6) Questions and answers

I would like to stress to you the importance of your son/daughter of making informed decisions when selecting a Senior Technology Research Laboratory and I hope this meeting will provide you with most of the information that your whole family will need when making this selection.

Sincerely,  
Robert Latham  
Senior Research Lab Coordinator

### **TJHSST Science Policy Program**

The TJHSST Science Policy Program is seeking contacts in Washington, DC in the Science Policy Field! Please contact Humanities Teacher [Melissa.Schoeplein at fcps.edu](mailto:Melissa.Schoeplein@fcps.edu) if you or anyone you know in the science policy field would be interested in hosting a TJ senior as an intern two afternoons a week in the spring semester. Last year's internship sites included: National Academies of Science, NASA, U.S. Global Climate Change Program, Scientists and Engineers for America, and the Federal Communication Commission. Help support this new innovative program at TJ aimed to get our students working

on science policy in the nation's capital! For more information, check out the website at: <http://www.tjhsst.edu/~mbschoeplein/>

Volunteer Opportunity to support the Science Policy Program: Help with the "Science Policy Internship Shuttle." Drivers needed for six weeks to drive students from TJ to the Metro at noon on Wednesdays and Fridays. Contact [Melissa.Schoeplein at fcps.edu](mailto:Melissa.Schoeplein@fcps.edu) if you might be able to help with all or some of the driving needs.



## Noteworthy Dates

<p><b>December 2008</b></p> <p>2 ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center</p> <p>4 7:00 pm – Science &amp; Tech Division Parent Meeting (Junior parents)</p> <p>8 PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library</p> <p>9 Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room</p> <p>11 7:30 pm – Junior Parent College Night</p> <p>11 Crew Board meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center</p> <p>12-14 Theater Booster Performance of "Oklahoma!" in Auditorium</p> <p>24-Jan 2 Winter Vacation</p>	<p><b>March 2009</b></p> <p>3 ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center</p> <p>9 Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room</p> <p>12 Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center</p> <p>18 PTSA meeting with Principal's Coffee, 8:30am in Cafeteria</p> <p><b>April 2009</b></p> <p>3 Student Holiday</p> <p>6-10 Spring Holiday</p> <p>9 Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center</p> <p>13 PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library</p> <p>14 ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center</p> <p>15 Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room</p>
<p><b>January 2009</b></p> <p>5 Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room</p> <p>6 ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center</p> <p>8 Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center</p> <p>12 PTSA meeting combined with Principal's Coffee, 7pm in Library</p> <p>19-20 MLK Holiday &amp; Inauguration Day Holiday</p> <p>26-27 Student Holidays</p>	<p><b>May 2009</b></p> <p>5 ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center</p> <p>12 Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room</p> <p>14 Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center</p> <p>18 PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library</p> <p>25 Memorial Day Holiday</p>
<p><b>February 2009</b></p> <p>3 ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center</p> <p>9 PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library</p> <p>10 Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's</p>	<p><b>June 2009</b></p> <p>2 ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center</p> <p>9 Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in</p>

	Conference Room	
12	Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center	
16	Washington's Birthday holiday	
	Principal's Conference Room	
11	Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center	
13	Graduation at the Patriot Center, All Night Grad Party at TJHSST	
15	PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library	

# Need A Great Gift Idea

## For the TJ Student, Parent, Alumni or Family!

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Has a Major Funding Shortage

Please Help!

Give a gift in honor of a TJ student or Family

Yes, we want to donate to help TJ!

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address \_\_\_\_\_

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We would like to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make out checks to the **TJHSST Partnership Fund, Inc.** For Visa or Mastercard donations, please complete the following:

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

All donations will be recognized on the Partnership Funds Bulletin Board and Website.

**Donors will also receive a boxed acknowledgement suitable for giving.**

**Donations between \$100 to \$249 will receive a TJ Bumper Sticker.**

**Donations of \$250 and more will receive a beautiful TJ Orbital Ornament.**

Please return to

TJ Partnership Fund, Inc.  
6560 Braddock Road,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22312-2291

If you have questions about the Thomas Jefferson Partnership Fund, please contact the Partnership Fund Office at 703-750-8316 or visit our website at [www.TJpartnershipfund.org](http://www.TJpartnershipfund.org)

*The TJHSST Partnership Fund, Inc. is tax-exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is registered with the Commonwealth of Virginia - Department of Consumer Affairs.*



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology  
**All Night Grad Party – Ticket Order Form**  
**Saturday, June 13, 2009**  
 (Following the Graduation Ceremony)

PLEASE COMPLETE FULLY AND PRINT CLEARLY

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email: \_\_\_\_\_

**TICKET PRICE \$ 90** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Tax Deductible Donation**  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check number \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to **“TJHSST PTSA-ANGP”**.

Your cancelled check is your receipt. No paper tickets will be issued. A list of those who have paid for tickets will be posted on the website.

**Return to:** “Grad Party” mailbox in front office  
 OR mail to Julie Villacorta, ANGP '09 Tickets  
 8304 Hunting Hill  
 McLean, VA 22102

**Ticket Questions?** Contact Julia Villacorta  
 703-917-9135; email: TheVillacortas@cox.net  
 or Sandy Evans; 703-538-2783;  
 email: EvansSandy@aol.com

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

This form, including the **emergency information**, must be completed by Parent/Guardian and received by the Committee by **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Phone # during party hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Reactions: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

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

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Signature

Name of Student's TA Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

T shirt size (circle one) **S M L XL XXL**

# **A CALL FOR IT VOLUNTEERS**

## **Background**

TJ PTSA currently does not have an integrated PTSA management application. As a result, membership management, e-mail blasts, directory services, access control and plain old information sharing among volunteer organizations are all done on a case by case basis, basically manually (or with a lot of manual interventions). It would be great if we had an integrated system which allowed us to manage and execute basic operations of the PTSA more efficiently and painlessly.

## **What We Need**

We'd like to start with a clean slate and answer such basic questions as:

- What is the problem we are trying to solve? What long term vision do we have for how IT can support the PTSA?
- Who are all the stakeholders? What are their required functionalities and detailed requirements? What would or should the "solution" look like?
- Is there a product already out there that meets most of our requirements? What are the gaps and how would we close them? Would this be more effective & efficient than building something?
- Where should it be housed or hosted? Who & how would/should it be maintained?
- How much would it cost? How should it be built? And of course, build it.

We are seeking a group of volunteers who have experiences in any of the following areas:

- Business process reengineering
- Data architecture & management
- Facilitation & Organizational Change Management
- Software Architecture & Development
- Project Management (!)

The group should begin meeting ASAP, define the goals of & plan for the project, and report back to the PTSA monthly and make a recommendation to by early spring. If interested, please contact John K. Pang at [johnkichu@gmail.com](mailto:johnkichu@gmail.com).

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

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<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)

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#### Check List

- Dec 8 PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library**
- Dec 11 7:30 pm – Junior Parent College Night**
- Dec12-14 Theater Booster Performance of “Oklahoma!” in Auditorium**
- Dec 24-Jan 2 Winter Vacation**