
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology



Tech cetera

Lcpwct{ 200;

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

Principal's Letter

Dear parents/guardians, teachers, and students,

I hope everyone enjoyed their winter break and took advantage of the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. I visited my brother's family, including three nieces who love piggy back rides. The long plane rides give me an opportunity to catch up on my reading, including a Terry Pratchett book recommended by our students.

Many of you have inquired about the potential impact the proposed FCPS budget will have on TJ next year. We have read in public newspapers that FCPS should expect a budget shortfall of over \$200 million, which means there will need to be some cuts in multiple areas across the district. Some of the impact will be district wide, such as an increase in class size, which means fewer teachers and possible elimination of some elective courses if enrollment is low. Consequently, I anticipate it will be difficult for students to change schedules once the master schedule is put in place in early summer. In addition to larger class sizes, the proposed FCPS budget includes possible elimination of some winter athletics teams, including gymnastics. Also, proposed cuts specific to TJ include afternoon depot bus zones, where students would be dropped off at a local school or library rather than directly at home. All of these potential cuts are speculative at this point, given the School Board is reviewing them and awaiting any additional revenue sources, such as an increase in property tax rates from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. We hope to retain as many services and programs as possible next year, and appreciate your ongoing support and contributions to the school and Partnership Fund that enable special opportunities for our students.

At a high tech school, sometimes we use low tech traditions to inform our views. The Farmer's

Almanac this year is predicting a winter snowier than normal so be prepared for school delays. You can obtain updated information about school closings at the FCPS website (<http://www.fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm>) and how the decision is made (<http://www.fcps.edu/news/weather.htm>).

As the first semester comes to a close, I encourage parents, teachers, and students to maintain open dialogue about academic coursework. Talk about strengths, challenges, and ways we can support student success. Please don't hesitate to contact me ([Evan.Glazer at fcps.edu](mailto:Evan.Glazer@fcps.edu) or 703-750-8306) if you have ideas that support this goal and align with our mission as a science and technology school.

Thank you for your continued support.
Evan Glazer
TJ Principal

President's Message

The TJ PTSA Board and I wish you and your family all the best in the New Year!

I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing break with some time to rest and reenergize. Congratulations to our seniors who have completed their college applications. We hope all "your dreams come true". I encourage each of you to really enjoy your last six months at TJ and to continue to keep up the tremendous work ethic that has already made you and the school so successful and renowned. January will be a busy month with the end of the quarter, two long weekends, the inauguration and maybe SNOW!

As you make your New Year's resolutions please consider becoming more involved at the school. We are of course always excited to have donations and new members (visit <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/>) but I especially encourage you to consider finding a volunteer

opportunity that might interest you for this and the next school year. We would love to have more junior parents step forward to learn more about the ANGP (All Night Grad Party) planning in anticipation of taking the reins for next year. Volunteering at the school is a marvelous experience. Your kids really enjoy seeing you here and the message you send about them and the school as a priority is very powerful.

The budget remains a constant concern for county schools. Schools like TJ which obtain funds from both the county and the state run the risk of cuts from two sources. The FOVGS (Friends of Virginia Governor's Schools) continues to lobby on behalf of schools like TJ and will be organizing a legislative lobby day on Thursday, January 29th. If you would like to participate in the PTSA's effort to follow the budget cuts and lobby on behalf of TJ, please contact Helen Lin at [ptsacorrespondingsecretary at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsacorrespondingsecretary@tjhsst.edu).

Though it is only January, we are also beginning to plan for next year's PTSA executive committee and board. If you would like to volunteer for this year's nominating committee please contact Michele Pitler at [ptsarecordingsecretary at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsarecordingsecretary@tjhsst.edu).

FYI

PTSA MEETING – The next PTSA meeting is scheduled for January 12th in the library. It will be preceded by a Principal's coffee at 7pm. All are welcome!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - If you are interested in serving on this year's nominating committee to select candidates for next year's Executive Committee, please contact Michele Pitler at [ptsarecordingsecretary at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsarecordingsecretary@tjhsst.edu)

Thanks!
Liz Ross
PTSA President

Committees



ANGP

Senior Parents: Act Fast to Buy ANGP Tickets at Early-Bird Rates; Prices Rise on January 15

There's still time to get All-Night Grad Party tickets at the early-bird price of **\$90**, but you'll need to act soon!

Early-bird prices are \$90 but are set to increase to the regular price of **\$109** on January 15. The price is all-inclusive for food, music, activities, door prizes, etc.

Every year about 98% of all TJ seniors attend the capstone celebration of their four years here, the All-Night Grad Party (ANGP). More than half of the senior class has already bought their tickets this year.

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.

Another reason to buy early, in addition to the price discount, is that you know your money will definitely go toward YOUR student's party, the one for the Class of 2009, rather than being held over to the next class. 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*.

Here's how to purchase: 1) Fill out the form attached to this newsletter OR drop the form and check <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 this address: 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.



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.

Free Money Program



Amazon.com link is a SUCCE\$\$

Thank you for supporting the Amazon.com program! I am so pleased with the success of this new program! We've earned 75% of our first year revenue goal!

Enter the Amazon.com website by clicking-through on the Amazon icon on the PTSA Homepage (<http://tjhsst.edu/ptsa>) before you add items to your cart. TJ earns about 6.5% - 7% of your purchase. The more items our community buys, the higher the % we earn! Buy and use Amazon.com gift cards for double the contribution. See <http://tjhsst.edu/ptsa/support.htm#amazon> for more details about the program. Contact Nora Callahan at 703-319-9434 or NoraVA@Verizon.net with questions, comments or ideas?

Student Services Corner
Student Government Association

Happy New Year, Colonials! We hope you had a relaxing and fun winter break.

This year, SGA has many plans for you! First, we have the Slivoskey Grant, a \$1,000 grant awarded to a club whose proposed initiative will improve the school in a significant way. The submissions were due last month, and we hope to announce the winner soon. Many clubs have shown interest, and we thank you for your active participation!

SGA has begun to collect inspirational quotes to paint on the walls of TJ. SGA has teamed up with TJ Mural Club for this endeavor. If you would like to submit a quote for consideration, please email it to Mary Kim at marykim629@gmail.com or Sri Karuturi at srikaruturi@gmail.com. The submissions are due at the end of January. In February, SGA will hold a meeting during school open to any interested students to narrow the quote selection down to the top 10-15 quotes. Everyone is welcome!

Another event in January is the Winter Sports Rally. It will take place on Monday, January 12th.

SGA is looking forward to a great start to the New Year!

Guidelines

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

Academic News
Japanese News

December is always busy and exciting for our program. The Japanese Honor Society hosted the Annual Oshogatsu Festival (Japanese New Year's Day) on 12/12. We made lots of sushi, Japanese

curry rice, mochi (rice cake), and various Japanese snacks. With games and music, Gym 2 was immersed in Japanese culture throughout the 8th period. This year we also made a special effort to sell hand-made origami earrings and bracelets that were quite popular. The event was a big success with nearly 200 visitors. We would like to express special thanks for making this event possible this year to: the Japanese Embassy for the mochi making equipment, Mrs. Keiser for the decorations and game items, and Mr. Nguyen for his generous support throughout the event.

There are also several major events taking place in our program. All the levels entered the Nengajo (New Year's Card) Contest, that is hosted by the NCJLT (National Counsel of Japanese Language Teachers). We will also select the team members for the National Japan Bowl that is held as the part of National Cherry Blossom Festival in April. Team selection will be in early January. Nine students will participate in the April tournament. Thank you to the TJ Academic Boosters for supporting our participation again this year.

The foreign language department also selected the students who will be participating in the Virginia Governor's Foreign Language Academy in June (6/27~7/19). Congratulations and have a great time to **Han Kim** (AP Japanese, class of 2011) who will represent our program this year.

From Russia, with love

On December 5, SLAVA, the Russian Honor Society hosted its Induction Ceremony. Congratulations to all new members!

TJ Russian students and their teacher are 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 6th grader who could not wait until next year to begin learning Russian!

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. TJ students will bring the toys to Russia during their Spring Break trip. 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.

Thank you to all who applied for the Summer 2009 Russian Governor's Academy. Information regarding the program will be released shortly.

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

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

Class News

2009 – Seniors

Hope you had a wonderful holiday. Few gentle reminders: Buy the All Night Graduation tickets for \$90 before the price increase on Jan 15th to \$109. Send the senior baby pictures (0-5 years old) with the student's name on the back and drop it in the ANGP baby photo box in the front office. Now that the college applications are done and sent, the seniors can look forward to the remainder of the school year and activities. Please take note of the following dates:

Jan 23: Talent show in gym 2

Feb 13: Bookend dance, in auditorium

June 5: Prom, Westwood Country Club, Vienna

June 13: Graduation, George Mason Patriot Center

Anjana Desai, [nayanj885 at yahoo.com](mailto:nayanj885@yahoo.com)

PTSA Class of 2009 Representative

2010 - Juniors

Happy New Year! Can you believe that we are almost half way through junior year? The junior class has already started thinking about senior prom – the date and location.

But before we get to senior year, the students are planning a few fun junior class events for this Spring:

Friday, March 27th – Mr. Colonial: Come watch junior boys compete for the title.

Saturday, April 18th – Class of 2010 Spring Formal. We will need chaperones – watch for my emails or even volunteer now!

Tentative Date: May 29th or June 17th – Class of 2010 Campout (TJ football field).

The Junior Class Campout was originally scheduled for May 29th, but we have learned that the Relay for Life campout is scheduled for May 30th. A number of TJ students participate in this event every year, so we are trying to find an alternate date.

The Class would like to hold the event on Wednesday, June 17th, which is the night before the last day of school (the students have a two-hour school day the next day, with no classes scheduled). This will be a great way for our juniors to celebrate successfully finishing such a tough year.

Now the hard part: The sponsors have asked me whether the junior class parents will be able to chaperone mid-week. I told them that we have the best parents – so of course! I realize that chaperoning on a week day may be difficult for many because of work schedules or other children at home but I'd really like to make this happen for the students. They will deserve it after junior year.

So please email me NOW to let me know whether you would be able to chaperone that evening. We will have three shifts – probably 7

pm to 11 pm; 11 pm to 3 am; 3 am to 7 am. This isn't a firm commitment, I realize that schedules change between now and June, but if we find out that no one can chaperone, we will have to go back to our original date of Friday, May 29th or possibly cancel the event.

Please get in touch with me soon so that the junior class will know what kind of support they have and will be able to plan the event. Thanks.

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

2011 – Sophomores

Dear Class of 2011 Parents, the holidays are unfortunately over but we sincerely hope you had a joyous and peaceful break. Everyone is feeling recharged and ready to start the New Year with renewed energy and enthusiasm. We indeed need a lot of both, given that preparations for our Class Auction are in full swing. We recently met with our student representatives and they impressed us greatly with myriad ideas for this very exciting event, which will be held on May 1. As usual, we are asking for your invaluable help. As mentioned before, the profits from the auction will go to pay for our class graduation celebrations so it is very important that we all contribute what we can.

Please contact Eileen at [eswoboda at gventerprises.net](mailto:eswoboda@gventerprises.net) or Daniela at [danielaowen at verizon.net](mailto:danielaowen@verizon.net) and let us know what you would like to do. We need members of committees, donations for the silent and live auctions, donations for baskets, and many good ideas. Even a simple donation of a few unwanted gift cards you received from Auntie Nelly this past holiday season will be enthusiastically welcomed! We thank you in advance for your offers.

Eileen Swoboda, Daniela Owen
PTSA Class of 2011 Representatives

2012 – Freshmen

Happy New Year and welcome back! Hope you and your family had an enjoyable winter break. As we wrap up second quarter at the end of January, think about next year's courses. The course guide for 2009 – 2010 school year is due to come out in February.

Coming up is our Freshmen *Rob the Cradle* dance on Friday February 13th, 2009. The dance will be after the basketball game at school, around 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. We need about 10 volunteers for this dance so if you are available, please let us know.

The Freshmen Lock-In will be on Friday March 13th, 2009 around 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Lock-In event paperwork will be coming to you soon. It is scheduled earlier this year so that the students will have more time to bond after the event. Our teacher sponsors and the freshmen officers have been busy planning this event. If you or your children have any ideas or input please ask your child to bring it to the Freshmen Class Council meetings which take place every Friday A-Block. Any freshman can attend the Class Council meetings.

We usually need about 100 parent volunteers for our Lock-In. Although we have received a lot of responses, we still need many more volunteers so please sign up by sending us an e-mail at [TJClassof2012 at cox.net](mailto:TJClassof2012@cox.net) .

Ann Nguyen, Janet Tasker
PTSA Class of 2012 Representatives

News Round-Up and Awards

PTSA Reflections 2008-2009

Congratulations to all the students that created and submitted creative arts works to the 2008-2009 PTSA Reflections Program.

We are happy to announce and congratulate the Reflections entries that earned the **Outstanding Interpretation Award** and were forwarded to the county PTA level:

Visual Arts – **Melanie Kim, Photography** - **Ellen Huang, Literature** – **Arjun Srinivasan** , *Music Composition* – **Rebecca Friedman**.

We are also happy to announce the following Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit:

Award of Excellence:

Literature - **Pranita Ramakrishnan, Ellen Huang, and Thomas Woodruff**, *Musical Composition* – **Sarah Seid**, *Photography* – **Mia Jimenez**, *Visual Arts* – **Mia Jimenez and Kittie Helmick**.

Award of Merit: Literature – **Xiaonon Hu**

We encourage everyone to participate again next year! Watch for more news of the awards ceremony.

TJHSST Partnership Fund

CONGRATULATIONS TO TJ – NUMBER 1 FOR 2 YEARS IN A ROW! The TJ Partnership Fund wants to keep TJ Number 1. As all of you know, the resources are dwindling --- private sources are required to keep TJ #1! Help where you can. Look on the TJ PF website for the needs list at www.TJpartnershipfund.org. A donation is only one way to help TJ! Parents who know individuals or organizations that make cash, in-kind gifts, or matching grants to schools and other charities are encouraged to contact Gary Bottorff at 703-750-8317 or at [gary.bottorff at fcps.edu](mailto:gary.bottorff@fcps.edu).

THANKS PARENTS! TJ parent's have been so generous despite economic hard times. Through the back-to-school, and year end campaigns, so far the Partnership Fund has received over \$100,000 in parent's donations. Way to go! TJ

students, staff, and faculty really appreciate your gifts.

By the way, if you or your spouse donated through the United Way/Combined Federal Campaign, you will receive acknowledgement later this year when UW/CFC notifies the Partnership Fund of your gift.



Because of the strong showing of parent support, Tom Goodwin, Chair of the PF, presented TJ another check for \$30,000 at the December holiday celebration.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS! And of course, TJ always relies on volunteers. We could use your help for all sorts of tasks – working on newsletters, bulletin boards, research, phonathon, mailings, data entry, etc. We can use the help on either a regular or occasional basis. Please contact Carrie Kilgore and Ellen Ranard at [TJPFVolunteers at gmail.com](mailto:TJPFVolunteers@gmail.com)

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters

Certamen

TJ Places First at VA Junior Classical League

The TJ Latin Club experienced success at the recent Virginia Junior Classical League (VJCL) convention. Over 50 TJ Latin students attended the convention in Richmond, Virginia on November 23 and 24. In addition to winning numerous academic, creative, and graphic

contests, the TJ delegation won first place in overall spirit amongst large delegations.



TJ spirit! For the first time, TJ wins as most spirited large delegation at the convention.

Chris Kilgore (2010) was elected VJCL President for the upcoming year, and **Rachel Goldstein** (2012), **Katherine Zucker** (2011), and **Lara Howerton** (2009) were first place overall sweepstakes winners. Other big winners include **Soonwook Hong**, who received best in show on the Reading Comprehension Poetry exam, and **Christina Wallin**, who received best in show on the Vocabulary exam. Congratulations everyone who participated on a job well done!



Chris Kilgore, who was elected President of VJCL, wears the Spirit Hat awarded to the delegation with the most spirit, with Amith Ananthram.

Frosh Computer Team

The frosh computer team just finished the first in a series of four American Computer Science League (ACSL) contests, and four TJ students had perfect scores: **Alex Chen, Daniel Jacobson, William Qian, and Elliott Simon**. The top ACSL teams, as of the end of the year, will be invited to the ACSL All-Stars and go head to head with the best teams in our division -- Junior Five Person Team -- across the nation plus Canada, Croatia, and Romania.

Senior Computer Team

In the Gold Division of the November USACO contest, **Brian Hamrick** was tied for third in the world (first in the country), **Daniel Li** was eighth in the country, **Jack Chen** was twelfth, **Tom Georgiou** was fifteenth and **Andre Kessler** was seventeenth. In the Silver Division, **Mitchell Stern** was eleventh in the country, **Casey Mihalow** was twenty-first and **Daniel Ranard** was twenty-fourth. In the Bronze Division, **Daniel Kang** and **Willis Wendler** both had perfect scores, and **Sam Rush** and **Lawrence Diao** both scored above 900 out of 1000. Complete results are at <http://ace.delos.com/NOV08results>

For the December USACO contest, in the Gold Division **Brian Hamrick** was second in the country, **Tom Georgiou** was tenth and **Jack Chen** was twelfth. In the Silver Division, **Casey Mihalow** was fourth in the country and **Mitchell Stern** was eighteenth. In the Bronze Division, **Will Dalton** was fourteenth in the country, and **Daniel Kang** and **Divya Garg** were both in the top thirty.

Complete results are at <http://ace.delos.com/DEC08results>.

The North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad is February 4, more information is available online at <http://www.naclo.cs.cmu.edu>.

TJ Debate: Lincoln Douglas

The Lincoln-Douglas Debate Team had some notable successes at WACFL 3, the third local tournament of the debate season. In the novice division, **Yunan Nie** was undefeated and came in second place. **Nayan Lamba** came in sixth. Both **Yunan** and **Nayan** qualified to compete at Metro Finals, the regional tournament held in March that allows debaters to compete at the national debate tournament. In Junior Varsity, **Daniel Sun** was undefeated and placed fifth, qualifying him for Metro Finals. **Kevin Boehm** also qualified for Metro Finals. Congratulations to all who competed at WACFL 3!

TJ Debate: Policy

At WACFL 3, in the Varsity Division, the team of **Hannah Clark** and **Andre Kessler** placed third, the team of **Chris Lee** and **Katie Lin** placed fourth, the team of **Franklin Zheng** and **Han Kim** placed sixth, and **Hannah Clark** also won the first speaker's award. In the Junior Varsity Division, the team of **Akshay Deverakonda** and **Stephen Eltinge** placed second, the team of **Daniel Jang** and **Mary Sun** placed third, the team of **Max Wang** and **Johnny Kim** placed sixth, and four additional students – **Max Miroff**, **Peter Ahn**, **Sungmin Sohn** and **George Liang** – all qualified for Metro Finals. In addition, **Max Wang** won first, **Daniel Jang** second, and **Mary Sun** third place in the speakers awards. In the Novice Division, **Lizaveta Miadzvedskaya** and **Jacqueline Speiser** placed fifth, and **Vansh Kumar** and **Zhereng Zhang** placed sixth. Congratulations to all policy debaters!

TJ Debate: Public Forum

TJ's Public Forum debate team participated in the national GMU Patriot Games Classic on December 5th-7th. The team of **Rebecca Friedman** and **Emily Yu** broke to octofinals, and **Noa Ovadia** and **Sam Surette** placed 10th speaker.

At WACFL 3, in the Varsity Division, the team of **Kittie Helmick** and **Kevin Sun** placed fifth, and they plus the team of **Cindy Han** and **Lisa Yang** qualified for metrofinals. In the Junior Varsity Division, the team of **Sam Surette** and **Noa Avadio** placed first, the team of **Anna Hicks** and **Cindy Zou** placed fourth, and all qualified for metrofinals. In addition, the team of **Jin Kim** and **Seoup Youn** half qualified for metrofinals.

It's Academic Team

On December 6th, four TJ It's Academic teams competed at the GSAC XVI at Maggie Walker Governor's School in Richmond. Team A consisting **Joshua Hahm**, **Naren Tallapragada**,

Kevin Casto, and **Harry White**, placed 3rd out of 32 regional teams at the competition.

Math Team

On December 22nd, former TJ Math Team Captain **Jacob Steinhardt** (TJ '08, MIT '12) lectured after school on Generating Functions and Combinatorial Nullstellensatz.

On January 28th, during 8th period, the Math Team will feature three math professors from George Washington University: **John Conway**, **Michael Moses**, and **Yongwu Rong**. They will discuss trends in mathematics research, and all TJ students are welcome to attend.

Model UN

TJ Model UN won the Best School Award and an impressive set of individual Awards at the C.D. Hylton Conference. Best Delegate Awards went to **Andrew Barlow**, **Mike Crumplar**, **Amar Desai**, **Kate Kingsbury**, **Max Kieff**, **Aaron Koenig**, **Curtis Mills**, **Arjang Navab**, **Serena Saffarini**, **Anirudh Saraswathula**, **Carolyn Scoggins**, **Nihaar Sinha**, **Kylene Smart**, and **Naren Tallapragada**. Outstanding Delegate Awards went to **Sid Bhatia**, **Aman Kansal**, **Apoorva Lonkar**, **Divya Madhusudhan**, **Ani Mohan**, **Swetha Pasala**, **John Pulice**, **Pranava Raparla**, **Greg Romais**, **Mohima Sanyal**, **Siddhant Sethi**, **Dennis Wang**, and **Cheng Xu**. Honorable Delegates were **Arvin Ahmadi**, **Brendan Greenley**, **Garrett Hoppin**, **Betty Huang**, **Collin Jones**, **Steve Qian**, **Kishore Rao**, **Avi Sachs**, **Nate Skolnik**, **Aileen Wang**, and **Andy Yang**. Verbal awards were received by **Preetam D'Souza**, **Apurva Kasanagottu**, **Matt Lycas**, **Adam Mounts**, **Pranita Ramakrishnan**, and **Nelson Zhu**.

Band Boosters

Winter Showcase February 28: TJ Band Boosters will host our annual Winter Showcase, a

spectacular competition featuring a multitude of Winter Guard and Drum Line units. Participants and their families come from throughout the region. Spectators are welcome and encouraged. We need a plethora of parent and student volunteers throughout the day. Please contact Ted Zagrobelny, [tzag3 at comcast.net](mailto:tzag3@comcast.net).

Advertise in the Winter Showcase program:

Business owners and parents, please advertise with us. Parents, this is your chance to publish an inspirational message to your performing children. All advertisements and greetings are in black and white. Ad space is available as follows: 1/8 page, 1/4 page, 1/2 page, and full page. Please submit payment in advance. Contact **TJshowcaseads at aol.com** to request information and an order form.

Tuba Christmas 2008: TJ band students **Brian Schwenk**, **Michael Sanders**, **Casey Mihalow**, **Aaron Koenig**, and **Jimmy Clark** joined over 300 tuba and euphonium players as they performed on the Millennium Stage at The Kennedy Center on December 8. Our students played a collection of treasured holiday carols in this festive well-attended holiday concert.

Winter Band Concert: The auditorium was jubilant and full of holiday cheer when TJ Band students took to the stage for a lively rousing winter concert on December 18. Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Jazz I, and Symphonic Bands performed under the able direction of band director Ms. Mary Ulrey.

Honey Bell Tangelos: Warm your arctic winter days with Florida sunshine! Only in January. Larger than tangerines, few seeds, juicy and succulent! Naval oranges and Ruby Red grapefruits are available too. Stock up on all that vitamin C now to combat flu season! Order by January 16, pickup/delivery on January 24. Contact [TJcitrus at hotmail.com](mailto:TJcitrus@hotmail.com)

Rae Ann Murashige Memorial Fund: Please consider making a donation in memory of Rae Ann, who passed away on November 10. 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 2008 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. 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.

Support TJ Fundraisers: Customized License Plate Frames are still available – a great gift, only \$20. Use as novelty frame for panoramic photos or photo collections. Contact **Sylvie** at **wrtc.org**. See samples at **<http://www.tjhsstband.org>**. Gift Cards – Variety available – **KayCorey** at **cox.net**.

New Years Resolution: Please don't be shy! We need you! Questions about band? Confused? Want to donate your time and dollars? Please resolve to become involved. We are here to help. Learn all about TJ Bands and Boosters at **<http://www.tjhsstband.org>**. Subscribe to the Band Boosters Yahoo group by sending an email to **[tjbandboosters-unsubscribe at yahoogroups.com](mailto:tjbandboosters-unsubscribe@yahoo.com)**. Volunteers always welcome!

TJ Band Boosters wishes you and your family a very Happy New Year. We will see you next at the monthly Band Boosters meeting, always held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the principal's conference room, directly to the left of the audlob entrance. This month's meeting is on Tuesday evening, 6 January 2009.



Tuba Christmas 2008. Casey Mihalow, Michael Sanders, and Brian Schwenk .

Crew Boosters



TJ Crew is in the middle of their winter training regimen and the students are working hard to prepare for the upcoming rowing season that begins on Monday, February 23. Winter training runs Monday through Friday after school from 4 to 6 pm in the cafeteria. Please join us if you are interested in crew and are not participating in a winter sport. Experience and year in school are not factors—anyone can join TJ Crew—most who join have never rowed before.

The All Family Information Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 4th at 7:30 pm** in the TJ Cafeteria. Novice students and parents need to attend to learn more about TJ Crew and also register, complete the required forms, and purchase uniforms and crew clothing. Families of experienced rowers should also attend so that they can complete their permission slips and other forms, sign up for regatta volunteer positions and stock up on crew clothing.

At the end of January, please visit the **team web site** at **<http://sports.tjhsst.edu/crew>** . The January newsletter, the OARacle, will be posted and will contain important information for the Spring season. You will also be able to download the registration forms and permissions slips. These documents will be posted on the Files page.

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)

Colonial Athletic Boosters

Happy New Year from the Colonial Athletic Boosters!

The Winter sports season is well underway and we would like to make a special request to support the Basketball teams with your attendance at their home games. If your student can "stay after" or maybe you can drop-in on your way home, it would be a great boost for the players. Our Snack Bar is open every game offering hamburgers, hot dogs, and sometimes pizza, so there's something to tide you over, or you might even call it dinner! There's a schedule on our website – Google: Colonial Athletic Boosters or link to it from the TJ home page.

We start off the Team News by revisiting our very successful Varsity Football Season (whose news was inadvertently dropped from the last issue).

The PLAYOFFS! TJ Varsity Football had an amazingly successful season. The Colonials came out strong and fought hard all season. Led by Coach Timothy Puvogel, TJ rallied to an impressive 4-6 record as one of the top 8 teams in Northern Virginia's Division 5, earning them a spot in the playoffs; a goal reached only twice by TJ in the past twenty years!

After wins against Falls Church and Marshall, the team spoiled Homecoming for the McLean Highlanders, making a huge comeback in the fourth quarter to top McLean 28-23.



Colonials celebrate win over South Lakes, make playoffs!!!

In the final game of the regular season, TJ traveled to South Lakes, winning 16-7 and securing a playoff berth in the Northern Virginia AAA Division 5 tournament. See the CAB website for game details.

We would especially like to thank our coaching staff: Timothy Puvogel, Mike Auerbach, Jack Brown, John Puvogel, Joseph Rucker, Tom Norton, Hennessey Green and Jeff Duncan; our trainers, Heather Murphy and Kristin Lillis; and our managers **Caitlyn Campbell, Jillian Buchheim** and **Katie Lutton**, as well as the band, cheerleaders and great fans for all their spirit and support.

Congratulations to the following players who received **Liberty All-District Honors**:

Daniel Barnes-Honorable Mention (TE)

Matt Becker-Honorable Mention (LT), Honorable Mention (DE)

Evan Burch-1st Team All-District (WR), Honorable Mention (P), Honorable Mention (PK)

Adam Cho-Honorable Mention (C)

Ben Daly-Honorable Mention (QB),

Mike Howard-1st team All-District (DB), Honorable Mention (KR) Honorable Mention (WR),

Kevin Zigadlo-Honorable Mention (DE)

We are proud to announce that **Mike Howard** (DB) and **Evan Burch** (WR) also received **Northern Region Honors**.

Congratulations to the entire TJ Varsity Football Team and staff on a very successful

season. Your hard work and steady determination really paid off!

Following is a brief update of current sports that gives you a snapshot of TJ's wide variety of scholar-athletes.

Boys Varsity Basketball: The team has battled through its first five games, staying determined despite some early season jitters. After losses to Stone Bridge, Yorktown and Annandale, senior captains **Mike Ross, Spencer de Mars** and **Wooyoung Moon** called for more defensive intensity. The team answered by beating Washington & Lee convincingly in front of an enthusiastic home crowd. They held W&L to only 8 points in the first half, and put the game out of reach in the second. The team now enters the heart of the district season and is ready to avenge a challenging start.

Girls Varsity Basketball : The team has started the season with a record of 2-4. Wins over Washington-Lee and Wakefield were convincing. Close losses to Yorktown and McLean indicate that the team should be competitive during the remainder of the season. The team is led by 4 seniors, has 5 juniors and 2 sophomores on the roster.

Freshman Girls Basketball: The team is off to a terrific start with a 3-1 record. Under the direction of Coach Alexa Romano, and leadership of team captains **Jackie Dallaire** and **Jacky Hennegan**, the girls are playing well together and exhibiting enthusiastic school spirit. The team is looking forward to an exciting season.

Varsity Cheer: The fall and winter varsity and JV cheerleading squads just finished a very successful fundraiser with Gianni's. The girls sold pizza and dessert items to raise money for new practice mats and other items such as signs, poms and uniforms. They plan to hold other fundraisers in 2009 and may be contacting the TJ community to ask for your support.

Both squads will continue cheering on the girls' and boys' basketball teams at their home games. Coaches for the varsity squad are Melissa and Jessica Barg, and we welcome Hillary Fairfull as the head coach of the JV squad.



varsity cheer



The JV squad may be small in number but they are big in SPIRIT!

Cross Country: Although their season ended on November 8, when the Jefferson girls and boys cross country teams claimed respective third- and seventh-place finishes at the State AAA Championship cross country meet, the accolades continue. In December, the Northern Virginia Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches' Association (NVCCTFA) announced its 2008 All-Region Northern Virginia Cross Country selections including six Jefferson athletes. Earning All-Region Honors for Jefferson in 2008 were: Girls 1st team **Sarah Stites** and **Stephanie Marzen**; Girls 2nd team **Katherine Sheridan**; Girls 3rd team **Neesha Schnepf**; and Boys 3rd team **Timmy Galvin** and **Alex Witko**. In addition, the Jefferson coaching staff of Head Coach Matt Ryan and Assistant Coach Annie Lutz were recognized with the "Girls Northern Virginia Cross Country Coaching Staff of the Year" award. The coaches and athletes were honored in a special awards

ceremony held at the Falls Church Metro Run and Walk on Dec. 21.

Gymnastics: The 8-member girls gymnastics team is off to a great start, winning their first three regular season meets, besting Edison, West Potomac, Fairfax, Falls Church, Langley, Mt. Vernon, Oakton, Washington & Lee and Woodson. Senior **Kelly Watson** placed in the top three all-around in every meet with best scores of 9.45 on beam, 9.35 on vault, 9.1 on floor, and 8.7 on bars. Senior **Chrissy Franzel** placed in the top 6 all-around in every meet with best scores of 9.25 on vault, 9.1 on beam, 8.8 on floor, and 8.575 on bars. Rounding out the small, but talented team are seniors **Mary Linnell** (all-around) and **Ariel Coronel** (all-around), junior **Amanda Gilbert** (all-around), and sophomores **Yekaterina Davydova** (floor, vault, bars), **Hailey Johnson** (beam) and **Nikki Pangilinan** (beam). Please join us on January 13th for the final home meet and Senior Night in Gym 2 at 6:30.

Swim and Dive: After beginning the season with losses to Langley, the TJ swim and dive teams rebounded with wins over Stone Bridge and McLean. The girls team welcomes a strong contingent of freshmen, while the boys team features returning All-Americans senior **Wade Gong** and junior **Matt Callahan**.

Freshman **Katie Bennett** has won five individual events so far this season, and **Brenna Ferris**, **Lauren Laffosse** and **Jae Sim** have also posted individual event wins. Those swimmers and **Aedan Collins**, **Leah Gonzalez**, **Brianna Kim** and **Grace Wang** have all contributed to winning relays. Other swimmers with top finishes are senior **Rebecca Fielding** and **Amanda Blair**, **Mary Kate Dilworth**, **Anna Lan**, **Kelsey Rainey** and **Mary Sun**.

For the boys, seniors **Zachary Batts** and **Wade Gong** and **Matt Callahan**, **Alex Dona**, and **Stephen Seliskar** have all won individual

events and been on winning relays. Other swimmers participating on winning relays are senior **Andrew Hong** and **Joey Bouchard**, **Steven Howard**, **Sam Speers**, and **Jon Spitz**. Other swimmers with top finishes are seniors **Mike Kim**, **Jed Metge**, and **Will Pitler**, and **Scott Badgett**, **Peter Ballen**, **Sam Surette** and **Jack Borsi**.

In diving, both **Emily Saitta** and senior **John Walsh** have won in their events this season, and senior **Christina Wallin** has had several top three finishes.

All three boys swimming relays have already achieved Northern Region Championship qualifying times, and **Brenna Ferris**, **Wade Gong**, **Matt Callahan** and **Alex Dona** have qualified for the Region meet in individual events as well.

Winter Track: TJ boys and girls winter track teams began practice in mid-November and kicked off competition in early December. Both boys and girls teams have already produced some outstanding performances, including a record-setting 3200 meter run by freshman sensation **Sarah Stites** at the Metro Run & Walk Invitational on Dec 20. There are 169 athletes (102 boys and 67 girls) on the team, making it one of the largest sports teams ever at TJHSST. The boys and girls teams will compete in several meets in January before heading into championship competition. On January 29 and February 5, both teams will defend their Liberty District Indoor Track Championship titles at the Prince George's Sports Complex in Landover, MD. Come out and cheer them on!!

Varsity Wrestling: The team has had a phenomenal start to the season, setting both team and individual records! In their first dual meet, TJ defeated Falls Church 72-9. The first tournament for the wrestlers was the 32-team 2-day NOVA Classic, which includes teams from public and private schools throughout Virginia, including several ranked among the top 10 in the state.

Last year, TJ finished 21st with 2 medalists and in 2006 the team finished 17th with 3 medalists.



Sophomore Will Pyrak peels away his opponent to earn points for an escape and win another Varsity match



At the December 13th Liberty Tournament, senior Mike Howard became TJ's first wrestler to earn 100 high school career wins

This year, the team finished 8th out of 32 teams and ahead of five other Liberty District teams. Congratulations to this year's medalists **Matt Becker** (3rd), **Kevin Zigadlo** (4th), **Mike Howard** (5th), and **Joe Latta** (8th) and to **Ashley Miller**, **Alex Shmorhun**, and **Sam Zhang** who reached the Saturday rounds. **Adam Cho**, **James Janopaul-Naylor**, **Matt Lamb**, **Will Pyrak**, and **Devan Samant** contributed pins and wins to bolster the team score. This was the first appearance at the NOVA Classic for **Skyler Anderson**, **Myles Cook**, **Stuart Maier**, and **Jeremy Weller** and the depth, skills and presence displayed by every athlete on the mat were very impressive!

In the following week's competition vs. JEB Stuart and Woodson, the team defeated Stuart (63-9) and lost a close match to district rival

Woodson (39-36). The team then traveled to Nokesville, VA to compete against wrestlers from the Northwest region in the 8-team Liberty Tournament. TJ WON the tournament, defeating Liberty, Orange, North Stafford and William Fleming high schools. In the last two duals of December, TJ defeated TC Williams (51-21) and Herndon (45-31). All JV and varsity wrestlers will travel to Lancaster, PA on December 28th to compete in the highly competitive 2-day Conestoga Valley tournament.

JV Wrestling: The team was dominant in their dual match against Falls Church and has competed in three Jamborees. In the first round of competition at the Hayfield meet, the TJ team started the night with two wins by **Jeremy Weller** and **Andrew Martin**. **John Han** won his match, **Julian Whitman** pinned his wrestler and **Bryce Summers** won a close match. Against South County High School, **Andrew Martin** had a strong win and **Jeremy Weller** pinned his opponent. **Bryce Summers**, **Skyler Anderson**, and **Dan Keramat** had pins. **Anderson** wrestled a third match resulting in a 13-3 major decision. Come cheer all TJ wrestlers in their 3 upcoming home meets on January 7th vs. McLean (JV and Varsity), Jan 22nd (JV Jamboree at TJ) and Jan 28th (Senior Night vs. West Potomac).

Orchestra Boosters

Happy New Year. Our **Viennese Ball**, which is open to the entire school, will occur very shortly on **Friday January 9th** in the cafeteria. We will provide a pizza dinner for the participating Orchestra students, but please contact Keiko Nakamura if you have not yet done so and wish to help out that evening, for this event.

Hopefully those who ordered CDs from our fall concert have received and are enjoying them. We will offer the same service at the next concert on **January 13th**. Once again we will provide a Quiznos dinner order form and will need parent assistance for the post concert reception. Please

look for emails from me on both the Ball and the concert as things will move pretty quickly following the start of school during the New Year. Additionally if you would like to be a chaperone for the Myrtle Beach trip this spring please let me know, if you have not already advised Ms. Bailey

Our next Booster's meeting will be on **Monday January 5th at 7:30 p.m.** in the Principal's Conference Room at TJ. Thanks for your support of the program. Larry Jones ([lawrencemjones at aol.com](http://lawrencemjones@aol.com))

Theatre Boosters

The cast of *Oklahoma!* delivered outstanding performances on December 12-14 to packed audiences. Congratulations to Director, **Vincent Pollet**; Student Director, **Kyle Markwalter**; Choral Director, **Luke Frels**; Pit Director, **Mary Ulrey** and Choreographer, **Amanda Pilmer** for a wonderful show. Congratulations also goes to pianist, **Nick Starr**, our wonderful pit and the cast and crew!

The presentation of *Oklahoma!* would not have been possible without the contribution of so many people: school administrators, **Mary Ann Bosley**, **Cliff Hardison** and **Heather Sondel**; **Pat Groves** and **Margo Stead** in the front office; **Dorothy Diggs** for processing our pre-sale tickets; **Richard Washer** for helping us to access the TJ website; and **Malathi Rao** for her help in revamping the Theatre Booster website so we could put up our "Advance Ticket Order Form."



Nicole Boyd (playing Laurey, center) and Oklahoma dancers.

During the last two weeks of evening rehearsals, **Nancy Fitzsimmons** and **Cindy Hann** coordinated snacks and meals, and many parents delivered food and drinks, including **Helen Lee**, **Nancy Fitzsimmons**, **Cindy Hann**, **Faezeh Shahbandeh**, **Eileen Place**, **Dawn Meyer**, **Pia Pell**, **Betsy Stalcup**, **Cathy Boyd**, **Yvonne Hernandez Mannion**, **Tom Goodwin**, **Kathy Adams**, **Kathy Brobst**, **Leigh Burke**, **Hollye Doane**, **Sharon Edelstein**, **Cliff Fitzsimmons**, **Alison Garrett**, **Abby Knight**, **Sue Lagon**, **Susan Lewis**, **Linda Lindgren**, **Joyce Manchester**, **Holly Markwalter**, **Sheena McConnell**, **Barb McGarey**, **Mary Beth Morell**, **Claire Palmer**, **Malathi Rao**, **Stephanie Ruth-Strange**, **Sharon Smith**, **Barbara Steele**, **Elaine Tholen**, and **Laura Winfrey Gould**.



Will McGarey (Curly) and Nicole Boyd (Laurey)

Thanks also to **Cathy Boyd** for her hours and hours of ironing, and to **Erin Cotton** for more

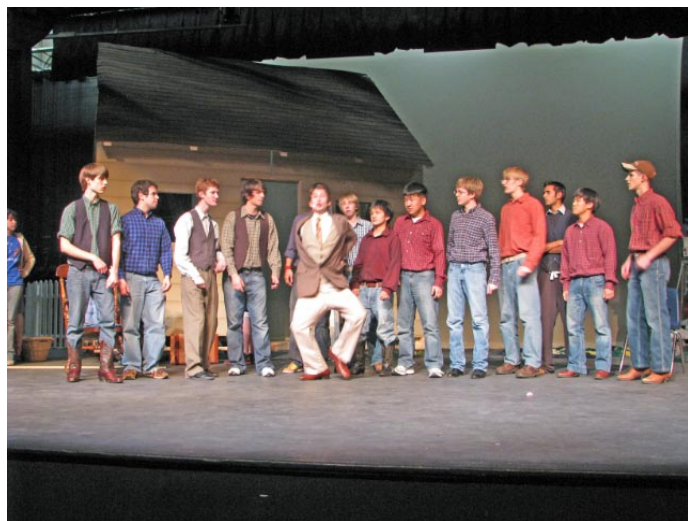
hours of ironing and also for her help with hair and makeup. Thanks to all the parents who loaned props. Thanks to our photographers, **Susan Norland** and **Mark Strickman**, to **Dawn Meyer** who helped to get Oklahoma! advertised in our community newspapers and to **Hollye Doane** who wrote articles about the show in *Techcetera*.

Thanks to **Clark Lindgren** for his persistence and hours producing our Photo CD.

Thanks to our Will Call Table Volunteers, **Elaine Tholen**, **Nancy Fitzsimmons**, **Yvonne Hernandez Mannion**, **Barbara Steele**, and **Holly Markwalter**.

Thanks to our Landmark Mall Chaperones: **Cindy Hann**, **Nancy Fitzsimmons**, **Holly Markwalter**, **Barb McGarey** and mother, and **Elaine Tholen** and **Victoria Tripp**.

Thanks to our concessions volunteers: **Helen Lee** (Coordinator), **Geetha Ravishankar**, **Cathy Boyd**, **Leigh Burke**, **Hollye Doane**, **Sue Lagon**, **Joyce Manchester**, **Holly Markwalter**, **Sheena McConnell**, **Dawn Meyer** and **Eileen Place** (Sunday set-up).



Oklahoma men

Thanks to all who helped with our Cappie Dinner: **Emily Clarke**, our Cappie Critic Usher; **Meganne Johnson**, for gathering, typing and

editing Cast and Crew biographies for the Cappie Booklets; **Karen Nelson** for planning & organizing set up; to all who brought food and helped with set-up and clean-up: **Nancy and Cliff Fitzsimmons**, **Karen and Allie Nelson**, **Meganne and Hailey Johnson**, **Eileen Place**, **Faezeh Shahbandeh**, **Cathy and Nicole Boyd**, **Dawn Meyer** and **Sam Schipani**, **Cindy Hann**, **Susan Norland (Oklahoma Cake)** and **Yvonne Hernandez Mannion** and daughters and also **Cliff Hardison**.

Thanks to our custodial staff who cleaned up after us and to **Edmund** who locked and unlocked the Cafeteria several times during Saturday's Cappie show.

Thanks to the sponsors of the TJ Partnership Fund for their special contribution. If we've left anyone out, it was not intentional – we appreciate all of you so much!

TJ Drama's next show, the *22nd Annual Knight of One Axe*, will be performed on February 20-21 (Friday and Saturday) at 7 p.m. Auditions will be held on January 5-6 and callbacks will be on January 7. Please check the Drama bulletin board for sign-up times. To purchase tickets in advance, please check the Theatre Booster website in January. <http://arts.tjhsst.edu/theatreboosters/>

Announcements and Information

tjSTAR (TJ Symposium to Advance Research)

Attention TJ Parents! Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 28, 2009! We need you for the upcoming tjSTAR.

This is a day-long school-wide symposium to provide students an opportunity to share their research projects and to learn about future research opportunities at TJ and in potential

careers. This symposium also serves as an opportunity for students to inspire each other with new ideas for study in future years, obtain feedback from their peers, and involve alumni and community partners in our academic programs. The Research Symposium Committee invites parent participation in the following ways:

Conference:

- attend meetings
- plan
- schedule
- publicity

Program:

- design
- compose
- distribute

Registration:

- Set-up
- greet
- sign-in

Hospitality Room:

- Set up
- Serve
- Clean up

We welcome your ideas, your energy, and your participation as we prepare this wonderful day for our students. Your help is greatly appreciated. You can donate as little or as much time as you can in planning for the conference or working on the day of the conference. Our planning meetings take place on Tuesday mornings from 8:45am-9:30am and Thursdays from 9:15am – 10:00am in Room 223 and during the Curriculum Advisory Committee monthly on Thursday evenings. This month, the CAC meeting is on Thursday, January 15th at 7:30p.m. in the Career Center. Please join us!

Betsy Sandstrom, co-chair [betsy.sandstrom at fcps.edu](mailto:betsy.sandstrom@fcps.edu)

Koji Otani, co-chair [koji.otani at fcps.edu](mailto:koji.otani@fcps.edu)

TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair

The 2009 TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair will be held on Saturday, February 7, in the cafeteria, with a snow date of February 14. Student participants will set up their posters on Friday, February 6, during A Block of Eighth Period so that their fellow students may have the opportunity of viewing the projects. Judging will take place on Saturday morning. The fair is closed to the public during the competition, but will be open for viewing by visitors beginning at 1:00 pm, with an awards ceremony following at 2:15 (or when the awards are tallied.)

Students chosen at our fair will go on to compete in the Regional Science and Engineering Fair at Robinson Secondary School March 27- 29. Students who are named Grand Prize winners at the regional competition will go on to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Reno, Nevada, May 8-15. Students who win first place at the Regional Fair will be invited to participate in the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair to be held April 4. The state competition is also affiliated with the International Fair, so students who win Grand Prize there will also be invited to the Nevada competition.

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.

Junior Ethics Seminars on February 9th

The BBC (Building a Better Community) Cub will sponsor the third annual Junior Ethics Seminars on February 9, during TA. All juniors will meet in small groups with seminar leaders to discuss ethics in various fields (sports ethics, stem cell ethics, ethics in public blogging, the ethics of power, career ethics in scientific fields, intellectual property laws, etc.). The student feedback from this event the past two years was overwhelmingly positive. We look forward to stimulating discussions in this year's seminars.

One Question

The One Question initiative will kick off during TA on February 2. On that date students will learn about the opportunity to submit a question which, if chosen, will be the school wide focus for the 2009-2010 academic year. Students will have access to more information in late January, when the One Question website is launched. Contact Carter Vaden ([carter.vaden at fcps.edu](mailto:carter.vaden@fcps.edu)) if you have questions.



Noteworthy Dates

January 2009		10	Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
2	Last day of winter break	12	Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
5	Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room	16	Washington's Birthday holiday
6	ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center Band Booster meeting, 6:15pm in Principal's Conference Room Late Registration (with fees) for January SAT and SAT subject Tests	17	Academic Booster meeting, 7:30 in Career Center
8	Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center	28	Band Winter Showcase in main Gym
9	Viennese Ball in the Cafeteria 8 p.m.	March 2009	
12	PTSA meeting combined with Principal's Coffee, 7pm in Library	3	ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center
13	Curriculum Advisory Meeting (CAC), 7:30 p.m., in Career Center.	9	Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
13	Orchestra Concert in the Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	12	Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
15	CAC meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center	18	PTSA meeting with Principal's Coffee, 9:00am in Cafeteria
19-20	MLK Holiday & Inauguration Day Holiday	April 2009	
24	Band Booster 2 nd Citrus delivery SAT and SAT Subject Tests	3	Student Holiday
26-27	Student Holidays (End of the 2nd quarter)	6-10	Spring Holiday
February 2009		9	Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
3	ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center	13	PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library
4	Athletic Booster meeting, 7pm in Career Center Crew Booster All-family meeting, 7pm in Cafeteria	14	ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center
9	PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library	15	Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
		May 2009	
		5	ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center
		12	Orchestra Booster Monthly

	meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room	
14	Crew meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center	
17	PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library	
25	Memorial Day Holiday	
June 2009		
2	ANGP meeting, 7pm in Career Center	
9	Orchestra Booster Monthly meeting, 7:30pm in 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	



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 1st, 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

Honor our TJ Graduates: Make a Donation & Dedication!

ANGP Champion — \$500

The Cahill Family * Way to go CJ!
 The Howard Family Mike, go with all your Heart!
 Dennis and Vicky Linnell Mary, shoot for the moon!
 The Pitler Family We are so proud of you Will!
 Safe Community Coalition

ANGP Benefactor — \$250

John and Joan Burch Evan, we're so proud of you!
 Jeff Clark Congratulations Meghan!
 Pat and Joan Daly TJ + Ben = Too much fun!!!!
 Stephen & Terri Minshew Congratulations William!
 David and Eleni Silverman Congratulations, Alexa!!!
 Gilberto & Julia Villacorta Our Indefatigable Lionness!
 Yilin Weng We love you so much, Lorna!

ANGP Patron — \$100

Ron and Nassmah Brooks Mabrouk Ranya class '09
 Kay Bushman Congrats Sheila and Leila
 The Cain Family The Amazing Awesome Amanda
 Steve and Sallie Casto
 Patrick and Anne Clougherty We love you and are so proud!
 Robert and Nan Coleman Johnny Coleman
 Douglas and Kay Corey Rebecca!! You go girl!!
 The DeWeese Family Jack's 4 great years at TJ!
 Joan and David Evans Way to go Brett!
 Patrick and Lucille Ferraren Congratulations. God Bless.
 The Fielding Family Recognition of Becca Fielding
 The Griffis Family Kites fly highest against wind
 Cindy & Jon Hann The Hann Family
 Gordon and Mardi Hastings Way to go Suzy!
 Daniel and Catherine Holohan Congrats Daniel. We Luv ya!
 Jennifer Jones
 The Kempson-Brooks Family You did it, Spencer!
 David Kolker and Lynn Borton 2009 is Mighty Fine
 Iayun Kuo and Iayon Shang Kuo Jonathan Kuo
 Steven and Frances Lagerfeld
 Jaewoo and Edith Soyeon Lee Congratulations Clarice!
 The Lewis Family Well Done Love You Lots Ashley
 Arundhati & Somayazulu We are proud of you, Manchali
 Susan and John McAuliffe Excellent job Jacob!
 Steve & Carol Miranda Jenneroo — We Love You!
 A. Reed and Darlene Mihaloew Congratulations Casey Mihaloew
 Kathleen McGann Congratulations Monica!
 Kevin and Elizabeth Murphy We love you Brian!
 The Ok Family We are very proud of you Suzan
 Yun and John Pang We love you Brian!
 Liz and Doug Ross Way to go Michael!
 Sarah Schmoltner
 The Schnepf Family We love you Neesha!

Brenda Simon Alex Simon
 Richard and Elizabeth Starr The incredible gift that is TJ!
 Hung & Que Vu Great job, Camille!
 Jay & Cindy Wallin Christina Wallin
 Joseph White 17 years of great adventures
 Jeffrey & Mary Witko Congrats, Alex! Keep Running!
 Weifen Zhang Simon Lee

ANGP Friend — \$50

Elisa & Steve Anders Congratulations, Brett!
 Florence Hsio Hsia Au & Kin-sing Au Alex Au
 Spencer Brooks
 Lyle and Ann Clark We are so proud Meghan
 Erica Curles
 Owen Cyr
 Richard and Denise Dorn
 Karen Emmons
 Stephen and Liane Eng Michael Eng
 David English
 Mary and David Godofsky
 The Greer Family In Recognition of Zack Greer
 Lauren Groskaufmanis
 Danielle Howard Almost free! I love you kiddo.
 Anthony Hwang Great job Jim! We love you!
 The Kaplan Family
 Alex Khmurets
 Richard and Valerie Kuehn Congrats-You're amazing Erica!
 Manchali Madduri
 Jed Metge
 Quyen Nguyen Alex - We Love you very much.
 The Nguyen Family Great job Stephanie Nguyen
 Suzan Ok
 Michael and Mary Jo Patterson Great Job, Molly Patterson!
 The Perez Family
 Reinaldo Perez, Jr. & Angie L. Bonilla-Perez We are very proud of you Rey!
 Christine Pham
 The Reddy Family We are so proud of you Rashmi!
 John and Donna Repetski Tech Rock Star Trey
 Kylene Smart
 Steven Tan
 Aoibheann Thinnis
 Stephanie Valarezo
 Val Vaughn & Dilaun Terry Ryan Vaughn
 Karla Vernon
 Chia-pu Wang I-Ting Wang
 Kathie & David Watson Congratulations Kelly!
 David and Kitty Wildes Jonathan – You made it!

* Amount donated includes matching funds from Intel
 Visit <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/donations.html> for more information

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.

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

- Jan. 12** PTSA meeting with Principal's Coffee, 7:00 pm in Library
- Jan 13** Orchestra Concert in the Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- Jan. 19, 20** MLK Jr. Day and Inauguration Day, no school
- Jan. 26, 27** Student Holidays/Teacher Workdays (End of Second Quarter)