

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Students,

Welcome to the second semester! We are off to a good start, learning about the recent success of our students in the Intel Science Talent Search competition. Congratulations to the 13 semifinalists at TJ this year, gaining top spot as the school with the most Intel winners in the US! Many of these students have been working hard on projects through the summer, taking advantage of special internships or creating their own opportunities by contacting research labs directly. Special recognition goes to **Temple Douglas**, who was selected as one of forty finalists to share her project, "Application of Hydrogel Nanoparticles for Early Lyme Disease Diagnosis," in the spring.

This summer, in addition to our regular summer school program, we will offer a similar opportunity at TJ through a research institute that will give students additional lab time to begin working on projects and to develop more sophisticated lab skills. This institute will be open to all FCPS students who are interested in advanced biology, chemistry, and oceanography opportunities. More information about summer school will be announced in March, and our summer programs should follow a similar timeline to last year's calendar, starting after the July 4 weekend.

Recently the TJ administration met with the School Improvement Plan Evaluation Team (SIPET) to review progress on our school goals related to diversity and outreach, renovation, ethics instruction, ethics violations communications, and research lab equipment. The SIPET team consisted of students, teachers, and parents who offered feedback and strategies to help the school accomplish its goals. The complete School Improvement Plan can be accessed from the News section of the TJ website.

The FCPS administration has approved honors weighting for TJ's science and technology semester electives, effective beginning the Fall 2010 semester and to be applied retroactively. I believe this compromise acknowledges the primary concerns from parents, students, and teachers, and also gives students the incentive to enroll in courses that support the mission of the school. I appreciate the time and effort you have given over the past six months to offer different perspectives on this complex issue.

As anticipated, there will be many cuts next year. The superintendent's proposed budget is located on the web: <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/>. The budget office has produced a publication called The Bottom Line outlining the cuts, located at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/bottomline.html>.

FCPS is relying on increased revenue from the state and the Fairfax Board of Supervisors to lessen the detriment to the quality of education. A TJ program enrollment data report describing possible areas to cut and the corresponding impact will be shared with the school community in February on our Blackboard site. Last year, we were fortunate to face only a class size increase of 0.5 students per class. Next year the cuts will be much worse, ranging from an increase of 1 to 4 students per class, depending on the magnitude of the cuts. We will need to make tough decisions in the next couple of months and your input in our discussions will help identify the sacrifices we can make to minimize the harm to our overall school programs.

I appreciate your ongoing support and dedication to making TJ an even better place for learning and growing. Please feel free to submit ideas on how we can tackle this budget crisis by sending me an email at [Evan.Glazer at fcps.edu](mailto:Evan.Glazer@fcps.edu) or participating in our upcoming public discussions on this topic.

Sincerely,

Evan Glazer
TJ Principal

President's Message

I can't believe we have already finished the first semester. The year is rushing by and, for those of us with seniors, each day seems even more precious. I hope your student survived the busy last week of the semester and then enjoyed the long weekend.

The long journey to a solution for honors weighting seems to be ending. Beginning next year, FCPS will be adding an additional .5 weight to all STEM classes at TJ, which were previously unweighted under the 2009-2010 policy. The additional weighting will be retroactive. All other weighting and the reporting of GPA will remain the same as this year. This new policy seems like a reasoned solution to a complex situation. If you have any questions about what classes are weighted, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email below.

You have, no doubt, read about the FCPS FY 2011 Proposed Budget, for the 2010-2011 school year. It contained many cuts that would affect TJ students and faculty. TJ students and parents were among the hundreds of people who testified at public hearings. The School Board will vote on a new Advertised Budget on Thursday, February 4, and we will let you know immediately thereafter what it contains.

As this newsletter goes to press, Governor McDonnell is considering whether to disregard former Governor Kaine's proposal to freeze the Local Composite Index, also known as the LCI, rather than using the updated LCI that would provide FCPS with an additional \$61 million in FY 2011. Please contact Governor McDonnell, your state senator, and your state delegate, to ask them to use the updated LCI.

I also encourage each TJ parent to email your thoughts on the budget to the School Board (most helpful on priorities within the FCPS budget) and/or the Board of Supervisors (most helpful on issues regarding overall funding levels for FCPS). On the School Board, contact the School Board member for your area, and/or the three at-large members of the School Board who represent all residents of Fairfax County. On the Board of Supervisors, email

your representative on the Board of Supervisors and BOS Chairperson Sharon Bulova.

Our PTSA meeting for February will be held on February 8, at 9:00 a.m. in the lecture hall. February 8 is an early dismissal day with the students finishing their school day at 11:50 a.m. Why don't you come and spend the morning with us and then take your student home or better yet, out for lunch.

We are beginning the process to select an executive board for next school year. At the meeting on February 8, we will elect the nominating committee which will identify a slate of candidates. The proposed nominating committee members are Jane Pyrak, Ellen Ranard, Helen Lin, Gail Brodfuehrer and Carol Miranda. If you are interested in being on the executive committee next year, please contact Helen Lin at ptsa.correspondingsecretary@tjhsst.edu.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or just want to chat, do not hesitate to contact me or any of the PTSA officers.

~~Carrie Kilgore
TJ PTSA President
ptsa.president@tjhsst.edu

TJHSST PTSA Reflections Program

Congratulations to the following TJ students for their achievements in the National PTA's 2009-2010 Reflections Program. This year's theme is "*Beauty Is...*" All entries receiving an Outstanding Interpretation at the County Council level have advanced to the District level of competition.

Dance Choreography

Catherine Ayres, First Place. Outstanding Interpretation at County Council.

Visual Arts

Katherine Helmick, First Place. Outstanding Interpretation at County Council.
Rachel Merriman-Goldring, Second Place.

(award winners continued on next page)

Photography

Rachel Merriman-Goldring, First & Second Place. Outstanding Interpretation at County Council.

Jennifer Peng, Third Place.

Additional TJ Participants: **Albany Jacobson-Eckert, Katherine Helmick**.

Literature

Arjun Srinivasan, First Place. Outstanding Interpretation at County Council.

Thomas Woodruff, Second Place.

Katherine Helmick, Third Place.

Additional TJ Participants: **Jennifer Peng, Nalini Singh**.

Next year's Reflections theme is: *"Together We Can..."* Plan now to express yourself in any of the six art areas: Literature, Dance Choreography, Film/Video Production, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. For more information, contact Susan Woodruff at winterone@cox.net.

Serving the TJ Community

Free Money

Earnings top \$12,500! We're on target for over \$16,000 this school year! Keep shopping with your registered Giant, Safeway, Harris Teeter and Target cards and through our Amazon.com link:

<http://www.amazon.com/?tag=tjhsst-20!>

We discontinued our participation in Bloom's school program due to lack of participation. If you linked your Bloom card to TJ, please consider linking it to another area school.

Recycle inkjet and laser cartridges

Save your empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges! We collect them and sell them to a recycling company. TJ earns \$3 per cartridge. This is a year-round effort, so please keep them coming even during the summer.

Collect empty cartridges from your home, office, friends, and relatives. Put them in a plastic bag (to

prevent leakage) and place them in the collection box in the main office. We'll do the rest.

Recycle cell phones

Bring us your old cell phones and we'll turn them into cash for TJ! Just put the phone in a plastic bag and place it in the collection box in the main office. A recycling company will pay from 50 cents to \$30 per phone (depending on the make and model). The company pays for all phones, even damaged and outdated ones. Help the environment by helping TJ!

All Night Graduation Party (ANGP)



Please **DONATE, DONATE, DONATE!!**

DONATE CASH. Your donations will make it possible to sign contracts with vendors for early-bird, discount rates on all the fun things that make ANGP such an X-citing night. Every donation above \$50 allows the donor to make a dedication in the Seniors' honor. Check the donor list at <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/donations.html>.

DONATE YOUR EFFORT TO RECRUIT A BUSINESS DONOR. Consider where you shop now, and remember those shop owners and businesses that might be willing to donate items or gift cards for the ANGP raffle. Lindsay Auto recently agreed to donate a laptop for the raffle, and Home Depot has donated two gift cards to help us with supplies for decorations. Ask your employer if they can help out. Many companies make matching contributions. Think big and remember who you are asking for—your hard-working Senior!! Please contact us to let us know which businesses you are soliciting so that we can provide you with

solicitation materials and so we don't approach the same ones more than once: Cindy Hann at [chann at cox.net](mailto:chann@cox.net).

DONATE YOUR TIME! Volunteers are still needed, and every Senior Parent needs to donate time before or during the ANGP in order to attend the party. Check out opportunities at:

<http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/volunteer.html>.

DONATE A SENIOR PHOTO AND A BABY PHOTO! See the link for more information:

<http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/babyphotos.html>.

DONATE (!) \$20 and receive a cool yard sign in a choice of designs:

http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/documents/TJ_Grad_Lawn_Sign_Order_Form.pdf.

THANKS to all of the Senior parents who have purchased tickets to the All Night Grad Party! We have sold 311 tickets so far. It is time for the rest of you Senior parents to get on board!! In a little over 4 months, Seniors will roll into TJ after graduation for their last blast at the X-pedition 2010 All Night Grad Party. Tickets can still be purchased at:

<http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/tickets.html>.

Student Services Corner

Guidelines

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

Student Government Association

Hey TJ!

Service week is coming up soon! It will be the week of March 22 to March 26. In response to the recent disaster in Haiti, our donations will be going to the William J. Clinton Foundation, supporting Haiti relief. Our goal is to raise fifteen thousand dollars and the fundraising has already begun! We're going to make a big difference.

If your club wants to be a part of this beneficial and exciting experience, please contact SGA.

Fundraising has already started, but it's not too late to get involved! The week will be wrapped up on Friday, March 26, with a benefit concert featuring TJ bands. Everyone is encouraged to participate! Email [tjhsstsga at googlegroups.com](mailto:tjhsstsga@googlegroups.com) if you, your club, or your band wants to participate in Service Week.

In other news, SGA has taken responsibility for the morning announcements and has started showing them again. If an individual or club wants to display a video announcement, they should come to SGA with their idea.

Good luck on starting your second semester!

Academic News

French News

French Honor Society (FHS) is an academic honor society at TJ which promotes French language and culture in the school community. The officers include co-presidents **Anna Nikolova** and **Mohima Sanyal**, Secretary **Grace Merkin**, Historian **Danett Song**, Treasurer **Temple Douglas**, and Webmaster **Alex Streicher**. The club meets several times a month to celebrate French culture through music, research presentations, video clips, current events and food-filled festivities for faculty and members.

A major highlight of the club's winter activities was the commemoration of National French Week, when a special teacher appreciation breakfast was held in the main office. Additionally, a school-wide French culture trivia contest educated non-members about francophone society, and member-produced posters were displayed outside the library in honor of French Nobel Laureates. Another highlight of the cold months was the exciting success of the club's French Idol, which showcased talented FHS member musicians such as **Elena Lagon** and **Emilie Anderson**, and their love of French music. Endless opportunities for learning, growth, and creativity are available through the club, which maintains a francophone environment to encourage fluency and confidence in member students who have demonstrated budding enthusiasm for the subject. FHS is looking forward to Mardi Gras, International Night, and other festivities to come,

and hopes TJ stays tuned for more fun, fabulous, francophone action!



Officers **Danett Song** and **Anna Nikolova**, along with **Mme. Genevieve Delfosse**, head of the foreign language department, at the teacher-appreciation breakfast held during the week of French festivities.

Fun With German

German Honor Society members celebrated the December holidays by caroling with the residents at Lee wood Nursing Home, singing favorites both in German and in English.



Kelly Schumann, Katie Mitchell, Kelsey Dressing, Bryce Summers and **Krissy Brant** carol for Leewood residents.

The German Honor Society also hosted its annual gingerbread house party for German students and their friends.



Lisa Yang and **Debbie Yu** put finishing touches on their Gingerbread Houses.

Class News

2010 – Seniors

If you are reading this article and have not yet volunteered for the All Night Graduation Party, please stop reading and click on this link <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/documents/2010volunteer-signup-form.pdf>, download the volunteer form and return it to TJ today.

Soon you will be sitting in the Patriot Center, watching with pride as your son or daughter walks across the stage and graduates from Thomas Jefferson. At about 9:30 p.m., the ceremony is over and the party begins. Our TJ graduates will return to TJ one last time to celebrate with their classmates. The ANGP begins immediately after graduation and runs until about 6:00 a.m. The school is transformed with color, music and elaborate decorations to make for one unforgettable night, and there will be delicious food and exciting activities all night long. **The only way for you or your extended family members to be part of this special evening is to volunteer.**

Don't let your students tell you that they don't want you there. It takes 400 parents to work that night to pull off this party, so most senior parents will be there during one of the shifts. **We are expecting every single senior family to help out with the ANGP.** If you absolutely cannot help that night, we could use your help in advance. But where we are really short is for the graveyard shift at the party (2:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.). This is the best time to

volunteer – you will be able to take your sleepy child home so they don't have to drive (you can go home after the graduation and get a nice long nap first).

You didn't let me down for the Freshmen Lock In or the Junior Camp Out. Don't quit now. I really need you so that we can make the ANGP the best event of our students' four years at TJ. Volunteer today!

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

2011 - Juniors

We have two events in February needing volunteers:

1) **Valentine's Day Formal Dance, Saturday, February 13** – volunteers are needed to set up for the dance on the morning of the 13th and 12 volunteers are needed to chaperone at the dance (please arrive at 7:45 p.m.). All students are welcome to attend.

2) **Practice SAT test, Saturday, February 20** – 12 chaperones are needed (arrive at 7:45 a.m.). A new practice test will be given and it is open to all students. The follow up date for the practice SAT will be March 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Pick up a registration form in room 238.

If you would like to volunteer, please email Jane Hsu at [dogstar3 at msn.com](mailto:dogstar3@msn.com). If you have questions or comments, please email Connie Valle at [vallefamly at cox.net](mailto:vallefamly@cox.net).

~~ Connie Valle and Jane Hsu
PTSA Class of 2011 Representatives

2012 – Sophomores

By now everyone should have received their invitations to the Class of 2010 International Affair Dinner and Auction, to be held on Saturday evening, March 13, 2010, at the Fort Belvoir Officer's Club. A lot of hard work is going into planning the event and everyone should be looking forward to an enjoyable evening.

There are so many ways to participate – be a Class of 2012 Sponsor, purchase tickets for the dinner (you don't have to bid on or purchase anything at the auction), or, if you can't join us that night, please consider making a donation to the class. Remember, the funds we raise will help to defray the graduation expenses.

Tickets are \$45.00 each. Or, you could be a Class Sponsor. Choose from several sponsor levels, from the Friends of the Class of 2012 at \$100, to the President Jefferson Club at \$1,500, and three levels in between. All the information on how to order tickets or be a Class Sponsor was included in your invitations and can be accessed at www.TJ2012Auction.com. Please RSVP promptly so that we may reserve a seat at the table just for you.

Auction items are coming in and we will have a wide variety of items at all different price levels for you to bid on. There is still time to donate something for inclusion in the Auction. Information on donations went home with your student in early December.

Please join us for a nice evening. If your budget doesn't allow you to bid on Auction items, don't let that keep you from attending. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and socialize with other Class of 2012 families.

Please contact us at [TJClassof2012 at cox.net](mailto:TJClassof2012@cox.net) if you have any questions or need information.

~~Ann Nguyen and Janet Tasker
PTSA Class of 2012 Representatives

2013 – Freshmen

Yes, it is still winter and it is still cold outside. However, we have had our hearts warmed by the outpouring of support by Class of 2013 parents agreeing to volunteer at the **Freshman Lock In on April 23-24**. A huge thank you to those that have already agreed to take a shift to help ensure a wonderful time! It's not too late to join the fun. Just contact us if you would like to volunteer.

Another place you may help is through the TJ Partnership Fund. The PF is a volunteer-led nonprofit foundation whose purpose is to support

the school's program and curriculum needs. The PF's mission is critically important to maintaining the excellence of the TJ experience, especially in these uncertain times of school budget cuts. Pam serves on the PF's board of directors as the Volunteer Coordinator and is always looking for parents to assist with a variety of activities, from fund raising to the Spring phone-a-thon to providing administrative help in the PF office at TJ. Please check out the PF's section of *Tech cetera* or contact Pam for more information.

Finally, please continue to encourage your students to keep up the good work on their IBET projects. The time to present them will be here before we know it!

~~ Yun Pang ([yunjungp0201 at gmail.com](mailto:yunjungp0201@gmail.com))
Pam Cooper ([cooperlaw at verizon.net](http://cooperlaw.verizon.net))
PTSA Class of 2013 Representatives

News Round-Up and Awards

2010 Intel Science Talent Search Finalist

Congratulations to **Temple Douglas**, who was selected on January 27 as one of 40 finalists in the 2010 Intel Science Talent Search. Temple's research project is "Application of Hydrogel Nanoparticles for Early Lyme Disease Diagnosis." As a finalist, she has won an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for a week-long Institute from March 11-16, where she will undergo a more rigorous judging process to compete for additional scholarships of up to \$100,000. All the top-40 projects will be displayed for public viewing on March 14, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. Top winners will be announced at a black-tie gala awards ceremony at the National Building Museum on March 16.

All 40 Finalist winners are displayed by state at <http://www.societyscience.org/Page.aspx?pid=497>.

TJHSST Tops the Nation in the 2010 Intel Science Talent Search Top 300

Congratulations to the following 2010 Intel Science Talent Search top 300 winners from TJHSST:

1. **Temple Douglas**
2. **Stephani Gu**
3. **Aryan Khojandi**
4. **Allison Koenecke**
5. **Aaron Koenig**
6. **Greyson Lewis**
7. **Daniel Li**
8. **Kimberly Moore**
9. **Kushal Seetharam**
10. **Vishwajith Sridharan**
11. **Dennis Wang**
12. **Akshar Wunnava**
13. **Jason Ya**

These are students whose applications and research papers are recognized to be among the top 300 in the nation. Over the past 68 years, the young innovators chosen to participate in the Science Talent Search have gone on to receive some of the world's most prestigious honors. For example, seven former finalists have won the Nobel Prize, while others have been awarded the Fields Medal, the National Medal of Science and the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. This year, TJHSST has thirteen winners, more than any other school in the contest for the second year in a row.

Social Responsibility Happenings

During December and January students have had many opportunities to focus on TJ's One Question: "What are the Social Responsibilities of Educated People?" Students continued making recordings of children's books to be donated to children in Fairfax ESOL programs. A number of students met author Greg Mortenson at his talk in Washington in early December. The focus for events during December was poverty issues. After "Wheels to Africa" founder, Winston Duncan, visited TJ in early December, several students helped him collect bikes to be sent to African communities. **Katie Mitchell** organized an outreach program with the Arlington Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless. TJ students prepared holiday boxes for children in the program, which Katie delivered during our snow days.

Environmental topics have been our most recent focus. After hosting a TJ Climate Conference in December (simultaneously with the UN conference in Copenhagen), **Krissy Brant** planned numerous events for January: several speakers, discussions (Third Cup of Tea), and a project to encourage TJ to reuse, reduce, and recycle.

See the One Question website's events page for more information:
<http://www.tjhsst.edu/studentlife/oneq/events.php>.



Katie Mitchell takes gift boxes prepared by TJ students to the Arlington Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless.



Kristina Horita shows some of the children's books being recorded for children in FCPS ESOL programs.

One Question Submission Process

Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors will soon have the opportunity to submit their proposals for the 2010-2011 One Question. Phase One of the question submission process will run from

February 1-12. For details, click on <http://www.tjhsst.edu/studentlife/oneq/phase1.php>.

TJHSST Boy Scouts celebrate 100th anniversary!!

TJ students excel in many endeavors, so it is not surprising that many TJ boys are also leaders in the Boy Scouts. In February these students will join in the national celebration of the 100th anniversary of the chartering of the Boy Scouts of America by Congress in 1910. Squeezed in the tight schedules of AP tests, science fairs, sports and music competitions, etc., TJ Scouts achieve high levels of success in Scouting with many participating in the high adventure activities offered by BSA. Two TJ students who are members of different troops met unexpectedly in the mountains of New Mexico last summer when their paths crossed on separate 12-day backpacking treks at the Philmont Scout ranch.

Among the TJ students who recently achieved the coveted BSA rank of Eagle are: **Andrew Hamilton** (2009), **Nolan Bader**, **Benjin Dubishar**, **Sam Hoehn**, **Joseph Latta**, **William Manaker**, **Hung Nguyen**, **Kyle Ruempler**, and **Patrick Stalcup** (all 2010) **Kevin Boehm** (2011) and **Samuel Prestwood** (2012). Congratulations to these new TJ Eagles. Nationally only about 5 percent of all scouts earn the rank of Eagle, but it is likely that many more TJ students will become Eagle scouts in future years.

Music Teachers National Association Southern Division First Place Winner

Congratulations to **Fifi Zhang** (2011), who won first place in the Music Teachers National Association Southern Division Senior Piano Competition. The competition was held in Birmingham, AL, from January 16-18. Fifi represented Virginia at the Southern Division competition after winning the State Competition, held at Virginia Tech in November 2009. She will now compete at the national level in Albuquerque, NM from March 20-24, as one of seven national finalists (ranging in age from 15 years-18 years). First prize at the national level is \$2000.

For more information about the Association, go to: <http://mtna.org/>.

TJHSST Partnership Fund

TJ Partnership Fund: Every Family, Every Year

**YEAR-END APPEAL OVER \$120,000 AND
COUNTING!**

Please keep those checks coming!

Announcing: TJ's First Annual Junior Lab Appeal

This is a great way to help your student's lab acquire needed equipment or supplies. Soon after juniors receive their lab assignments in mid-February, Lab Captains from each lab will contact parents of students in that lab to give them the details. We hope that every parent of a junior will participate. Your kids will thank you for it!

Warning: Spring Phonathon Approaching Fast

In March, Partnership Fund volunteers will be contacting every freshman and sophomore parent who has not yet contributed this school year. Help shrink our Phonathon call list – give now!

Featuring: Latest Lab Acquisition Funded by PF Donations

In November, the Partnership Fund gave a **50K grant to the school, 30K of which went to the Prototyping Lab** for the purchase of the HAAS CNC Toolroom Lathe. This computerized lathe does the grunt work that students formerly did by hand, freeing them to focus on design and experimentation, rather than the laborious and frustrating process of learning to master a lathe. The computerized lathe typifies recent acquisitions, many of which are high-tech pieces of equipment that automate a time-consuming and difficult task, with speedy and consistent results. Such equipment makes lab work more productive and meaningful, while enabling more advanced work.



Prototyping Lab Director and experienced lathe operator, **Clint Behling**, holding a part that took him an hour to make by hand, discusses the benefits of computerized lathe operation.

Contact: Kathy Young in the PF Office at (703) 750-8316 or email [Jeffersonpartnershipfund at tjhsst.edu](mailto:Jeffersonpartnershipfund@tjhsst.edu).

Thank you for helping to KEEP TJ NUMBER ONE!

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters

At our January meeting, we continued to review funding requests for the following events:

- Three TJ teams to compete at DC Regional Botball tournaments
- Chemistry Olympiad
- Virginia Scholastic Chess Tournament
- Forensics, LD Debate, and Public Forum teams to compete at UPenn tournament
- FPS Qualifying Problems
- American Regional Math League Local competition
- Policy Debate at WACFL 5
- Quizbowl team at Prison Bowl and Gonzaga/St Anselm's ZIGZAG tournaments

Funds are still needed to support the students who do well at these competitions and qualify to compete at the national and international levels. Please donate to the Academic Boosters to support

the teams as they represent TJHSST all over the country. You can donate by visiting our website at <http://academics.tjhsst.edu/aboosters/membership.htm>.

Policy Debate Team

Two TJ varsity policy debate teams attended the George Mason University tournament on January 8-9, 2010. **Hannah Clark** and **Andre Kessler** advanced to the semifinals, and Hannah received the 5th speaker award. **Akshay Deverakonda** and **Chris Lee** advanced to the quarterfinals, and Chris received the 8th speaker award.

The policy debate team had a successful tournament at WACFL IV on January 16, 2010. Results were as follows:

Junior Varsity: **Sajala Shukla** and **Kat Lee** placed 2nd with a 3-1 record; **Ally Walsh** and **Liza Miadzedskaya** placed 6th with a 3-1 record.

Varsity:

Hannah Clark was 1st speaker; **Mary Sun** and Chris Lee placed 5th with a 3-1 record; Hannah Clark and Andre Kessler placed 1st with a 4-0 record.

Lincoln Douglas Debate

The Lincoln-Douglas Debate team had many successes at WACFL 4 on Saturday, January 16, 2010. This was the fourth local tournament of the debate season. The topic of debate was "Resolved: Economic sanctions ought not be used to achieve foreign policy objectives." This resolution will also be used in three of our upcoming tournaments: WACFL 5, Columbia Invitational, and University of Pennsylvania Liberty Bell Classic. For this past WACFL 4 tournament, each debater had a total of four rounds during the day--two affirming the resolution and two negating the resolution.

So far this year we've had a number of qualifiers for Metro Finals, the regional tournament in March that will allow winners to compete in the national tournament, and TJ students were very successful in this tournament as well. In varsity, **Ashneil Jain** was undefeated and took third place. Ashneil had already qualified for Metros, but TJ did have another new varsity qualifier in **Kevin Boehm**, who took sixth place.

In Junior Varsity, **Gireesh Reddy** took first place with a perfect 4-0 record; he was also first-place speaker. **Apoorva Lonkar** took sixth place, and she was second-place speaker. Both Gireesh and Apoorva now proceed to the varsity level.

In novice, **Andrew Kim** took fourth place. He now moves up to JV, and he has half-qualified for Metros--meaning that he just needs a 3-1 record in JV to send him to the Metros tournament in March.

Congratulations to everyone!

Public Forum Debate

On Saturday, January 16, TJ's Public Forum Debate team (also known by the lovely names of PF Debate, PoFo) attended the WACFL IV tournament, where three of TJ's outstanding JV teams qualified for Metrofinals. First time partners **Daniel Jang** and **Karishma Popli** placed 1st with a 4-0 record, **Vidya Ganesh** and **Guanmei Liang** placed 3rd with a 4-0 record, and **Ricky Prasannappa** and **Samy Singh** earned their second 3-1 record, thus qualifying them for Metrofinals. They all successfully debated January's PF Debate topic: "Resolved: President Obama's plan for increasing troops in Afghanistan is in the United States' best interest." PF Debate will also be sending Varsity and JV teams to the NFL Nationals on January 23 and the UPenn Liberty Bell Classic on February 15-16, where they will debate February's topic: "Resolved: In the United States, organized political lobbying does more harm than good."

Model UN

TJHSST Model UN Delegation claimed the **Secretary General's Award for Best Large School Delegation** at the Prince William Model United Nations Conference (PWMUN) on December 11 and 12. TJ Delegates won Best Delegate Awards in 11 out of the 15 committees they participated in! Congratulations to all the Delegates!

Best Delegation Awards went to: **Collin Jones, Avi Sachs, Aman Kansal, Nazila Shafagati, Varun Kumar, Ryan Pillai, Max Kieff, Nihaar Sinha, Kishore Rao, Steve Qian, Siddhant Sethi, Jason Miller, Shiyang Yang, Dennis Wang, April Hu, Swetha Pasala, and Anirudh Saraswathula.**

Outstanding Delegate Awards went to: **Ankit Kapoor, Nimesh Chakravarthi, Romita Mandal, Kyle Angelotti, Nick Kousen, Connor Docherty, Allen Shi, Daniel Shanker, Lyndsey Wheeler, Alison Kosmacki, Mike Crumplar, Serena Saffarini, Zach Perconti, Kate Kingsbury, and John Pulice.**

Honorable Mention Awards went to: **Lizzy Yim, Suhyen Bae, Ashi Bagali, Sameer Shrivastava, Nate Skolnik, Anna Knight, Kevin Cao, Zach Hosseinipour, and Aaron Koenig.**

Verbal Commendations went to: **Michael Nguyen, Richard Nguyen, Brian Shin, Andrew Barlow, Nalini Singh, Panya Vu, Shreyas Mahapatra, Divya Madhusudhan, Adrea Jackson, Hunter Merrill, Chinmayee Bala, Omer Ahmed, Garrett Hoppin, Cheng Xu, Sarah Rachal, Chantelle Ekanem, Pranava Raparla, Carson Hotard, Anurag Shyamala, and Miller Ke.**

Senior Computer Team news

The results of the December 2009 USA Computer Olympiad (USACO) contest were:

In the Gold division, **Brian Hamrick** placed 5th and **Jack Chen** placed 11th.

In the Silver division, **Mitchell Lee** placed 8th, **William Qian** placed 13th, and **Mitchell Stern** placed 15th.

In the Bronze division, **Kevin Dodd** and **Kalki Seksaria** tied for 1st.

The results of the January 2010 USACO contest were:

In the Gold division, **Brian Hamrick** tied for 1st, **Mitchell Lee** placed 11th, and **Jack Chen** tied for 12th.

In the Silver division, **Lawrence Diao** placed 9th and **Andrew Cheong** placed 14th.

In the Bronze division, **Arjun Srinivasan** tied for 4th and **Seung In Sohn** tied for 15th.

Quiz Bowl

On Saturday, January 16, TJ's Quiz Bowl team, represented by Juniors **Stephen Eltinge, Olivia Murton, Diana Gerr, and Siddharth Hariharan** went undefeated at the District and

Regional Championships in the VHSL Scholastic Bowl Tournament. The team, formerly known as "It's Academic," competed at Edison High School. Next stop: VHSL State Championship Tournament Saturday, February 27, on the campus of William and Mary.

Forensics

At the Tor Johnson Tournament, held at West Potomac High School on January 13, **Rebecca Friedman** was 2nd place in Extemporaneous Speaking; **Emily Ji** and **Neal Chaudhuri** were 3rd place in Duo Interpretation; **Hillary Liu** was 3rd place in Declamation; **Leif Bakke** was 6th place in Original Oratory; and **Rachel Kim** was 7th place in Prose.

Band Boosters

TJ Members of the District XI All District Band

Congratulations to thirty-six members of the TJ Band Program who were honored with selection to the District XI All District Band after auditioning on Saturday, January 9, at Robinson Secondary School. This is a terrific level of success for our student/musicians. They will perform in the full band on February 6 at W.T. Woodson H.S. The TJ students are:

John Anderson, Catherine Ayres, Max Beckhard, Jack Borsi, Autumn Chuang (#1 Bassoon in the district), **Jimmy Clark, Megan Clark, Ryan Feng, Anu Goel, Jared Golant, James Graham, Gina Hansen, Emily Harmon, Jean He, David Heo, Andrew Hendricks, Lauren Houck** (#1 French Horn in the district), **Seung Yeon Ju, Alexia Kim, Andrew Kim, Andrew Koons, Haina Li, Alexa Lowman, Arjun Malhotra, Stephanie Marzen, Stephanie Melendez, Jeff Menzin, Kennan Murphy-Sierra** (#1 Percussion in the district), **Stephen Nam, Andrew Rice, Kyle Ruempler, Sydney Schrider, Nadine Skaff, Jacqueline Speiser, Eric Westman, and Ellen Zhong.**

Winter Drumline Showcase, March 13: Get ready for our most spectacular event of the year, the annual TJ Winter Drumline Showcase. Don't miss this electrifying competition, featuring a wide assemblage of the finest Winter Drumline high school units in the region as TJ plays host to hundreds of participants, families and guests. The world class United Percussion from Philadelphia returns for a rousing encore performance. You will also be treated to another year of George Mason University Drumline. Come cheer on TJ as our band students seek to retain their first place finish of a year ago.

TJ Winter Showcase is a crucial Band Boosters fundraiser that enables us to finance all our vibrant music programs. We need volunteers now to solicit advertisers for the Showcase Program, a crisp work of art. We also need each and every one of you on the day of this AIA Showcase. We want all your talents to field concessions, first aid, tickets, traffic management, unit check in, gym doors and lots more! Please contact Showcase Coordinator Henry Ruempler, [shruempler at msn.com](mailto:shruempler@msn.com), to offer your time during this grand production. All band families are asked to provide individually wrapped baked goods for sale.

Advertise in Showcase Program: Business owners and parents, please advertise with us. Dads and Moms, this is your moment to compose an endearing message to your performing children. All advertisements and greetings are in black and white. Please contact Henry Ruempler at [shruempler at msn.com](mailto:shruempler@msn.com) for more information, and stay tuned for deadlines, prices and ad size information.

Mouth Watering Citrus: Grab these succulent delights while they last. Curl up by the fire on slippery snow days and warm up with a little sunshine, imported straight from Florida! February selections boast ruby red grapefruit and temple oranges. You're not going to find fruits like these at your local supermarket. **Orders are due February 13, and pickup is Saturday, February 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the TJ Band Room. To order, call (703) 815-1844 or email [tjcitrus at hotmail.com](mailto:tjcitrus@hotmail.com) (please provide your phone number when ordering).** Help is needed unloading the truck and schlepping citrus to the cars.

Scrip: Need a gift card? Scrip is available all year long. Contact Sharon Slatery at [slateryfamily at cox.net](mailto:slateryfamily@cox.net) to place an order and she will make arrangements with you for a special delivery.

Step up to the Plate: We need you! Many band boosters are graduating in June and that leaves several dynamic positions just waiting to be filled! No pay but lots of rewards. 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-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Important Dates:

Band Boosters meeting: First Tuesday of every month. This month, February 2, 6:30 p.m., Principal's conference room. Come get an update on Winter Showcase and how you can help.

All-District Band Concert: Saturday, February 6, 2:00 p.m., Woodson HS.

Winter Guard/Winter Drumline: Saturday, February 13 at Broad Run HS.

Citrus: Orders due February 13. Pickup in the TJ Band Room, February 20, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Next delivery, March 20.

Winter Drumline: February 20, Powhatan.

Winter Guard: February 20, Potomac Falls HS.

All-State Band Auditions: Saturday, February 27, James Madison University.

Winter Guard: Saturday, March 6, Mills Godwin HS.

Band Pre-Festival Concert: Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Winter Drumline Showcase: Saturday, March 13, TJ Main Gym.

Winter Guard: Saturday, March 13. WGI Regional at Powhatan HS

Concert Festival: Symphonic Band, likely 3/12 afternoon; Symphonic Wind Ensemble likely 3/13 late afternoon at Westfield HS – free and open to the public.

Colonial Athletic Boosters

Message from the Membership Chair: Each year TJ fields 46 teams in 17 sports at various levels. It takes more than \$120,000 annually to fund TJ athletics. FCPS pays only for coaches' salaries, officials' fees, utilities and some transportation. Everything else – the balls, helmets, uniforms, nets, scoreboards, grass seed, fertilizer, mowers, professional development and the trophies – is paid for from funds that **YOU** help us raise each year. With deep budget cuts on the horizon, **your membership is important!**

Our reputation as the best public high school in the United States is only further enhanced when you consider that TJ offers the *entire* high school experience, from Intel Science Talent Search Finalists to award-winning music and drama, to State and National Championship athletes. We cannot continue to offer quality athletic programs without your help.

Please support TJ athletics by joining the Colonial Athletic Boosters! For more information, see our website at:

<http://sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters/membership.php>.

You can join online at:

<http://sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters/membership.php#online> or mail a check to “*Colonial Athletic Boosters c/o TJHSST, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.*”

We need your support!

Membership Chair Robin Hoehn

[Robin.Hoehn at verizon.net](mailto:Robin.Hoehn@verizon.net)

Boys Varsity Basketball: The team, currently in a “rebuilding year” with only four seniors, boasted a 3-9 record (0-5 in District play) before January 15, with a definitive defeat of Washington-Lee in the season opener and two cliff-hangers against Falls Church (one in the Pohanka Invitational Holiday Tournament). But on January 15, Marshall (4-1 in the District) stepped into a TJ gym packed with Monticello Maniacs and experienced a stunning 48-42 loss. Four days later, TJ withstood the assaults of a physical Madison team to post a 42-32 triumph. Good luck to this enthusiastic, unpredictable bunch in their last seven regular-season games (concluding

with Senior Night on February 12) as they gear up for the District tournament.



Junior **Daniel Barnes** shoots a jumper against Stone Bridge on January 22, backed up by a Monticello Maniacs white-out

Boys Freshman Basketball: In its first Friday night game at home, the team put another one in the win column with its 54-51 victory against a tough Marshall opponent. The win was a terrific total team effort with a lot of great passes and several players coming off the bench to score in clutch situations. Although the team struggled early on with turnovers, they dominated on the boards with a 38-22 rebounding advantage over Marshall. The rowdy fans were treated to a wildly exciting game, which set the tone for the night, giving the JV and varsity teams inspiration to make it a sweep against Marshall. **Emory Ruscus** led the team with 22 points and 15 rebounds, **Joe Nissen** contributed 12 points, **Michael Chan** put 6 on the scoreboard, **Sean McElrath** scored 5 and **Jack Brown** had 4 points.

The team hopes to improve its 4-4 record as they enter the second half of the season.

Girls Varsity Basketball: The Lady Colonials are a young squad that has had an up-and-down season to date. With 3 seniors, 3 juniors, 2 sophomores and 1 freshman, the team has taken some time to

gel. Wins against Falls Church, Hylton and McLean, and a tough overtime loss to Annandale have been the highlight games thus far. District play is at the halfway point and the Lady Colonials have a 1-6 record in the District. Led by second-year Coach **Victor Chen**, the team is playing hard, beginning to score more points and expects a more successful second half of the season.

Girls JV Basketball: Just back from winter break, the JV girls had a few tough weeks with losses against South Lakes, Fairfax, Langley and Madison.

With a promising start at the Fairfax game, freshman **Julia Arthur** sank a 3-point shot to open the game and spark the team to an early lead. Every Colonial player who played in the first half got on the stat sheet, keeping the game close at half time.

More importantly each girl contributed mightily to the defensive effort; however, we fell behind in the 3rd quarter and could not take back the lead. In the game against Madison, there were definite improvements in heart, aggression, and court awareness. The team broke their high score record with a total of 31 points; however, Madison was too strong in the second half, scoring a total of 53 points to take the game.

With a current record of 1-9 they've completed their first pass at the District schedule and look forward to more success in the second half of the season.

"Hey all you TJ Fans..."

Winter Cheer: The squad continues to cheer on our boys and girls basketball teams and raise the spirit at all home basketball games. Our varsity seniors **Victoria Kedzie**, **Mary Kim**, and **Christy Moore** are working hard at preparing their teammates to take over the cheerleading for the fall season.

Michelle Gahagan and Christy Moore also lead the crowd at each game with their duet of the Star Spangled Banner.

This year's squads are:

JV: **Anna Knight** (Captain), **Brianna Buch**, **Aditi Gadre**, **Christina Lee**, **Anna Li**, **Lucy Shi** and **Ellen Song**.

Varsity: **Victoria Kedzie** (Captain), **Michelle Gahagan**, **Jane Hu**, **Ashley Hwang**, **Mary Kim**, **Lucia Melgarejo**, **Daniella Miller**, **Christy Moore**,

Nikki Pangilinan, **Jenny Park**, **Kathy Shi**, **Tiffany Wu** and **Andrew Yang**.

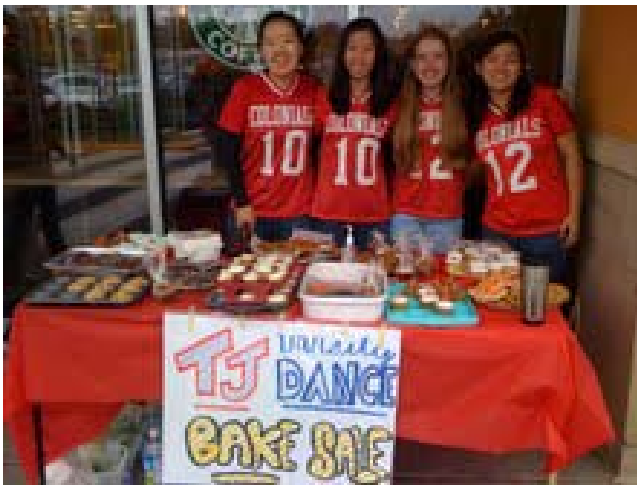


"We are the mighty Varsity"

Dance: The team continues to perform at various girls and boys basketball games and will have their last show on February 12. Be sure to watch the outstanding show at half-time during home games. The girls have held several bake sales to raise money for team jackets and team competitions this year.

The team placed 4th in High Kick and 7th in Jazz at the American University Invitational Competition on January 10. The girls worked hard preparing for this event. Several of the team members competed in solo events that morning. Congratulations to the team for a great show! The team has been invited to the Gar-Field Sweetheart Invitational on Saturday, February 20th at Gar-Field High School in Woodbridge. They will be competing in 2 events and are looking forward to some tough competition. All are welcome!

Our Senior Night will be held at the men's basketball game on Friday, February 12 to celebrate and honor the following seniors girls: **Lisa Nam** (captain), **Jackie Chen** (co-captain), **KC Chae** and **Vishaka Ravishankar**. Best of luck to all our seniors! Special thanks to both Coach **Melissa Weber** and Assistant Coach **Grace Miller** for helping the team with a great season!



Varsity Dance Bake Sale

(L to R) **KC Chae, Jackie Chen, Vicky Kelley, Amelia Dahl**

Gymnastics: The team has **won** their last 3 meets, two of which were at home. The 9-member team defeated Edison, West Potomac, West Springfield, Washington-Lee, Mount Vernon, Annandale, Madison, Marshall, McLean, Mt Vernon and South Lakes in meets this season. Senior **Amanda Gilbert** has led the team with consistently strong all-around scores, finishing first at the home meet on January 19, which was also Senior Night. This was followed by strong all-around performances from juniors **Katya Davydova** and **Hailey Johnson**; and freshmen **Marisa Kataoka** and **Caroline Kerr**. The team's strength also comes from individual routines in all events. Other competitors included freshman **Jennifer Wang** on bars and freshmen **Zophie Quan** and **Michele Wang** on beam. This year's captains are senior Amanda Gilbert and juniors Katya Davydova and Hailey Johnson.

The team will compete at West Springfield and Edison prior to the Liberty District competition at Lake Braddock on February 1. They are also scheduled to compete at the Washington-Lee Invitational.

A big thank-you to all the parents who volunteered and supported the two home meets on January 12 and 19. A special thank-you goes out to **Kelly Watson** (TJ gymnastic team alumni) and her mom Kathie for coming out and helping at the home meets.

Swim and Dive: Following a 4-0 start, the boys dropped to 4-2, losing to Fairfax by only 3 points.

Against Fairfax, double winners for the boys were **Alex Dona** (Alexandria), **Matt Callahan** (Vienna), and **Stephen Seliskar** (McLean), with Callahan clocking a state-meet qualifying time in the 100 back. The boys 200 medley relay with Seliskar, Callahan, Dona and **Sam Speers** (McLean) had a state-qualifying time, placing second in a fast and exciting race. Against Madison, Callahan and Seliskar were double winners, with Seliskar swimming a state time in the 100 back. Two 400 medley teams posted times: Seliskar, Callahan, Dona and Speers; and Speers, Dona, Seliskar and **Peter Ballen** (Arlington). The boys 200 free relay of **Jon Spitz** (Fairfax), **Steven Howard** (Oakton), **Joey Bouchard** (Annandale) and Callahan placed second despite a regional championship meet time.

Earlier this season, several boys relays qualified for the regional or state meets, and Callahan, Dona, and Seliskar have qualified in multiple individual events.

The girls remain undefeated at 6-0. Against Fairfax, **Katie Bennett** (Arlington) was a double winner, and **Sarah Graham** (Fairfax) won the 200 free and was part of the 1-2-3 sweep in the 100 back, following **Anna Lan** (McLean) and **Brianna Kim** (Fairfax). The girls 400 free relay also placed 1-2 with Bennett, **Mary Kate Dilworth** (Clifton), **Grace Wang** (Annandale) and **Lauren Laffosse** (Burke) first, and **Jae Sim** (Reston), Graham, Kim and Lan second. In action one week earlier against Madison, Bennett was a double winner, with a regional cut time in the 100 back. The 200 free relay of Bennett, **Leah Gonzalez** (McLean), Sim and Dilworth also won. The girls beat Madison by a 7-point margin, counting on each swimmer and diver to battle for every point.

Winter Track: TJ's athletes have logged some tremendous performances in recent meets as they hone their skills in preparation for the Liberty District championships. On January 15-16, both boys and girls teams competed against some of Virginia's top high school athletes at Liberty University's Flames High School Invitational. The girls were led by **Nora Gayer**, who took first place in the high jump at 5'2." **Sy Rashid** (300m, 4x200m, 4x400m) and **Jonathan Phillips** (1600m and 3200m) led the boys team with outstanding performances and personal bests.

Both boys and girls teams will challenge for the Liberty District Championship crown on January 29 and February 2 at the Prince George Sports Complex in Landover, MD. Both teams have some exceptional athletes that should bolster our chances of taking home the championship, so come out and root for the team!! To learn more about Winter Track at TJ and to see the meet schedule as well as results from past meets, visit our website: <http://www.colonialxctnf.com/>.

Varsity Wrestling: The team has had much success in Liberty District competition this season. We are now 3-1 in the District, and have 3 more District teams to compete against prior to the seeding for District Championships (last year we placed second, behind Langley). We have defeated McLean, Madison and Stone Bridge, and lost to an unexpectedly strong Marshall. We'll face Langley, Fairfax and South Lakes and hope to come away with a great record!



Varsity wrestler **Ashley Miller** controls his opponent during the NOVA Classic Tournament

Stats, anyone?...

Captains **Alex Shmorhun** and **Matt Lamb** are currently tied for the most wins (20), and the most pins (12) and Lamb leads the team with most takedowns (37) this season. Captain **Devan Samant** has earned the most near fall points with 32, and also currently has the most individual points scored (129). **Ashley Miller** has the most reversals (20) and **Will Pyrak** has earned the most escapes (29). **Jeremy Weller** holds the team's fastest pin so far this year with a time of 14 seconds.

Take-downs! Pins! Escapes! How much more exciting can it be?! Wrestling matches may be short in duration (6 minutes at the longest), but a lot

of action is packed into that time! Our team will compete in the Liberty District championships on *Friday and Saturday, February 5 and 6, at Langley High School*. Please come support our wrestlers as they take to the mats and try to dethrone the Saxons!!

JV Wrestling: Our wrestlers are having a very good season and seem to be peaking at the right time for the upcoming JV District tournament. All are showing significant progress, especially a great crop of freshmen and first-time wrestlers. At the start of the season it was normal to see boys pin or be pinned by their opponents. In the last few JV Jamborees, we've seen many more hard-fought matches won or narrowly lost by decision by a few points, as we and our competition get stronger and more experienced. A few JV wrestlers have been called up to varsity matches to fill in for varsity wrestlers who are out temporarily with injuries or scheduling conflicts – again gaining valuable experience. A few first-year varsity wrestlers were able to participate in one JV meet (when there was no varsity meet scheduled) and each recorded their first pin of the season.

Among the winning wrestlers at the most recent JV Jamborees were **Paul Bentz, Ben Sando, Giovanni Basurto, Daniel Yoo, Stas Schaller, Andrew Martin, Austin Neuberger, Jake Shankman, Thuc Tran, Joe DuBois, Daniel J. Kang** and **Julian Whitman**. **Paul Wolfteich** and **Bryce Summers** are among those who lost hard-fought 1-point decisions.



JV wrestler **Joe Dubois** takes down his opponent during match at West Potomac

Crew Boosters



TJ Crew's meeting to kick off the spring season - the **All Family Information Meeting** - will be held on **Wednesday, February 3 at 7:30**

p.m. in the TJ Cafeteria. **Families are welcome to come as early as 6:30 p.m. to get a head start on turning in forms and purchasing crew clothing.** Please do not miss this important meeting. This is a great opportunity for novice students and parents to learn more about TJ Crew. Families of both new and experienced rowers will be able to complete the required membership forms and permission slips, sign up for regatta volunteer positions, and purchase uniforms and crew clothing.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.,** All Family Information Meeting
- **Saturday, February 6,** Deadline for Registration.
- **Friday, February 12,** Ergathon, **4:00 to 6:00 p.m.,** TJ Cafeteria. Come cheer on our rowers as they row to raise money for the crew team and CAI!
- **Monday, February 15,** Swim Test for All Novice Rowers, **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.,** Wakefield Rec Center.
- **Saturday, February 20,** Boat House Work Day - great day for novices to earn their required 5 service hours.
- **Monday, February 22,** Season begins! First day of practice on the Occoquan.

Please continue to check our website for more information: <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/crew/>. Our newsletter, the OARacle, contains a lot of important team information. Questions? Contact Boys' Captains (**Nader Al-Naji, Daniel Ranard** and **Chris Zeng**) at [TJMensCaptains at gmail.com](mailto:TJMensCaptains@gmail.com) or Girls' Captains (**Megan Falls, Erin Haas** and **Stephanie Snoich**) at [TJWomensCaptains at gmail.com](mailto:TJWomensCaptains@gmail.com) or Booster President Pepper Richhart at [TJCrewPresident at gmail.com](mailto:TJCrewPresident@gmail.com).

Orchestra Boosters

Many thanks again to all those who helped with and participated in the Viennese Ball in early January. This was a wonderful event and a successful direct fundraiser for the Orchestra's needs. Particular thanks to Keiko Nakamura, Eve Martinko, Bonhee Ku, Patti Curtis, Robert Shen, Mark Herbst, and Paul and Linda Johnson for their outstanding efforts in support of this event.

We still have a need for chaperones for the Atlanta trip. Please let Ms Bailey or Bobbie Herbst know if you are willing to volunteer. Our Pre-Festival Concert is scheduled for March 17 at 7:00 p.m., with the District XI Orchestra Festival event itself held on Saturday, March 20, at West Springfield High School.

The next Orchestra Booster meeting will be on Tuesday, February 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Principal's Conference Room. REMINDER: We are in need of a Co-Hospitality Chair to assist with the remaining two concert receptions. Please consider volunteering for this very important position – a shared commitment is rewarding and so appreciated by the students and their families. Thank you all for your continued support of Ms. Bailey, our students, and the TJ Orchestra program.

Theatre Boosters (Shakespeare and Drama)

TJ Drama will present the *23rd Annual Knight of One Axe* on February 5 and 6 (Friday and Saturday) at 7:00 p.m. Five one-act plays will be presented: *Here We Are* directed by Mr. Pollet; *Dr. Fritz* directed by **Danny Kim**; *Speed Date* directed by **Anna Burke**; *Black Comedy* directed by **David Ensey** and **Cara Newlon**; and *The Lottery* directed by **Elena Lagon** and **Kevin Place**.

On Friday, February 5 at 5:30 p.m. (prior to the *Knight of One-Axe* performance), the Froshfest play, *If You'll Be Glad, I'll Be Frank*, will be performed in the auditorium. The Froshfest play is

also a student-directed play specifically for those who have never participated in a TJ theater production.

TJ Shakespeare Troupe is sponsoring the 4th annual Shakespeareance on Saturday, March 20, for students in grades 1-8 to learn about Shakespeare while having a great time. The day is spent in a series of interactive workshops and culminates in a performance of a Shakespearean scene. Students in grades 1 and 2 participate in a shorter morning activity tailored to their interests, known as Shakespalooza. Registration is required by March 1 and is available online at:

<http://www.tjhsst.edu/studentlife/activ/troupe>.

The next meeting of Theatre Boosters is Monday, March 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Announcements and Information

TJ Science and Engineering Fair

Join us for TJ's 2010 Science and Engineering Fair! On **Friday, February 5**, students will set up their posters in the cafeteria during 8A and discuss their projects with fellow students during 8B. The fair will be closed to visitors during judging on Saturday morning, February 6, but you are welcome to visit when the fair opens to the public at 1:00 p.m. The public is also invited to the awards ceremony in the Lecture Hall beginning at 2:15 p.m.

In case inclement weather causes school closure on February 5, but not on February 6, student participants will set up their projects between 8:00 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, February 6, and the judging and awards ceremony will proceed as planned. In case of a weather closure on February 6, all activities will take place the following Friday and Saturday, February 12 and 13.

Course Selection Overview for Parents of Ninth and Tenth Graders

Parents of Ninth and Tenth Graders are invited to the Course Selection Overview on the evening of **Wednesday, February 10**, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. The purpose of the program is to review graduation requirements and to provide a general overview of curriculum options.

The timeline for the program is:

7:30 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.: Counselors present curriculum overview to parents of the class of 2013 in the Auditorium.

8:20 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.: Counselors present curriculum overview to parents of the class of 2012 in the Auditorium.

Faculty representatives from academic and elective programs will be available from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. to answer individual questions, in rooms 145-150.

We look forward to helping parents understand the course offerings, and to recognize how to best help their students plan for the future.

Relay for Life

It's not too early to start getting ready for the American Cancer Society's **Relay for Life** in Alexandria! The all-night Relay event will take place at TJHSST on Saturday, May 22, 2010—join friends and family to celebrate survivors and raise money. Anyone can participate, and newcomers are welcome! How can you help out? You can be a chaperone and volunteer with the American Cancer Society, form your own fundraising team, make a personal or team donation, or purchase a Luminaria for a cancer victim. Every contribution to the Relay for Life cause makes a difference. Spread the word and encourage others to participate! Be a part of the fight for a cure! For more information about the Alexandria Youth Relay and the history of Relay for Life, visit www.alexandriayouthrelay.org.

Save the Date for Annual Sports Physicals

Don't be left out on the first day of try-outs!!! Every athlete that tries out for a sport, must have a new medical exam each **SCHOOL** year. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, **June 9**, to get your student's annual sports physical at TJ. The Athletic Trainers are coordinating this popular at-school event to ensure that our athletes are ready for the 2010-2011 season. Medical professionals will perform the comprehensive physicals. The screening will check height, weight, body fat, vision, upper and lower body flexibility, posture,

vital signs and see the medical professional for clearance. Every athlete needs a new athletic physical every school year so, save a trip to the doctor's office and come out and support TJ Athletics. Call 703-750-8387 for any questions.

Volunteers Needed for Physicals!

We need medical and non-medical parents to help make the sports physicals a successful event! If you are a TJ parent and a physician (MD or DO), physician assistant (PA), physical therapist (PT) or nurse practitioner (NP), please consider helping out with physicals on June 9. We also need non-medical parents who want to help with working a station or check-in/out desk. Last year this fundraiser provided over \$12,000 in support of our various sports programs. Your expertise and a few hours of your time will greatly benefit our TJ athletes! Email [Heather.Murphy at fpcs.edu](mailto:Heather.Murphy@fpcs.edu) to sign up.

Temporary Bus Schedule Changes

Below is an updated list of delayed school openings for 2009-10 that affect students riding buses to TJHSST:

- Feb. 12 --- Mt Vernon HS
- Mar. 05 --- Glasgow Middle School
- Mar. 11 --- Stuart High School
- Mar. 16 --- West Potomac HS
- Apr. 20 --- West Springfield
- Apr. 23 --- Mt Vernon HS

When high school delays occur, TJ students WILL NOT be picked up at their normal locations. Parents are required to transport their child to their base school in order to be transported on the TJ shuttle. Questions? Please contact Bob McCormick at (703) 750-8331.

Useful Links

TJHSST Home Page: <http://www.tjhsst.edu/>

TJ PTSA website: <http://www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa>

TJ PTSA President: Carrie Kilgore

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

Vice President: Denise Bunting

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

Vice President: Louise Epstein

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

Treasurer: Eileen Swoboda

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

Recording Secretary: Lou Baumgartner

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

Corresponding Secretary: Helen Lin

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

Techcetera Editor: Gail Brodfuehrer

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

TJ Booster Organizations:

Academic Boosters:

<http://academics.tjhsst.edu/aboosters/>

Athletic Boosters: <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters/>

Band Boosters: <http://www.tjhsstband.org/>

Choral Boosters: <http://tjchoir.org/>

Crew Boosters: <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/crew/>

Orchestra Boosters: <http://arts.tjhsst.edu/orchestra/>

Sports: <http://www.digitalsports.com/school/id/27643.aspx>

Theatre Boosters: <http://arts.tjhsst.edu/theatreboosters/>

TJ Partnership Fund: www.tjpartnershipfund.org

Other:

FCPS Blackboard: <http://fpcs.blackboard.com>

FCPS Familygram:

fpcs.edu/mediapub/publicat/familygram/fall2009/index.html

FCPS School Board: <http://www.fpcs.edu/schlbld>

Fairfax County Supervisors:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/>

Noteworthy Dates

February 2010		March 2010	
1	Teacher Work Day, No School	1	Theatre Booster Meeting, 7pm in Library
2	Band Booster Meeting, 6:30pm in Principal's Conference Room	1-5	Writing SOL
2	ANGP Meeting, 7pm in Career Center	2	Mentorship Fair, 8:30am in Auditorium
3	Athletic Booster Meeting, 7pm in Library	2	ANGP Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
3	Crew Family Interest Meeting and Kickoff, 7pm in Cafeteria	2	Band Booster Meeting, 6:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
5	Froshfest play "If You'll be Glad, I'll be Frank," 5:30pm in Auditorium	3	Athletic Booster Meeting, 7pm in Library
5-6	23 rd Annual Knight of One Axe, 7pm in Auditorium	4	Winter Sports Awards, 6pm in Cafeteria
6	Science Fair and Awards	8	Meet the Coaches Night for Spring Sports, 5pm in Cafeteria
8	PTSA Meeting, 9am in Lecture Hall	9	Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
8	Early Dismissal at 11:50am	9	Orchestra Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
9	Modified Blue Day, AMC Exams	9	Band Pre-Festival Concert, 7pm in Auditorium
9	Orchestra Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Conference Room	11	Choral Booster Meeting, 7pm in Music Wing Room M8
10	Course Selection Overview for Parents, 7:30pm in Auditorium	11	Class of 2011 SAT Follow-up, 7pm in Auditorium
11	Choral Booster Meeting, 7pm in Music Wing	11	Crew Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
11	Crew Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center	13	Winter Drumline Showcase, in Main Gym
12	Mount Vernon High School Delay Opening, bus schedule modified	15	PTSA Meeting, 7pm in Library
13	Science Fair and Awards (snow date)	16	Chorus Pre-Festival Concert, 7pm in Auditorium
13	Class of 2011 Valentine's Day Formal, 8pm in Gym II	17	Orchestra Concert, 7pm in Auditorium
15	Presidents' Day, No School	17	Orchestra Trip to NYC (17 th -19 th)
20	Band Booster Citrus Pickup, 10am-1pm in Band Room	20	Band Booster Citrus Pickup, 10am-1pm in Band Room
20	Class of 2011 Practice SAT test	20	District XI Orchestra Festival at West Springfield HS
20	Class of 2011 Valentine's Day Formal (snow date)	20	Class of 2011 Mr. Colonial, 7pm in Auditorium
20	Choral District and All-State auditions	20	Shakespeare Troupe, Shakespearience for Grades 1-8, 9am-4pm in Auditorium
22	Academic Booster Meeting, 7pm in Career Center	20	District XI Chorus Festival, Westfield HS
24	SSAB Meeting	23	Academic Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
26	International Night, 6:30pm in Auditorium	26	SGA Service Week Benefit Concert, 4pm in Auditorium
27	Latin Honor Society Competition, 10am	27	Hands on Science Day, 9am in Gym II
27	All-States Orchestra Audition, JMU	29- April 2	Spring Break, No School