

Principal's Letter

Dear parents/guardians, teachers, and students,

I hope everyone has had a restful break enjoying the extra time with their friends and family. I picked up my father in Chicago and headed to see my brother's family in Flagstaff, Arizona. I think the snow just likes to follow me! These breaks are not only important to celebrate the holidays, but also to recharge before the end of the 1st semester.

Congratulations to our whole community for being recognized by US News and World Report as the #1 high school in America for the third consecutive year. I was pleased to see the focus on our unique school programs and learning environments. Thanks to the PTSA for generously providing cake to our whole community after the announcement was made. I think we're #1 in spirit, too! While our students are deserving of this honor for their remarkable work, I want to acknowledge all of the teachers, parents, and staff members who strive every day to make sure our students have a nurturing environment to stimulate their thinking. We should also be thankful to Fairfax County Public Schools for graciously paying over 3200 AP exam fees each year. Since the ranking is partially influenced by AP test participation, we should anticipate a change in the school's ranking in future years as this fee is shifted to families.

The end of the term will be later this month. Parents should have received interims from their students just before the break to give you an idea of areas to focus on in the coming weeks. We are not sending interims electronically because of the large number of return emails (caused by inaccurate addresses in our database due to parents changing their email accounts during the school year). If parents did not see a grade report, they are welcome to email the teacher directly.

The honors weighting survey data is available on Blackboard in the TJ Information Section. While almost everyone favors a weighted system that recognizes our summer school and unique STEM courses, the choices differ across our community. Among the survey respondents, the parents strongly favor a weighted system, the educators strongly favor an unweighted system, and the students slightly favor a weighted system. Given these varied opinions, I called admissions deans from five well-respected colleges sought out by many TJ students. They were consistent in three regards: 1) our students are not compared to students at other schools, so the weighted system does not influence admissions; 2) these colleges already recognize the rigor of our unique STEM courses given our reputation, even though they are not weighted; and 3) the top criteria in the admissions decision are the students' choice in rigorous courses, the grades in their courses, and their SAT scores, but not the GPA. Based on these findings, I do not believe the weighting system will impact college admissions, but I do think it can affect our programs, especially during fragile budget conditions. I will announce my recommendation to the TJ community later this month.

As we work through our upcoming budget challenges in the coming months, I invite you to submit ideas to me at [Evan.Glazer at fcps.edu](mailto:Evan.Glazer@fcps.edu) so we can continue making TJ a great place for learning and growing. Your commitment to serve the school benefits the entire community. Thank you for your continued leadership and service!

Sincerely yours,

Evan Glazer
TJ principal

President's Message

The TJ PTSA Board and I wish you and your family a wonderful New Year!

Well, the big December snow was certainly welcome in my household, and I hope you enjoyed the early start to the winter break as well. Perhaps our students will be more energized after the extra long break. Special congratulations to our seniors who have completed or almost completed their college applications. I encourage each of you and your families 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 for our students with the end of the quarter, two long weekends, and maybe more SNOW! Parents, as you start the new year, I encourage you to become more involved at the school. If you have not already, please become a member of the PTSA. Your dues payment (only \$15) makes possible all the programs we do to support the school. We are also always excited to have donations. To join or donate, please visit <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/>. Additionally, if you have been meaning to get more involved, now is a great time as many of our activities are in need of additional volunteers. I especially encourage you to consider finding a volunteer opportunity that might interest you for the remainder of the school year. Volunteering at the school is a marvelous experience. Your kids really enjoy seeing you there, and you will send them a powerful message about their and the school's importance to you.

Dr. Glazer discussed the results of the surveys of parents, students and faculty at the December PTSA meeting. In early January, Dr. Glazer held a series of meetings with county school officials. They decided that FCPS will recommend to the school board to weight additional science and technology classes at TJ. Please come and hear about the details and plans for the new weighting system at the January PTSA meeting.

The budget remains a considerable concern for County schools. FCPS is anticipating major cuts with significant adverse effects on TJ. Faculty reductions with substantial increases in class size are of greatest concern. Please stay alert to these discussions and make your voices heard. Schools like TJ that obtain funds from both the County and the State also run the additional risk of cuts from multiple sources.

Although 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 a position or for this year's nominating committee, please contact Lou Baumgartner at [ptsa.recordingsecretary at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.recordingsecretary@tjhsst.edu).

FYI

PTSA MEETING – The next PTSA meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11, in the library. It will be preceded by a Principal's coffee at 7:00 p.m. The primary topics for the coffee will be the new honors weighting system and the impending budget issues. All are welcome!

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



The PTSA serves students, faculty and staff 50 cakes during lunch to celebrate TJ's No. 1 ranking

Serving the TJ Community

Free Money

New Amazon Earnings Record!!

A big cheer to all who shopped using **TJ's Amazon link** (<http://www.amazon.com/?tag=tjhsst-20>) this year! November earnings were fantastic and



broke all of our records! Then we saw December! Collectively, we bought enough items to reach the 8% earnings level for the first time. Earnings were 3 times as much this December as last! We broke our monthly earnings

record set in November by \$1,100! Sorry I can't tell you all the totals but Amazon does not allow us to advertise our earnings. Your support for this program is amazing. We already met our Amazon earnings goal for 2009-10. But don't stop using the link now – this program has unlimited potential!

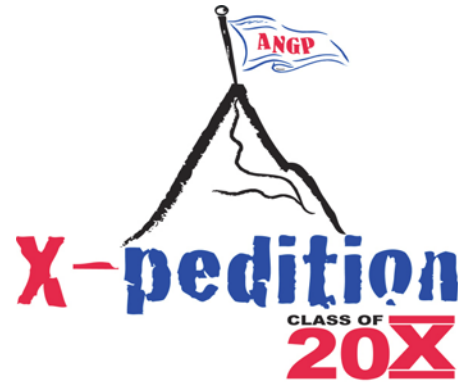
Free Money Questions? Contact Nora Callahan at [NoraVA at verizon.net](mailto:NoraVA@verizon.net).

Volunteers

Hospitality Committee

Happy New Year! We hope everybody had a wonderful holiday and you and your students had enough rest, as another exciting and eventful year has just begun. The hospitality committee is going to host several major events, including providing desserts for a "Valentine for Teachers" on February 12, and the Teacher Appreciation Lunch on April 30. Also, we are going to provide drinks and snacks to students who participate in the TJ Science and Technology Fair on February 6. Please mark your calendars! The Leadership Award Reception and the TJ Star Symposium are scheduled in late May and early June. If you can help us host these wonderful events, please let one of the chairs know at the following email addresses: Keiko Fujiu ([keiko_fujiu at verizon.net](mailto:keiko_fujiu@verizon.net)), Wakana Sugiura ([wakanappa at gmail.com](mailto:wakanappa@gmail.com)), or Joo Cheong ([joo.cheong at gmail.com](mailto:joo.cheong@gmail.com)).

All Night Graduation Party (ANGP)



The year 2010 is here. College apps and essays are written and submitted. Research projects are being pulled together and Senioritis is beginning to creep into our students' psyche. Graduation is less than 6 months away. And the BEST All Night Graduation Party EVER is on the horizon!

X-pedition 2010 is going to be one of the memories your student will cherish for a lifetime. After 4 years of hard work and study, every student of the graduating class deserves a great send-off. Food, fun and funding are being arranged. Decorations, equipment, mementos, prizes and gifts are being acquired. And more ...

This party requires HUNDREDS of volunteers, and we ask that EVERY SENIOR PARENT sign up for a shift. Not only will it be fun, it is the only way you will be allowed inside!

Volunteers will be needed from now until after the party. You can volunteer for committees that are active now, or for ones that will be active closer to the party – OR BOTH! Contact the ANGP Volunteers Chair, **Nancy Carter** or fill in the **Volunteer Sign-up Sheet** and drop it in the ANGP 2010 mailbox in the front office.

If you haven't purchased an ANGP ticket yet, they are still available by downloading the Ticket/Acknowledgment of Risk form from: <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/tickets.html>.

If you haven't made a donation to ANGP, please consider doing so (with a dedication!) at: http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/documents/donation_form2010.pdf.

Thinking ahead to graduation gifts? Purchase a graduation lawn sign at:
http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/documents/TJ_Grad_Lawn_Sign_Order_Form.pdf.

Please send a baby photo and a senior photo in for the ANGP Baby Photo Contest. Read more about it at:
<http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/babyphotos.html>.

Thanks for all your help, the ANGP Committee.

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,

We hope you had a great extended winter break!

The new year means that we have some new events coming up. First will be our winter sports rally on Monday, January 11. Students should attend the rally during 8th period and cheer on their friends on TJ's winter sports teams.

Our first dance of 2010 will be a soc hop on January 22, hosted by various clubs. They will be looking for chaperones!

Our annual Leadership Conference will be on Saturday, April 24. This Conference is a get-together for middle school students and a great opportunity for them to learn about leadership.

The class of 2012 is in the process of planning their most important fundraising event of the year: Sophomore Silent Auction. It will be held on March 13, and everyone is welcome to come. Donations would be greatly appreciated. Please visit www.tj2012auction.com for more information. Support the sophomore class!

Starting this month, students can help choose which charity should receive our donations during service week. Please go on intranet and vote for the charity you think will help TJ make the most beneficial impact on our community or the world. Thanks for voting!

Happy 2010 from your SGA!

Academic News

TJ Candidates nominated for the 2010 Summer Governor's Academies

The following students were selected to be candidates for the summer 2010 Governor's Academies in Richmond:

French: **Benedict Nguyen** and **Alisha Geldert**
Japanese: **Alena Youngji Kim**
German: **Casey Huang** and **Jin Kyung Kim**
Spanish: **Nikki Pangilinan** and **Sarah Khan**
Latin: **Zachary Seid** and **Catherine Zucker**
Chinese: **Ji Young Lim**

Spanish News

Several students who have participated in summer programs in Spanish speaking countries have shared their experiences with us. The Spanish Honor Society serenaded the office and other honor societies with some holiday songs with our own Sra. Gendive tocando the guitarra. SHS is actively tutoring our own students in lower levels. We are planning for our next big event--**Bulería**--our annual salsa dance, being held on March 12. We will have a professional teacher give a lesson the first hour of the dance.

Class News

2010 – Seniors

I wish you all a happy and healthy new year! I hope you had a relaxing winter break. This year is flying by – I cannot believe that our students are almost finished with the first semester of senior year. As we prepare for graduation, here are a few reminders.

Senior Dues: Senior dues are \$30, check made payable to TJHSST. Put "Class of 2010 senior dues" in the memo line.

Please send the check to the school to the attention of Ms. Amanda Hurowitz, Class of 2010 faculty sponsor. Dues cover the cost of cap and gown and other graduation-related items.



Graduation Announcements:

Did you miss purchasing your graduation announcements and other items when Balfour visited TJ in November and December? Last chance: Balfour will be at TJ on

Wednesday, January 27 and Thursday, January 28, during lunch in the cafeteria. **Orders are due on January 31.** This is your last chance to buy personalized announcements at just 85 cents per announcement or to order a TJ mug with the names of the entire class on the back (and TJ seal on the front). If you or your child cannot purchase on these days, or if you have questions or need another order form, contact Balfour directly at 703-941-1436 or [balfournova at yahoo.com](mailto:balfournova@yahoo.com).

ANGP: Please purchase your ticket, volunteer, donate, and send in a baby picture. See the ANGP website for details and forms:
<http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/index.html>.

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

2011– Juniors

Happy New Year from the Class of 2011!
Look for these and other events in the New Year!

- Feb. 13: Valentine’s Day Formal
- Feb. 20: SAT Practice Test
- March 11: Follow up to SAT Practice
- March 19: Mr. Colonial
- May 15: Six Flags Trip
- June: Junior Camp Out

FUND RAISER INFORMATION: Trish Hamilton created a very cool 2010 calendar to benefit the class of 2011 in honor of her son, Sebastian. The cost is \$17.50. You can view the calendar in the main office and at the junior lounge.

Images can be viewed at:
www.backprint.com/class_of_2011. Trish will be happy to deliver the calendars to school or send them via USPS. Email her at [admin at trishhamilton.com](mailto:admin@trishhamilton.com) to order. They make great gifts. Please spread the word!

~~ Connie Valle ([vallefamilly at cox.net](mailto:vallefamilly@cox.net))
Jane Hsu ([dogstar3 at msn.com](mailto:dogstar3@msn.com))
PTSA Class of 2011 Representatives

2012 – Sophomores

It is back to school after what we hope was a nice holiday break for everyone. The extra snow days provided an extra boost at our houses!

The Class of 2012 Dinner and Auction is almost upon us. Plans are well underway and donations are starting to come in. We thank those parents who have canvassed the businesses in their areas. Also, packets were sent home in early December with information for parents about the auction, identifying a variety of ways to volunteer. We hope everyone received it and has found a way to support the event! Here are the specifics:

WHAT: The Class of 2012 Dinner and Silent Auction
WHEN: Saturday Evening, March 13, 2010
WHERE: Fort Belvior Officers’ Club

We hope everyone will be able to join us for a fun evening out for a good cause!

~~Ann Nguyen ([Ann.hi.nguyen at cox.net](mailto:Ann.hi.nguyen@cox.net))
Janet Tasker ([jtasker at cox.net](mailto:jtasker@cox.net))
PTSA Class of 2012 Representatives

2013 – Freshmen

Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe that, on January 28, the second quarter will be coming to an end. The 2010-2011 school year course guide is going to be available sometime in February and students will have a chance to meet with their counselors to select courses for sophomore year.

Parents, mark your calendars! Chaperones are needed for Freshman Lock In, Friday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. (tentative times). It is an incredibly high energy, fun filled overnight event and we highly recommend you join the fun by volunteering. We need about 100 parent volunteers for the planned shifts: 7:00-11:00 p.m.; 11:00 p.m.-3:00 a.m.; 3:00 a.m.-7:00 a.m. (tentative times). Each shift will have a volunteer supervisor who will oversee the shift's activities and volunteers. If you are ready to commit to a shift, please email Yun Pang or Pam Cooper.

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

News Round-Up and Awards

TJ ranked America's Best High School for Third Consecutive Year

The U.S. News and World Report has ranked TJ the #1 high school in America for the third year in a row. According to the magazine article, U.S. News and its partner in the project, School Evaluation Services, examined 21,786 public high schools. Using a three-step process, they analyzed the programs used by these schools to educate (i) the entirety of their student population; (ii) their minority and disadvantaged students; and, (iii) using student scores on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests, their college bound students. The report also recognized TJ's extremely challenging course offerings and its unique One-Question project.



Kathy Young, Community Liaison, and Mary Ann Bosley, Assistant Principal

National Winner at the 2009 Siemens Competition

Competing at the National Finals in New York City in December, **AJ Swoboda** ('11) and his teammate from California won a fifth place award and a \$10,000 scholarship in the 2009 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology. Their project was the "Optimization of Platinum Nanoparticles for Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells Using Pulse Electrochemical Deposition."

TJHSST Partnership Fund

TJ Partnership Fund: Every Family, Every Year

YEAR-END APPEAL HITS \$100,000 MARK!

100 Orbs* given out for donations of \$250 or more!

And it's not over yet. Please keep those checks coming!

*Thank you to Charles Hookey, parent '09, and TJ Athletic Boosters for all their help with ordering, packaging and delivering those magnificent TJ "orbments."

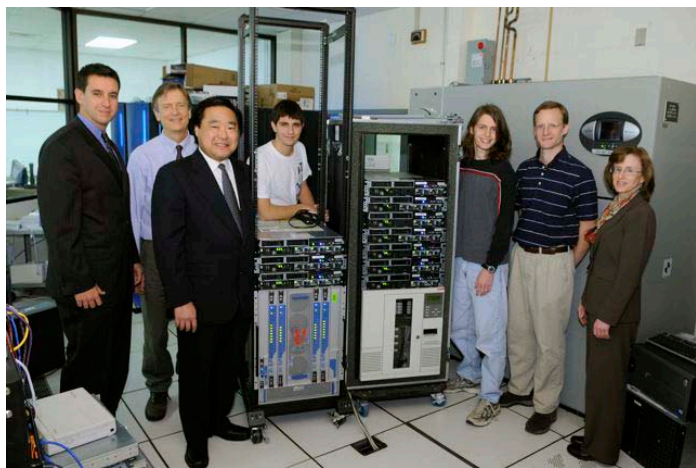
Holiday Party: A Wonderful Celebration

On December 10, dozens of loyal TJ Partnership Fund supporters gathered at the Army Navy Club of Fairfax for some holiday cheer. The event was made possible by a generous gift from Headstrong, courtesy of freshman parent, Sandeep Sahai, CEO. As always, a highlight was thanking our generous corporate partners.

ANNOUNCING:

TJ's First Annual Junior Lab Appeal

Soon after juniors receive their lab assignments in mid-February, parents of juniors will have the opportunity to join with other parents from the same lab to support that lab. This is a great way to help your student's chosen lab acquire needed equipment or supplies. Your kids will thank you for it!



TJ commemorates Northrop Grumman's donation of \$124,000 worth of equipment to the Computer Systems Lab. From left to right: Principal Evan Glazer, Computer Systems Lab Director Randy Latimer, NG's Dwight Yamada, TJ Seniors **Thomas Georgiou** & **Daniel Johnson**, Computer Systems Lab's Shane Torbert, and NG's Wendy Reinsel, parent '12.

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!

Questions: For information, 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

Academic Boosters supports over 20 academic teams this year. We primarily cover study material, competition registration fees, and teacher sponsor travel expenses. So far, this year, Academic Boosters has provided support to teams in the following events:

- Certamen (Latin Team) at VJCL Kickoff, Riverbend, Flint Hill, Classical Cottage and VJCL State Convention
- Chess Team at the Metro Area Chess League tournaments
- Computer Team in the American Computer Science League (ASCL) and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Programming Contest

- Future Problem Solving Team to participate in the Practice Problem and Qualifying rounds
- Japan Team at the National Japan Bowl
- Math Team in the Duke Math Competition, Mandelbrot, American Regions Mathematics League Power Contest, Virginia Math League, New York City Math League, and Princeton Math Competition.
- Model United Nations (MUN) in the Fairfax High School MUN, National High School MUN, and William & Mary MUN
- Odyssey of the Mind for the regional competition
- Policy Debate at Washington-Arlington Catholic Forensic League (WACFL) tournaments
- Public Forum Debate at the George Mason University Tournament
- Physics Team for the Physics Olympiad competition
- Quizbowl team for the Quaker Academic Competition II, VCU Fall, GSAC XVII, VCU Winter, Whitman Fall Novice, and VCU Spring tournaments.
- Science Olympiad team to compete in the regional tournament

As the teams do well in the local and early competitions, many students 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/boosters/membership.html>.

Math Team

On November 21, TJ's Math Team competed at the Princeton University Math Competition. The competition is composed of a Power Round, Team Round and Individual Rounds. In the Individual Rounds, each team member takes two subject tests. **Brian Hamrick** won 1st place in Combinatorics and Number Theory, with perfect scores in both of these subject tests. Brian also won 1st place overall. TJ's A Team placed 2nd in the Power Round and 2nd overall in the A Division. The A team was: **Brian Hamrick, Akshar Wunnava, Sam Rush, Renjie You, Adam Hood, Sin Kim, Seungin Sohn,** and

Yuqing Zhang. The B-team of **Allison Koenecke, Lawrence Diao, Grace Wang, Jenny Yung, Greyson Lewis, Divya Garg, Mitchell Lee,** and **Billy Rieger** competed in the A Division.

Competing in the B Division, TJ C Team excelled in the Subject Test portion of the competition. In the Algebra, Aviv Cukierman placed 6th; Jack Chen, Andre Kessler, and Luke Cheng placed 2nd, 5th, and 6th respectively in the Combinatorics; Lenny Li placed 6th in the Geometry; and finally, Ani Mohan placed 5th in the Number Theory. TJ's C team came in 3rd in the Power Round and overall in 2nd place. The C team was: **Jack Chen, Aviv Cukierman, Lenny Li, Ani Mohan, Luke Cheng, Hong Zhou, Krishnan Chander,** and **Andre Kessler.**

Model United Nations

TJHSST Model UN Delegation claimed the Secretary General's Award for Best Large School Delegation at the William and Mary High School Model United Nations Conference (WMHSMUN) on November 20, 21, and 22. TJ Delegates won Best Delegate Awards in 12 out of the 20 committees they participated in! Congratulations to all the Delegates!

- Best Delegation Awards went to: **Jacob Zucker, Brendan Kim, Ashneil Jain, Nimesh Chakravarthi, Vish Sridharan, Kamna Kathuria, Siddhant Sethi, Ankit Kapoor, Neal Milstein, Mohima Sanyal, Anirudh Saraswathula, April Hu, Zach Perconti, Serena Saffarini, Mike Crumplar** and **Swetha Pasala.**
- Outstanding Delegate Awards went to: **Aman Kansal, Miller Ke, Lyndsey Wheeler, Garrett Hoppin** and **Pranava Raparla.**
- Honorable Mention Awards went to: **Yash Maniar, Ryan Pillai, Zack Moser, Kevin Cao, Kate Kingsbury** and **Anurag Shyamala.**
- Verbal Commendations went to: **Bryan Cheong, Michael Nguyen, Collin Jones, Carson Hotard, Salini Hota, Christine Lee** and **John Pulice.**

Policy Debate Team

Congrats! TJ policy had a really successful WACFL III tournament. In varsity, the team of **Andre Kessler** and **Hannah Clark** placed second. Andre and Hannah took 2nd and 1st Speaker Awards, respectively. Additionally, the team of **Johnny Kim** and **Max Wang** won 1st place!

Science Olympiad

TJ's Science Olympiad Team is new this year, and will be attending its first competition – Regionals – on either February 27, 2009, at Fairfax High School or March 13, 2009, at George Washington University (Mt. Vernon Campus).

Computer Team

The Intermediate Computer Team is a new team this year with 20 members. We have completed our first contest and scored a 47 out of possible 50. The team is comprised of sophomores, yet is competing at the Senior Level in the ACSL (American Computer Science League) Competitions. The students are enjoying this new level of competition to help better prepare them for the Senior Computer Team which competes in the USACO (USA Computer Olympiad).

Public Forum

This December, Public Forum Debate went to two tournaments – a national tournament at GMU and the local WACFL 3. At GMU (Friday, December 4 to Sunday, December 6), the varsity team of **Rebecca Friedman** and **Emily Yu** placed second in the Round Robin, and the varsity teams of **Rebecca Friedman and Emily Yu** and **Kevin Sun and Kittie Helmick** both broke to double-octofinals. At WACFL 3 (Saturday, December 12), the varsity team of **Kevin Sun and Kittie Helmick** placed fourth in varsity.

Certamen (Latin Team)

Eighty seven students from TJ attended the Virginia Junior Classical League Convention in Richmond, VA on Nov. 22 and 23. TJ Senior, **Christopher Kilgore**, led the entire convention (over 1800 students) as the President of the VJCL. Christopher is the first student from TJ to ever serve as President

of the VJCL. Senior **Amith Ananthram** serves as the VJCL Editor.

Students competed in academic, graphic and creative arts contests. TJ students won several awards in all categories. In addition, TJ upheld its first place victory in the Spirit Contest by once again capturing the title! Much credit goes to the cheer captains (**Andrew Runge, Zach Seid** and **Ashwin Raja**) and our t-shirt designer, senior **Priya Patel**.

Best in Show: Students who earned the highest score on exam at the convention:

- *Bob Parkes Award for Excellence in Mythology* – **Anne Marie Creighton** (12)
- *Maureen O'Donnell Grammar Award* – **Christopher Kilgore** (12)
- Reading Comprehension, Poetry – **Vivaek Shivakumar** (12)
- Vocabulary – **Vivaek Shivakumar** (12)
- Reading Comprehension, Prose – **Andrew Runge** (12)
- Latin Literature – **Amith Ananthram** (12)

Sweepstakes: Students who earn the most points for performing well in a variety of categories: academics, graphic arts, and creative arts.

- Grade 9: **William Lucht, Semele Liu, Hyae-In Seo**
- Grade 10: **Akhila Ananthram** (1st place!!), **Rachel Goldstein, Jared Golant, Frederick Short, John Chae**
- Grade 11: **Catherine Zucker** (1st place!!), **Evan Liu, Kevin Zhou, Rachel Song, Kelly Ivins-O'Keefe**
- Grade 12: **Amith Ananthram, Vivaek Shivakumar, Anne Marie Creighton, Jeremy Vercillo, Ashwin Raja**

Highlights:

- **Robert Wharton** (9) – 1st place, Dramatic Interpretation, Sight Latin Readings
- **Neal Chaudri** (10) – 1st place, StoryTelling
- **Zach Seid** (11) – 1st, Reading Comp.
- **Akhila Ananthram** and **Lizzie Steele** (10) – 1st Place – Costume (Paris and Helen)
- **Nina Thomas** (11) -1st, Pastels
- **Michelle Lee** (9) – 1st, Oil Paintings

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

The Lincoln-Douglas Debate team had many successes at WACFL 3, the third local tournament of the debate season. The topic of debate was "Public health concerns justify compulsory immunizations." Each debater had a total of four rounds during the day – two affirming the resolution and two negating the resolution. In Varsity, the undefeated **Ashneil Jain** placed fifth. Ashneil had previously qualified for Metro Finals, the regional tournament in March that will allow winners to compete in the national tournament. **Janiel Li** was an additional qualifier for Metro Finals.

In Junior Varsity, TJ held the top three places, with **Nancy Ding** in first place (Nancy also placed first as JV speaker), **Dhruv Bansal** in second place, and **Zophie Quan** in third place. All three of the debaters were undefeated and qualified for Metro Finals at the Junior Varsity level. **Aakansha Nangarlia** also did particularly well, placing seventh. In novice, **Shohini Ghosh** was undefeated and placed fourth. **Alan Wei** placed fifth and was the second-place novice speaker. **Kathleen Atkatsh** also came in seventh place.

Congratulations to everyone!

Japan Bowl

TJ's 2010 National Japan Bowl Team has been selected. They are:

Level 2: **Bobby Ends, Albert Gural, Kristy Shin**

Level 3: **Daniel Kang, Annie Lin, Serena Lei**

Level 4: **Jungeun Choi, Connie Xie, Jason Ya**

The members are meeting on Wednesday and Friday to polish skills and gain knowledge in language and culture. It's great to see them work together as a team. Also, upper classmen are guiding the others to achieve higher goals together. Coach Otani is impressed by their teamwork. They are certain to bring back trophies this year!

Band Boosters

TJ Band Boosters wishes you and your family a very Happy New Year!



Winter Concert, December 3, Band Director Mary Ulrey conducting



John Anderson nails a high note at the winter concert

Citrus: “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stayed” Karen Rice and her fleet of dedicated students and parents, not to mention a heroic truck driver, “from swift completion of their appointed rounds.” Twenty five inches of snow did not stop Karen from coming to TJ two days after the blizzard and overseeing the safe delivery and partial distribution of all our oranges and grapefruits. Despite the snow drifts, packed ice and still unplowed roads, a horde of faithful volunteers was able to unload and sort the citrus. Several lucky folks were able to take these delectable treats home for the holidays. The remainder of the citrus is safely stacked in the band room for further distribution after winter break.

New Year’s 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 www.tjhsstband.org. Subscribe to the Band Boosters Yahoo group by sending an email to

[tjbandboosters-subscribe at yahogroups.com](http://tjbandboosters-subscribe-at-yahogroups.com).

Volunteers are always welcome!

Winter Showcase: Our spectacular winter production is well into its planning stages. Winter Showcase will be held March 13, featuring Drum Line units from high schools throughout the region. Please come see TJ Drum Line perform that evening at our school! Back by popular demand, we will again showcase United Percussion, a world class musical group from Philadelphia.

Scrip: The holidays may be over but your need for presents throughout the year is not. Want a gift card? Scrip is available all year long! Contact Sharon Slatery, [slateryfamily at cox.net](mailto:slateryfamily@cox.net), with any questions or to place an order and she will make arrangements with you for a special delivery.

Tag Day: Just a reminder to anyone who hasn't donated to the band yet...it's tax deductible! If you cannot volunteer your time, volunteering your dollars is a great way to support our vibrant band programs. And thanks to all those families who have already contributed.

Please visit us at our next monthly Band Boosters meeting, always held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the principal’s conference room, directly to the left of the Audlob entrance.

Colonial Athletic Boosters

Our winter season is going full blast (like the weather!) with some impressive season starts! Our athletes enjoy the cheering and support from fans, so please make every effort to attend a game, match, meet or tournament this season! See <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters/> for individual team schedules.

Remember, the indoor concession stand is open during home events, serving hot foods, snacks and drinks, so please come and eat, cheer and enjoy!!

As always, CAB is looking for enthusiastic people to become involved as volunteers – we have lots of fun positions that get you close to the action!! ATTENTION PARENTS OF WINTER ATHLETES!! We need you to join CAB!! As of December 13, total winter membership is only at

41% -- **we can do better than that!** Perhaps you have just forgotten to join...one of those things you meant to do, but got too busy...well, now is the time. Your son or daughter needs your contribution to continue to receive the benefits of the sports program that CAB provides. You can join online at: <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters/membership.php>.

*And buy your spirit-wear at:
<http://sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters/merchandise.php>.

Now for the team news...

Boys Freshman Basketball: The team is off to a great start, winning their first three games of the season and losing the fourth by only one point in overtime play. In the game against Oakton, the Colonials, cheered on by a wildly enthusiastic home crowd, won in overtime by a score of 54-52. After falling behind by 8 points in the second half, the TJ boys never gave up, taking the lead with only two minutes left in the game. The lead changed hands several times in the last few minutes and Oakton scored on a drive by their point guard who drained one at the buzzer to send the game into overtime. Oakton scored on the tip-off, but the young freshman team fought back with solid offense and great defense. Our boys took the lead with 1:30 left and held on despite a furious attempt by Oakton in the last minute. **Emory Ruscus** with 11 points and 11 rebounds, **David Rice** with 11 points and 6 rebounds, and **Joe Nissen** with 11 points and 14 rebounds, led the team. The team is coached by **Mark Gray-Mendes**, a former TJ standout basketball player.

Girls JV Basketball: The season is underway with a team comprised of 6 sophomores and 6 freshmen. With a record of 1-3, they suffered tough losses against Centreville, Oakton and Stone Bridge. However, at their first home game, against Falls Church, the team was able to shake their early-season nerves to pull out a strong win. New to the program, Coach **Andrew Stallings** is keeping spirits high and encouraging the girls to be competitive and grow in their basketball skills. They've been training hard through the winter break preparing for their upcoming games. The team now enters the heart of the district season and is ready to improve on what has been a challenging start.

Varsity Dance: The team will compete at American University on Sunday, January 17. Six girls will participate in the solo competition, which begins at 10:30 am. Team competition begins at noon; the team will compete in the high kick and jazz categories. Please come out and support the TJ Dance team. We'd love to see you there cheering on the TJ dancers.

The team also performs at half-time during home varsity boys and girls basketball games throughout the season. Check out their talent and support the team! Thank you!

Gymnastics: The 9-member girls' gymnastics team is off to a great start, finishing second behind Langley in their first regular season meet, beating Edison, West Potomac, Washington-Lee and South Lakes. Senior **Amanda Gilbert** placed second all-around with a 34.2 and second on vault with a score of 8.9. Freshman **Marisa Kataoka** tied for second on bars with a score of 8.4. Also competing in the first meet were juniors **Katya Davydova** and **Hailey Johnson**, and freshmen **Caroline Kerr** and **Jennifer Wang**. Rounding out the small but talented team are freshmen **Karina Charipova**, **Zophie Quan** and **Michelle Wang**. Please join us on January 12 for the final home meet and Senior Night in Gym 2 at 6:30 p.m. Coaches for the team this year are **Pete Novgrod** and **Christine Jones**.

Swim and Dive: The teams opened with an impressive 4-0 start! Against Stone Bridge, TJ won every relay, with **Anna Lan**, **Sarah Liu**, **Mary Kate Dilworth**, **Lauren Laffosse**, **Katie Bennett**, **Leah Gonzalez**, **Sarah Graham**, **Joey Bouchard**, **Steven Howard**, **Zach Sturm**, **Sam Speers**, **Jon Spitz**, **Peter Ballen**, **Jack Borsi** and **Sam Surette** contributing. Lan, Bennett, **Aedan Collins**, **Evan McMurray**, Ballen, Bouchard, Sturm and Spitz won individual events.

Against McLean, top finishers were Ballen, **Alexa Dona**, Speers, **Stephen Seliskar**, **Matt Callahan** and Bennett. The boys won every relay, and the girls won one. Divers **Emily Saitta** and **Kirsten Skowronski** finished one-two.



Graduating Seniors and Team Captains: left to right (Sam Spears, Jae Sim, Joey Bouchard, Grace Wang, Matt Callahan, Anna Lan)

Against Marshall, double winners were **Brianna Kim**, Lan and Callahan. The girls' 200 freestylers swept, led by Lan. Regional cut times included the 200 medley relay of Callahan, Howard, Dona and Spitz, and 200 free relay of Spitz, Speers, Bouchard and Seliskar. Seliskar, Callahan and Dona also qualified in individual events. The 400 free relay swam a state cut time with Dona, Bouchard, Seliskar and Callahan. Against South Lakes, double winners were Lan, Bennett, Dona, Callahan and Seliskar. Seliskar and Callahan swam regional cuts in individual events. The girls, led by **Megan Sagurton** SWEPT the 50 free and the boys, led by Callahan, did the same in the 100 free. Our divers were dominant, with Skowronski first for the girls, and **Thomas De Anda, Chris Mercado, Zachary Ho** and **Will Stalcup** one through four for the boys!



" Yippee! We're outta here!" Graduating seniors: **Peter Ballen, Joey Bouchard, Steven Howard**

Our next meet is against also-undefeated Madison on January 8.

Winter Track and Field: The winter season is off and running! The boys and girls teams are off to a

great start with over 160 student athletes joining the two teams. Coach **Jeff James** and assistant coaches **Annie Lutz** and **Gary Grimsley** have their hands full organizing workouts and managing such a large team spread out over 7 individual running events (55m hurdles, 55m dash, 300m, 500m, 1000m, 1600m and 3200m), 3 relay races (4x200m, 4x400m and 4x800m), and 5 field events (long, triple, and high jumps; pole vault; and shot put).

The two teams began competition on December 4 with a 3-team challenge at the TJ Rec Center. Both boys and girls teams hope to perfect their talents in several additional weekend meets before vying for the Liberty District crown on January 29 and February 2 at the Prince George Sports Complex in Landover, MD. Both teams have some tremendous athletes that should bolster TJ's 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 the team's new website <http://www.colonialxctnf.com/>.

Varsity Wrestling: The team has begun the 2009-10 season under the guidance of head coach **Clint Behling** and assistant coach **James Pilkington**, both 2009 Liberty District Coaches of the Year. The team had an impressive 8th-place finish at the 32-team NOVA Classic, a two-day tournament featuring some of the best teams in Northern Virginia, both public and private. This year, we congratulate five individual medalists, up from 2, 3 and 4 in the past three years: Second place: **Alex Shmorhun** (152 lb) and **Joe Latta** (heavyweight); fourth place: **Sam Zhang** (130 lb) and **Matt Lamb** (135 lb); and eighth place: **Ashley Miller** (140 lb).



Myles Cook prepares to face his Lake Braddock opponent at the NOVA Classic wrestling tournament



Alex Shmorhun escapes the grip of his opponent at the North Stafford Dual competition

Returning varsity wrestlers include seniors Shmorhun (captain), Lamb (captain), **Devan Samant** (captain), Latta, Zhang, Miller, **James Janopaul-Naylor** and **Stuart Maier**; juniors **Myles Cook** and **Will Pyrak**; and sophomore **Peter Reischer**. New to the line-up this year are sophomores **Stas Schaller** and **Alex Zaita**, and freshmen **Giovani Basurto** and **Patrick O'Connor**.

Members of the team, including some JV wrestlers, traveled to Lancaster, PA, in late December for the Conestoga Valley Holiday Classic, another very competitive 2-day event.

Please come support the team at our two home meets in January!! We host Herndon on January 20 and Wakefield on January 27. You may see some exciting matches, as our wrestlers strive to pin their opponents in dramatic finishes!



TJ wrestlers plan their strategy before taking to the mats in North Stafford

JV Wrestling: The wrestlers were on fire for their first JV Jamboree - most wrestlers scoring pins or decisive matches against various opponents. **Joe DuBois** scored a pin with a nice cradle, **Daniel Kang** (one of two on the team) also pinned. **Paul**

Wolf tiech won a close match 7-6, **Bryce Summers** won 9-2, **Daniel Yoo** won 10-2, **Thuc Tran** had a quick pin and **Alex Park** won 12-0. **Andrew Martin** won by a pin and DuBois won 5-2. This was followed by pins by both **Daniel Kangs**, Summers, **Julian Whitman**, Summers again, Tran, Park, another by DuBois, another by Tran and another by Park. Paul Wolf tiech won 7-4 and **Ben Sando** won 9-0. TJ clearly dominated the evening, especially noteworthy since this was the first JV match for many wrestlers.

The second JV Jamboree was held at Centerville HS, with most of our matches against Wakefield and perennial wrestling power Westfield. We did well against Wakefield but had a much tougher time against Westfield. A partial list of results includes a quick pin by Whitman, two pins for Yoo and one for Summers. **Jake Shankman** won his very first JV match.

Crew Boosters



Students interested in rowing during the spring season should contact the captains to get on their email lists: [TJMensCaptains at gmail.com](mailto:TJMensCaptains@gmail.com) or [TJWomensCaptains at gmail.com](mailto:TJWomensCaptains@gmail.com).

It is not too late to join the team for winter training in the TJ cafeteria, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. daily.

The All Family Information Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m.** in the cafeteria. Novice students and parents will want to attend to learn more about TJ Crew and also to register, complete the required forms, and purchase uniforms and crew clothing. Families of experienced rowers should attend to turn in forms and sign up for mandatory regatta volunteer positions.

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 with important information for the spring season, and you should download the registration forms and permission slips on the Files page.

Please support TJ Crew at its first Ergathon (on rowing machines). Come cheer on the team while they row a million meters to raise money for the

team and for the Central Asia Institute (the charity featured in "Three Cups of Tea"): **Friday, February 12, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**, TJ cafeteria.

Support TJ Crew by eating at the Fuddruckers near TJ on **Thursday, January 28, 6:00–8:00 p.m.** A flyer (posted on the crew website) is needed to credit sales to the team.

If you have questions, please email Head Coach, Matt Shoop at [shoop2 at cox.net](mailto:shoop2@cox.net) or Booster President Pepper Richhart at [TJCrewPresident at gmail.com](mailto:TJCrewPresident@gmail.com).

Orchestra Boosters

Happy New Year!! The TJ Orchestra's major fundraiser of the year, the **Viennese Ball**, was held on January 8. The Orchestra Boosters provided a pizza dinner for participating Orchestra students, who transformed the cafeteria into a Winter Wonderland. Beautiful waltz music was performed by members of the Symphonic Orchestra. Many thanks to all the parents who assisted with food donations, food preparation and cleanup. Thanks also to Orchestra parent Robert Shen, who gave a 30-minute waltz lesson before the dance began. The evening was a huge success and everyone had a wonderful time!

Hopefully those who ordered CDs from our Winter Concert have received them and are enjoying the recording. We will offer the same service at the next concert on **March 17**. As always, the Boosters will provide a post concert reception that evening, and we will need parent assistance. On behalf of the Orchestra Booster Board, we sincerely appreciate your continued support of the program and welcome new Booster Patrons.

Theatre Boosters (Shakespeare and Drama)

TJ Drama presented *Meet Me in St. Louis* on November 20-21. Set in St. Louis in 1903, this heartwarming play centers around the Smith family and their excitement about the upcoming St. Louis World's Fair. **Kevin Place** and **Kara Newlon** portrayed the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Their children were played by **Elena Lagon**, **Christine**

Jacobs, **Rebecca Edelstein**, **Keegan Cotton** and **Samantha Schipani**. **Art Kulatti** played Grandpa.

Special thanks to director Vincent Pollet, student director **Nicole Boyd** and production assistant **Rishi Malhotra**. The production crew did a wonderful job transforming the stage into a realistic turn of the century home in St. Louis.

The performance would not have been possible without the help of many parents including: Cathy Boyd, Leigh Burke, Sharon Edelstein, Laura Gould, Rosanna Hwu-Yun, Jackie Jacobs, Susan Lagon, Joyce Manchester, Dawn Meyer, Scott Newlon, David Seidman, Elaine Tholen, Jeanne Yin and Cathy Zurowski.



John Shephard (**Daniel Perkes**), Rose (**Elena Lagon**), Tootie (**Samantha Schipani**) and Mr. and Mrs. Smith (**Kevin Place** and **Cara Newlon**) view the fireworks opening the 1903 St. Louis World's Fair



The "Meet Me in St. Louis" cast



The entire Smith Family having a hearty discussion
(Cara Newlon, Kevin Place, Keegan Cotton,
Samantha Schipani, Rebecca Edelstein, Elena
Lagon, and Christine Jacobs)

The next meeting of Theatre Boosters is
Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.
Please come and find out about upcoming
productions.

Announcements and Information

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.

Temporary Bus Schedule Changes

Below is an updated list of delayed school openings
for 2010 that affect students riding buses to
TJHSST:

- * Feb. 12 — Mt Vernon HS
- * Mar. 05 — Glasgow Middle School
- * 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 Officers:

President: Carrie Kilgore

ptsa.president@tjhsst.edu

Vice President: Denise Bunting

ptsa.firstvp@tjhsst.edu

Vice President: Louise Epstein

ptsa.secondvp@tjhsst.edu

Treasurer: Eileen Swoboda

ptsa.treasurer@tjhsst.edu

Recording Secretary: Lou Baumgartner

ptsa.recordingsecretary@tjhsst.edu

Corresponding Secretary: Helen Lin

ptsa.correspondingsecretary@tjhsst.edu

Techcetera Editors: Gail Brodfuehrer, Laurie Dodd

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://fcps.blackboard.com>

FCPS Familygram:

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

FCPS School Board: <http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd>

Fairfax County Supervisors:

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

Noteworthy Dates

January 2010	
4	Return from Winter Break
5	ANGP Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
5	Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
5	Band Booster Meeting, 6:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
5	Orchestra Booster meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
8	Viennese Ball, 7pm-10pm in Cafeteria
11	Principal's Coffee and PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library
13	Theater Booster Meeting, 7pm in Library
14	Choral Booster Meeting, 7pm in Music Wing
14	Crew Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
15	Class of 2010 Talent Show, 7pm in Auditorium
18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school
20	Choral Concert, 7pm in Auditorium
21	Junior Parent College Night, 7:00pm in Auditorium
22	Soc Hop, 8:30pm in Gym II
26	Academic Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
29	Teacher Work Day, no school

February 2010	
1	Teacher Work Day, no school
2	Band Booster Meeting, 6:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
2	ANGP Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
3	Athletic Booster Meeting, 7pm in Library
3	Crew Family Interest Meeting and Kickoff, 7pm in Cafeteria
5-6	23rd Annual Knight of One Axe, 7pm in Auditorium
6	Science Fair and Awards
8	Principal's Coffee and PTSA meeting, 9am in Cafeteria
8	Early Dismissal at 11:50am
9	Modified Blue Day, AMC Exams
9	Orchestra Booster Meeting, 7pm in Conference Room
10	Course Selection Overview for Parents, 7:30pm in Auditorium
11	Choral Booster Meeting, 7pm in Music Wing
11	Crew Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
12	Mount Vernon High School Delay Opening, bus schedule modified
13	Science Fair and Awards (snow date)
13	Class of 2011 Valentine's Day Formal, 8pm in Gym II
15	Presidents' Day, no school
19	SGA Service Week Benefit Concert, 4pm in Auditorium
20	Band Booster Fruit Sale, 7:30am, Band Room
20	Class of 2011 Practice SAT test
20	Class of 2011 Valentine's Day Formal (snow date)
22	Academic Booster Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
24	SSAB meeting
26	International Night, 6:30pm in Auditorium
27	Latin Honor Society Competition, 10am
27	All-States Orchestra Audition, JMU