

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Students,

I hope you enjoyed your November holiday break, spending time with family, relaxing, and enjoying good food and festivities. Over the past month, TJ has been in the newspaper numerous times in articles addressing diversity at our school. I have spent time talking with staff, students, and parents about our diversity and recognize there are many different perspectives. Some say the school doesn't realize what it is missing when its enrollment is not representative of the population, and others say our students readily embrace and appreciate different cultures through our clubs and special events like International Night. Our teachers actively participate in these activities, and also participate in their own activities, such as hosting teacher and administrator exchange fellows from Argentina, Russia, and Greece last month. I ask myself two questions when I think about diversity at TJ: first, why does this problem exist, and second, what else can we do to help?

TJ does not have a representative population based on race or geography. That is a fact. TJ is not involved in the admissions process, so we do not have control over which students are selected or whether those selected choose not to come here. However, we are interested in reaching out to the whole population in our role as a regional Governor's School, and hence we are sensitive to underrepresented populations. We do not think just about the 1800 students enrolled, but also aim to inspire and challenge students, especially in our unique STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program offerings. You have read about the underrepresentation of Hispanics and African Americans in the newspapers, but rarely do people mention that approximately 75% of the students admitted are from 25% of the middle schools. I believe the culture of this 25% - teachers, parents, administrators, counselors, students - readily promote TJ as a great option, and thus students pursue enrichment and support opportunities to prepare

themselves to attend TJ. I believe we, the TJ community, our participating school divisions, and STEM professionals, have a responsibility to reach out to the other 75% that do not know TJ well. We can help these students, especially those who have a passion for STEM, understand the culture and opportunities at TJ.

We have many efforts in place to reach out to both racially and geographically underrepresented populations. Our PTSA diversity group offers a special TJ prep class, providing weekend seminars to interested students. Our student body is actively involved with local schools in over 20 8th period clubs, such as mentoring, tutoring, special events, and enrichment programs. Our teachers and administrators have formed a diversity and engagement team involving information sessions for administrators, teachers, and counselors at other schools, faculty training on diversity, and grants to provide scholarships for summer programs to non-TJ students. Our school division, FCPS, has created a new outreach position to foster these connections and identify students that would not normally think of going to TJ.

I would like to commend those parents, teachers, students, and administrators on their efforts to promote diversity at TJ. They make these strides on their own time to help others because it is their passion, their social responsibility. I invite all of you to think of new ways in which you can be involved in attracting and impacting a more diverse array of students who have a genuine interest in the mission of our school. Please contact me at [Evan.Glazer at fcps.edu](mailto:Evan.Glazer@fcps.edu) to share your ideas and get involved with our teams.

Sincerely yours,

Evan Glazer
TJ Principal

President's Message

I hope you had a fabulous Thanksgiving, both because of the wonderful traditions and also because it gives all of us a break from our normal busy lives.

Along those lines, the Safe Community Coalition is organizing a showing of the documentary "Race to Nowhere" at Langley HS, on January 11. This film about busy teenagers and stress may be of interest to TJ families, and we will be sending an email in the future with information about how to purchase tickets. In addition, the PTSA is working with Assistant Principal **Mary Ann Bosley** to organize in-school programs that help students assess their priorities.

On a less philosophical issue, our PTSA transportation committee met with FCPS and TJ staff about what can be done so that next year's TJ students receive accurate bus schedules before school starts. The FCPS transportation office and **Bob McCormick**, our resourceful TJ security and safety specialist, have been working nonstop this fall to provide TJ students with corrected bus schedules. The underlying problem is that the current system is not processing and providing TJ student registration data to the transportation office quickly enough. Hopefully, a future newsletter will report that everything has been fixed in time for next year!

TJ's difficulty in providing timely student data to the FCPS Department of Facilities and Transportation starts with the TJ admissions office, which has been in the spotlight for different reasons. On October 31, the Washington Post published an [article](#) about the lack of racial diversity at TJ. Next, Jay Mathews wrote a [column](#) entitled "*Top high school should look for character as well as brains.*" On November 12, the Post published an [editorial](#), "*A Diversity Deficit.*"

Hundreds of comments were posted online in response to the Post editorial and articles. A few are reprinted on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter, and all can be accessed on the Washington Post web site. Many comments pointed out that over half of TJ's students or their parents were from countries in Asia, the Middle East and other continents. Other comments suggested that race was irrelevant, and/or

that FCPS should do a better job of educating young students.

Discussions at the November PTSA Diversity Committee and PTSA meetings demonstrated the range of views within the TJ community. One issue raised was the growing "admissions gap" between students who attend small versus large GT Centers in Fairfax County. Before the TJ admissions criteria and the Fairfax County GT Center programs were restructured about half a dozen years ago, for example, about 15 to 20 Sandburg MS students were admitted annually. Last spring, four students were admitted from Sandburg MS, despite its established GT Center.

TJ parents whose children attended these middle schools commented that they focused on at-risk students, and made less effort to provide challenging courses and co-curricular activities for gifted students. A few also believed that these middle schools did not encourage students to attend TJ, because they wanted more high-achieving students to attend the neighborhood high school.

Past outreach efforts have resulted in increased applications by students from underrepresented geographic, socioeconomic and racial groups. However, the vast majority of these applicants are rejected. (See [TJ Admission Statistics](#) on the FCAG website.) Effective outreach needs to improve the academic qualifications of TJ applicants. As Dr. Glazer suggests, it's time to consider new approaches to this issue. Please feel free to contact me as well as Dr. Glazer with any ideas.

On a lighter note, if you use Amazon.com to buy holiday gifts, please start by clicking on the Amazon icon on the home page of the PTSA web site, and encourage your friends and family around the United States to do the same:

<http://www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsa/>.

Happy Holidays!

~~Louise Epstein
TJ PTSA President
[lepstein at cox.net](mailto:lepstein@cox.net)
[ptsa.president at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.president@tjhsst.edu)

Reminders From Our Administration and Support Staff

Please do not text your children during class time and expect prompt responses, as texting disrupts the learning process. FCPS guidelines and the FCPS Student Rights & Responsibilities prohibit the use of electronics (cell phones, blackberries, etc.) during school hours.

If you want to call a teacher or other TJ staff, please consult your PTSA Directory (available for \$10 in the front office) and dial the direct phone number, if one is listed. If you call the front office, the staff and volunteers in the front office are happy to transfer your call. However, please request and write down the direct number so you can dial it directly in the future. Also, outside calls cannot be put through to classrooms during the school day. Parents are encouraged to email teachers and staff, whose email addresses are listed in the PTSA Directory.

If you have contacted a counselor to request an appointment, please wait for him or her to respond. Counselors often are in classes, meetings with staff or parents, on IBET field trips, or on the phone. If you show up without an appointment to see your student's counselor, he or she may not be available.

If your child is absent, please call the TJ attendance phone number (703-750-8315) or send an email to Kathy Young at kayoung@fcps.edu, in the front office. Please do not send emails only to your child's teachers.

When you see a number from FCPS or TJ on your caller ID, please do not call that phone number. Phone numbers that show up on your caller ID are random numbers from a hub, which are not assigned to any one person. If the person who called did not leave you a voice message, we cannot determine who called you.

Our parents are valuable members of the TJ family and we look forward to assisting you with your inquiries and concerns.

FCPS Bus Transportation – New Contact

Numbers: If your child normally rides a Fairfax County Public Schools bus home and you cannot

get in touch with him or her, contact the FCPS transportation office at (703) 446-2000 until 5:00 p.m. After 5:00 p.m. (or if your child normally walks home), contact the FCPS school security office at (571) 423-2000. In an emergency, the dispatcher can contact a school or transportation staff member to help you.

Your Views and Opinions Are Important

This spring a random sample of TJHSST parents will receive the FCPS Parent Opinion Survey. This survey is part of the Principal Performance Evaluation Program and offers parents an opportunity to provide anonymous input about various issues related to our school. These include safety, parent involvement, curriculum, communications, and expectations for student achievement and behavior.

The survey will arrive in the mail in early December 2010 and will be returned directly to the Fairfax County Public Schools' Office of Student Testing for processing. If you receive a copy of the Parent Opinion Survey, please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey. Your opinions do matter.

PTSA Update

Diversity Committee

The TJPTSA Diversity Committee meets at the Career Center the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. At the **November 10, 2010** meeting, the Diversity Committee held a forum to discuss the issue of diversity at TJ. The Committee invited distinguished panelists including Tanisha Holland (TJ Director of Admissions), **Evan Glazer** (TJ Principal), Judy Howard (former TJ Director of Admissions), Louise Epstein (TJ PTSA President), Emma Violand-Sanchez (Arlington County School Board member), **Mary Ann Bosley** (TJ Assistant Principal), **Melissa Schoepfle** (TJ faculty Diversity and Engagement Committee) and **Louis Bourgeois** (TJ Student).

The primary goals of the meeting were to discuss whether there is a problem with lack of diversity at TJ, to describe the plans and activities of the

Diversity Committee, to identify actions that the Committee should undertake in the future and to discuss options available to others to help improve diversity at TJ. Approximately 40 persons attended the November 10 meeting, demonstrating renewed interest in the issue of diversity at TJ.

At the meeting, Abi Lerner, Chair of the Diversity Committee, presented information on the committee's mission and activities. The Diversity Committee's primary tasks are: to conduct outreach programs to encourage students who belong to socioeconomic, geographic or racial groups that are underrepresented at TJ to apply for admission; and to conduct a test preparation course for potential applicants to TJHSST who may benefit from the course in light of their socioeconomic, geographic or racial backgrounds.

Abi also presented the findings and recommendations of the 2004 Blue Ribbon Commission report regarding diversity at TJ. The Blue Ribbon Commission concluded that the recruitment and admissions process in place in 2004 did not achieve a diverse applicant pool, flaws in the admissions process reduced chances of admissions of African American and Hispanic students, and the admissions process was significantly inferior to that of other highly select high schools. As discussed during the meeting, some of the Blue Ribbon recommendations to address these issues were implemented and some of the recommendations were not implemented. The measures that were implemented have not proven to be effective in increasing the number of African Americans and Hispanics at TJ. While there was an increase in the number of African Americans and Hispanics in 2005, the number of accepted applicants from these groups has been declining and is now below the 2004 levels used by the Blue Ribbon Commission in their assessment of diversity at TJ.*

*TJ Class: number of African American applicants admitted, number of Hispanic applicants admitted:

1993-94 (TJ '98): 23, 26	2002-03 (TJ '07): 3, 13
1994-95 (TJ '99): 22, 26	2003-04 (TJ '08): 11, 10
1995-96 (TJ '00): 22, 18	2004-05 (TJ '09): 12, 19
1996-97 (TJ '01): 25, 24	2005-06 (TJ '10): 10, 18
1997-98 (TJ '02): 10, 27	2006-07 (TJ '11): 7, 13
1998-99 (TJ '03): 6, 10	2007-08 (TJ '12): 9, 10
1999-2000 (TJ '04): 6, 7	2008-09 (TJ '13): 8, 6
2000-01 (TJ '05): 2, 7	2009-10 (TJ '14): 4, 13
2001-02 (TJ '06): 10, 20	

At the November 10 meeting, Kerstin Hildebrandt, a member of the Diversity Committee, discussed the importance of diversity and ability to work in a multicultural environment for individuals working in careers in science and engineering. In today's environment research is conducted on a multinational level which requires investigators to collaborate with researchers from diverse backgrounds in a global environment. Data from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and The National Institute of Health (NIH) shows the disproportionately low representation of women and underrepresented minorities in science and engineering careers in the United States. The racial and ethnic groups that have been underrepresented in biomedical research are: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, and natives of the US Pacific Islands. Furthermore, research has shown that these same populations historically have been underrepresented in clinical research studies, even those diseases that disproportionately affected them.

In response NIH has encouraged and provides funding for schools to diversify their students and faculty and to engage in activities which will increase participation of individuals who are currently underrepresented in biomedical careers. The NIH Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) which provides grants for NIH scientist to collaborate with K12 educators is a program to reach out to students in the formative educational years. In 2000 NIH mandated that all researchers applying for NIH grants have to include women and minorities in sufficient and appropriate numbers in their research teams. Excluding these populations without proper justification can ultimately result in loss of funding.

At the **November 17 PTSA meeting**, Abi Lerner presented a brief description of the November 10 Diversity Committee meeting discussion. Additionally, the Diversity Committee requested the PTSA to approve its current Charter. The PTSA approved the Diversity Committee Charter. The functions section of the Charter can be found in <http://www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsa/comm-diversity.htm>. The full charter will be posted on this web site in the next few weeks. The next meeting of the TJPTSA Diversity Committee will be held at the Career Center on **December 8, 2010** at 7:00 p.m. The goal of the meeting is to begin the

development of a revised work plan for the Diversity Committee which incorporates the ideas expressed by those who attended the November 10 Diversity Committee meeting and the November 17 PTSA meeting.

Comments from members of the TJ community in response to the newspaper articles regarding diversity at TJ:

Regarding the Oct. 31 front-page article "[One thing elite N.Va. school doesn't do well: Diversity](#)":

As a faculty member at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology for 12 years, I've watched the ebb and flow of efforts to combat the complex problem of diversity recruiting. Most of what reporter Kevin Sieff wrote was accurate. Unfortunately, he did not include the latest efforts TJ and the county have undertaken to address the shrinking number of blacks and Hispanics on our campus.

Starting last year, a group of teachers, counselors and administrators formed the Diversity and Engagement Curriculum Team. In year one, we focused on two nearby Fairfax public school clusters that had the lowest number of students coming to TJ. These areas are also home to vibrant black and Hispanic populations. Our agenda included a day for middle school teachers and administrators to visit our campus; an afternoon when more than 100 middle school students watched our freshman robot competition; a day when counselors from all over the county were introduced to our programs; and an all-school effort to support the well-established Techstravaganza science fair aimed at elementary and middle school students from around the region.

Our last goal was to enable hot lunch-eligible middle schoolers to participate in our Summer Technology Institute. We covered the registration fees for around 100 students, many of them from our target group. Last, Fairfax County authorized the creation of a position in the TJ admissions office dedicated to this diversity effort.

We are in year two now, with plans to reach out to the elementary schools in Clusters III and IV, working with academic coaches, math and science team leaders, administrators and counselors. Yes, we understand we have a difficult road ahead, but we are not sitting by and bemoaning our failures.

~~**Jennifer Seavey** (TJ faculty)

I am an African American student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, and I am the president of the Black Student Association mentioned in the Oct. 31 front-page article "[One thing elite N.Va. school doesn't do well: Diversity](#)." This article did not reflect the feelings of the TJ student body.

While diversity is a good thing, it should not be attained at the expense of excellence. The TJ community is very accepting, and I have never once felt a racial separation.

If people were let into TJ based solely on the basis of their race, it could hurt them in the long run. Underneath all of TJ's hype, it's purely a challenging school for those who want to work hard.

~~**Chantelle Ekanem** (Class of 2012)

As [a] recent graduate of TJ, I am concerned about your statements regarding admitting students based only on achievement, and not on character. I know you are familiar with the general outline of our admissions process: a round based on test scores, followed by a second based on short-essay answers and student recommendations (the specifics of the process often change, but the overall idea stays the same). In that second round, I would contend that "character" is exactly what's being looked at. The board is looking for students who are passionate, who are willing to work hard, and who have the maturity to handle the academic demands and pressures of TJ. Do we have a diversity problem at TJ? Yes, in that the racial composition of the school does not reflect, or even come close to reflecting, that of the counties whose residents make up the student body. But I would not at all attribute that shortcoming to a lack of looking beyond test scores at the personal traits of applicants.

Instead, I would agree with several previous posters that the issue lies in the preparation offered for parents, teachers, and students during middle school. The fact of the matter is that some middle schools have higher admittance rates than others, which to my mind can likely be traced to experience in writing recommendation letters and helping kids be aware of the application process, as well as providing opportunities to get involved with and interested in math and science.

In closing, I would like to extend an invitation to you to go visit TJ and see for yourself. Yes, the school has problems. It is a community that is constantly trying to balance a focus on science and academic excellence with giving students opportunities to explore their full range of talents. And we are a talented group in a variety of ways. If you take a tour, you're sure to be shown the computer systems lab (where I spent half my senior year), but make sure you check out the music and theater wing (where I spent the other half). Go see a play or a concert. Next fall, watch our field hockey team (2010 district champs) play a match. And
(continued on next page)

Serving the TJ Community

Free Money \$\$\$

December is the biggest shopping month of the year, and historically the most lucrative for the PTSA's Amazon.com program, thanks to everyone using the PTSA link to do their holiday shopping at Amazon.com. Remember, do all of your Amazon.com shopping through the PTSA's link – <http://amazon.com/?tag=tjhsst-20> – to earn free money for TJ! This link can also be found on the **Support the PTSA** web page. Bookmark it now and use it every time you shop! Questions? Email [joe at ganley.org](mailto:joe@ganley.org).

All Night Graduation Party (ANGP)

Discounted Ticket Deadline Approaching!

Senior Parents-- We know you and your senior are busy getting college applications done, but don't add to your senior year costs by missing out on buying discounted ANGP tickets! Last year, over 95% of the senior class attended ANGP. You KNOW your child will want to be at ANGP, so make sure you buy your ticket before the end of the year. Tickets cost \$95 now, but will be going up to \$115 on January 13. (*Our goal is 100% attendance this year. Scholarships for tickets are available if needed; please see your child's guidance counselor.*)

ANGP—Be there, Volunteer!

Parents! The only way to attend the ANGP as a parent is to be there to volunteer. We invite you to sign up for a shift or more! Use this link: <http://tinyurl.com/2011TJANGPVolunteers>. Volunteering isn't just for Senior parents-- Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman parents are also needed. The day of the party is also graduation day. We need non-senior volunteers to do the final preparation the day of the party so senior parents can attend graduation. We also need parents to help take down decorations and store them for the Class of 2012. PLUS ...To make sure your Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman student's ANGP is the best it can be, there is no better way to learn how to run a great party than by on-the-job training this year.

most importantly- talk to students. Ask what their concerns check out the music and theater wing (where I spent the other half). Go see a play or a concert. Next fall, watch our field hockey team (2010 district champs) play a match. And most importantly- talk to students. Ask what their concerns are with diversity and the admissions process, because as seen in the posts above, many of us do have concerns. We are much happier to be spoken with than to be spoken about.

~~Anna Stapleton (Class of 2010)

Landscape Committee

We had a wonderfully productive month in November, due to the efforts of **Milde Waterfall's** 8th period 'Cultivators of the Earth Club' and dedicated volunteers Carol Miranda, Richard Campion, and **Robert Campion** (2012). We have pruned the native hawthorn trees, planted Christmas ferns in the main courtyard, and transformed the Native Hill Garden by planting a number of grasses (purple muhly grass, little bluestem grass, sugar cane plume grass, and purple love grass) and transplanting blue star amsonia to the center of the bed. Nodding onions and Virginia bluebells will now provide additional spring color.

Mr. La Fever gave the 'Cultivators of the Earth Club' a presentation on how we might map the TJ gardens using ARC View; if anyone is interested in participating in this effort please contact Eleni Silverman at [eleni at cox.net](mailto:eleni@cox.net).



Cultivators of the Earth Club mulching the beds and planting in the Water Wise Garden.

Don't forget that Senior Night is January 12. We'll see you there to sign up more volunteers. For more information on volunteering at ANGP, please drop us an email: [tjangp2011volunteers at gmail.com](mailto:tjangp2011volunteers@gmail.com).

Reduce your 2010 taxes....

...by making a tax-deductible donation to the ANGP. Ticket prices do not cover the full cost of the All Night Grad Party. Your cash contributions and in-kind donations are needed to help this year's amazing group of graduating TJ seniors celebrate their four years of hard work and high academic achievement. Contributions from parents, businesses, community groups, and others are very much needed and appreciated.

Every donation of \$50 or more may include a 30-character dedication (e.g. "To the Senior Wrestlers" or "Great job, Mary!" or "We are so proud, Will!").

For more information on making an ANGP contribution, go to:

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

ANGP—Find us on Facebook!

We're on Facebook! To keep up with all the latest news for this year's All Night Grad Party, search for "TJ ANGP" and "like" us.

Student Services Corner

Student Government Association

The SGA has been working hard for the Class of 2014's freshman elections. Each candidate prepared an essay, collected signatures of approval, created a poster, and wrote a speech that was presented during eighth period on November 15. The results are as follows:

President: **Miles Oakley**

Vice-president: **YouNa An**

Secretary: **Florencia Son**

Treasurer: **Christine Mayuga**

Historians: **Michael Qu** and **Caitlyn Carpio**

Senator: **Elizabeth Woods**

During lunch on December 8, there will be a meeting in room 239 for clubs interested in hosting a soc-hop on January 28.

Guidelines

The TJHSST Student Services Department newsletter (*Guidelines*) is posted under "Publications and Resources" at: www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/dss/pubs.php. The September-November edition is online. The December edition will be posted shortly.

Academic News

Japanese News

The Japanese program recently held an exciting videoconference with a Japanese high school. Yokohama Science Frontier High School is the first Japanese public school that is focused on science and technology. On November 17, 17 TJ students and 15 Japanese HS students participated in the conference, sharing each other's class work and other interests. In the near future, the Japanese students wish to develop international science projects with TJ. We are also looking forward to meeting these students when we travel to Japan in the summer of 2012. In addition, we have ongoing exchange programs with two other schools (Chiben HS and Fujishima HS). And we are excited about expanding the opportunities for real-life experiences with the Japanese students.

During 8th period, a group of students are busy preparing for the annual National Japan Bowl, which takes place in April 2011 as a part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival in DC. The official team members will be formed in early December. During the festival this year, the Japanese National Honor Society will be performing Japanese dances on the special events stage.

Spanish News

Spanish Honor Society students have been actively tutoring other Spanish students during 8th period block or during JLC Thursdays in Room 128. One AP Spanish Language class was able to video-conference with Villa Maria Technical High School in Argentina and all students beautifully chatted back and forth. All classes are getting ready for the

holidays and learning traditions in Spanish-speaking countries.

Class News

2011 – Seniors

We want to wish you a Joyful Holiday Season and a Spectacular New Year!

The **follow-up** to our recent practice SAT will be held on **December 6, at 7:00 p.m.** in the auditorium.

Senior Parent Night will be held on **January 12, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.** in the auditorium. We will discuss Graduation plans, the Prom, Senior Dues and much more. **Please plan to attend!**

TJ will hold its annual **Talent Show** on **January 21, 2011**. An **Interest Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, December 1 during 8th period.

Please **volunteer** to help with planning and executing the **ANGP**. You can contact the volunteer chairs through the PTSA website under ANGP.

Thank you for all your help throughout the year. Please contact your class liaisons with questions and comments:

~~ Connie Valle (703) 994-1237
([vallefamily at cox.net](mailto:vallefamily@cox.net))
Jane Hsu (703) 748-0689
([dogstar3 at msn.com](mailto:dogstar3@msn.com))
PTSA Class of 2011 Representatives

2012 - Juniors

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Happy Holidays!

~~ Ann Nguyen ([ann.h1.nguyen at cox.net](mailto:ann.h1.nguyen@cox.net))
Janet Tasker ([jtasker at cox.net](mailto:jtasker@cox.net))
PTSA Class of 2012 Representatives

2013 – Sophomores

As part of Sophomore fundraising, the Class of 2013 is working on a TJ logo luggage tag sale at the

school's 25th anniversary celebration. At an affordable price, these luggage tags are wonderful stocking stuffers, and meaningful holiday gifts to proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. They also make great everyday ID tags on your students' school backpacks. Please spread the word to all your TJ friends, and we hope all of you stop by and see us at the sales table.

The sophomores will be sponsoring "February Formal" on Saturday, February 12, from 8:00 – 11:00 p.m. It is formal in the sense that students dress up, although it's not necessary to come with a date. For those parents interested in helping with this fun event, information on shifts and positions will be available shortly.

Second quarter of our students' sophomore year is going strong, even with the holiday season fast approaching and all the preparations for different celebrations and activities going on. Please remind your students that many teachers offer tutoring sessions during lunch hours and 8th periods. TJ promotes an academic environment where students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning.

We wish you a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

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

2014 – Freshmen

Class of 2014 Parents - Mark your calendars!!

The first Freshman Soc-Hop will be held on Friday, December 10, following the boys' basketball game, from 9:00 – 11:00 p.m. We'll need around 10 parents to help as ticket sellers, ticket takers, and hallway and entrance monitors. You can assure your student that parents aren't needed to supervise the dance floor!

If you're interested, please email us. Thanks!

~~Amy Shaw ([wyoamy at gmail.com](mailto:wyoamy@gmail.com))
Anita Rezazad ([arezazad at orchidtech.net](mailto:arezazad@orchidtech.net))
Vicki Ruitter ([theruitters at verizon.net](mailto:theruitters@verizon.net))
PTSA Class of 2014 Representatives

News Round-up and Awards

TJ Student Chosen as 2010 Siemens National Finalist: Congratulations to **Caelan Garrett** (2011) who was recently selected at a Regional competition as a Siemens Competition National Finalist. Caelan's project, in the computer science category, is "An Image Processing System for Enhancing Perceptual Visibility of Imagery." He will travel to Washington, DC on December 2-6, 2010, to compete at the National Level. More information is available at the [Siemens' web site](#).

Brain Bee National Championship: **Vaishnavi Kosuri** was the First Place Winner in the Brain Bee National Championships, sponsored by the North South Foundation. Vaishnavi will be competing later this year in the USA National Brain Bee. Good luck, Vaishnavi!

You Can do the [Rubik's] Cube Tournament: Congratulations to **Will Bunting, Asa Kaplan, Chris Kim, Evan Liu, Chris Mercado, Mitchell Stern, David Weisiger** and **Kevin Zhou** for winning the high school division of the You Can Do the Cube tournament part of the USA Science and Engineering Festival on Oct. 23. The challenge was to unscramble 25 Rubik's cubes in the fastest time, and TJ beat 18 high schools from Washington, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia, and Delaware to win the event with a time of 1:47:77.

Fairfax County Champion of Character Award: **Meena Rezazad** recently received Fairfax County's "Champion of Character Award." She was recognized for going above and beyond in working with TOPSoccer, an organization for young soccer players with special needs. She is also a TOPSoccer Buddy, and has recruited many other volunteers to help these youngsters. The award recognized Meena's "creative ideas for presentations and activities" that are "inventive and entertaining," "astonishingly effective," and which have "a profound effect on the participants."

TJ Alum Elected as Rhodes Scholar: **William J. Zeng** (Class of 2007), a senior at Yale majoring in physics, was recently named one of thirty-two men and women chosen as Rhodes Scholars representing the United States. Will's coursework ranges from quantum physics and mathematics to comparative

literature, philosophy and Hindi. He has done research at MIT and at the Quantum Device Lab in Zurich, and was an intern in New Delhi with the Indian Youth Climate Network. Will has competed internationally on Yale's lightweight crew, and has volunteered with the Special Olympics. Will plans to do the M.Sc. in mathematics and the foundations of computer science at Oxford.

TJHSST Partnership Fund

It's Not Just a Slogan, We Really Mean It: Every Family, Every Year

WHY DOES YOUR FAMILY GIVE TO THE TJ PARTNERSHIP FUND?

- "I don't know what my kids would have done without this School."
- "I'm sure that public funds alone cannot keep TJ on the cutting edge."
- "My husband/son/father/brother/uncle really, really wants a TJ tie!!"

BACK-TO-SCHOOL APPEAL RAISES OVER \$60,000! Here are some wonderful numbers you don't need AP Statistics to appreciate. Thank you, BTS donors!!

	BTS 2009	BTS 2010
# Donors:	141	209
Average gift	\$261	\$289
# donors >\$1,000	13	19
Total	\$44,567	\$60,396

NEW STUFF FOR TJ'S LABS: Donations to the Science & Technology Lab Fund and individual lab funds made possible the purchase of several new pieces of equipment this November, including:

Biotechnology--RT PCR System	\$17,383
Significantly enhances study of gene expression	
Communications--Adobe software	\$4,049
Enables professional audio/video work	
Energy Systems--Laser Cutter	\$22,000
Allows in-class production of research components	
Neuroscience--Hydraulic micromanipulator	\$6,000
Sensitive equipment for intracellular recordings of neurons	

Oceanography --Biological incubator \$5,315
Permits quality control for more reliable specimen growth

GIVE A GIFT, GET A GIFT: The end of the year is a great time to make a contribution to TJ through the Partnership Fund. A gift to the PF is always a tax-smart, wise investment, but with all the TJ spirit gifts available to choose from at year-end, it's a veritable no-brainer. See the back of your Year-End Donor Form for details.



TJ's 25th Anniversary celebration might just be the perfect occasion to sport your new TJ tie.

GOT TWO HOURS? PF Office Manager, Ellen Smith, could use a little help with some administrative tasks. Come alone or bring a friend, show up once or make it weekly. She is also available to answer all your PF-related questions. To reach Ellen in the PF Office, please call (703) 750-8317 or email [ellensmith at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ellensmith@tjhsst.edu).

Thank you for helping to KEEP TJ NUMBER ONE!

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters



Come join the Academic Boosters and support your child's academic teams. Register online (<http://academics.tjhsst.edu/abobsters/>)! All of your donations are tax deductible! Once again we thank all the current members

and ask that you continue supporting Academic Boosters.

Certamen (Latin): On Saturday, October 23, the TJ Certamen team participated in the annual 'VJCL Kick-Off' competition, held at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. TJ sent eight teams to the competition. Latin 1A: **Hannah Pho, Jeff Horowitz, Ben André, and Emma Hastings;** Latin 1B: **John Wilkes, Jay Devanathan, Emily**

Schneider, and Clara Pitts; Latin 2A: **Daphne Fong, Molly Hemenway, Hyae-In Seo, and David Soukup;** Latin 2B: **Katie Hough, Bruce Bland, Kenneth Hau, and James Jang;** Latin 3A: **Jesse Witkowski, Rachel Goldstein, Billy Nguyen, and Niara Lezama;** Latin 3B: **Raynor Kuang, Quentin Moore, Alana Whitman, and Zikuan Li;** Upper Latin team A: **Jared Golant, Ricky Short, Zach Seid, Sid Hariharan;** Upper Latin team B **Brian Shin, Connor Hann, and Austin Dunn.** All the teams did well for their first competition of the year, three of the teams made it all the way to the finals. TJ's Latin 1A team took 2nd place, 2A and Upper A both took 3rd place.

On Saturday, November 6, the TJ Certamen team participated in the annual 'Classical Cottage' competition, held at the Powhatan School in Boyce, Virginia. TJ sent five teams to the competition. Latin 1 team: **Hannah Pho, John Wilkes, Jeff Horowitz, and Ben Andre;** Latin 2A: **Molly Hemenway, Daphne Fong, James Jang, and Hyae-In Seo;** Latin 2B: **Sienna Lotenberg, Bruce Bland, Abi Gopal, and Katie Hough;** Latin 3: **Rachel Goldstein, Tommy Lunn, and Alana Whitman;** Upper team: **Zach Seid, Akhila Ananthram, Ricky Short, and Philip Meyers.**

The TJ teams did great with almost all the teams making it to the finals! Our fantastic Latin 1 took 1st place! Upper level Latin took 2nd place while Latin 2A and Latin 3 both took 3rd place.

The Virginia Junior Classical League Convention took place November 21-22 in Richmond, Virginia. Ninety-two TJ students attended with **Ms. Conklin** and **Ms. Lister.**

Computer Team: Our Senior Computer Team did an awesome job in the first round of USACO online contests. Eleven TJ students were among the top fifty students in the Gold Division. Congratulations to **Mitchell Lee, Alex Chen, Saketh Are, Daniel Kang, Andre Kessler, Sin Kim, Dylan Ladwig, Kesh Shvets, Andrew Cheong and Sreenath Are.** The team also had strong showings in the Silver and Bronze divisions. In the individual participation section TopCoder contests, **Andre Kessler** scored eleventh place. Congratulations to all the participants and winners!

Debate: TJ's Lincoln Douglas Debate team has started the year successfully at WACFL 1. TJ took

first place in both varsity and JV Lincoln-Douglas. **Ashneil Jain** was first in varsity, and **Natasha Torrens** did a marvelous job at her very first high school tournament by winning first place in JV. **Zach Hosseinipour** placed fourth in JV, and **Tushar Kamath** took the first-place JV speaker award. Congratulations to both Ashneil and Natasha for having qualified to compete at the Metro Finals regional tournament in March.

The Wake Forest tournament also was successful. Of the six debaters who competed, five made it to the elimination rounds. In JV, **Dhruv Bansal**, **Nancy Ding** and **Andrew Kim** made it to the octafinal round, and Nancy made it to the quarterfinals. **Akaash Gupta** and Ashneil Jain broke into the elimination rounds in varsity, and Akaash made it to the semifinals.

The Lincoln Douglas team had another success at the Hendrick Hudson HS Malcolm Bump Tournament, one of the largest debate tournaments in New York State for high school students. Akaash Gupta, one of the co-captains, made it to the very difficult elimination round. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

Congratulations to **Kittie Helmick** and **Kevin Sun** of the Public Forum Debate team, who made it all the way to the octafinal round at Wake Forest Tournament.

Model UN: Our Model UN team attended the WMHSMUN XXIV conference on November 12-14, 2010. MUN won the prestigious Best Large Delegation award for the third year in a row. This award is given to the school whose delegates best exhibit diplomacy, knowledge of country policy, and general decorum. MUN owes its winning streak and continual success to the incredibly large number of participants who won dozens of individual awards. We would like to congratulate the team and wish all the participants the best of luck at future conferences.

Colonial Athletic Boosters (CAB)
www.colonialathletics.org

Thanks to all the families who attended the **Fall Sports Banquet** - the CAB appreciates your support. Everyone seemed to enjoy the BBQ

dinner, and our fall athletes received the recognition they deserve!

Membership: At the Banquet, we announced that our total fall membership was **55%**, with varsity football winning our contest by being the first team to reach 90%, earning \$500 for the team! Memberships begin at \$50/year; higher contributions earn passes to home games and other perks! Join at **Colonial Athletics Memberships**.

WINTER MEMBERSHIP CONTEST
As we did for the fall teams, we will offer **\$500 to the winter team that first reaches 90% membership!!**

We love volunteers! We need many people to support our student-athletes: concessions (100% profits to athletics), ticket sales, announcing, merchandise sales, etc. Contact your individual team liaison, liaison coordinator Michelle Engler ([englermd at gmail.com](mailto:englermd@gmail.com)) or CAB president Jill Cook ([cooks471 at gmail.com](mailto:cooks471@gmail.com)). Liaison information is available at www.colonialathletics.org.

And now for the team news...

Varsity Cheer: The team kept school spirit high with pep rallies, sideline cheer and spirit days. Spirit days, held the day before each football game, consisted of dressing for the '80's, dress up like Audrey Hepburn Day, Nerd Day, Animal Print Day, and the cheer team's favorite, Jersey Day. The team was always on the sidelines cheering the football team on and demonstrating their strength with push-ups for each point TJ scored, home and away. The squad gave an excellent performance at the Homecoming Pep Rally. Congratulations to **Kathy Shi**, announced in the Senior Court, and to **Lucia Melgarejo**, crowned as Homecoming Queen!

The competition squad competed on October 19 in the Northern Region Cheerleading competition at the Liberty District Semifinals. They received zero technical deductions for their routine and placed seventh. At Liberty District Finals on October 26 they had another outstanding routine and placed sixth. The squad was led by captains **Michelle Gahagan** and **Daniella Miller**, and included seniors **Brianna Buch**, **Jane Hu**, **Anna Knight**, **Lucia Melgarejo**, **Nikki Pangilinan**, **Kathy Shi**,

Tiffany Wu and **Andy Yang**; juniors **Priya Krishnan, Jane Pak, Jenny Park** and **Emily Saitta**; and sophomores **Ashley Hwang, Christina Lee** and **Anna Li**. A special thank you to our parents, family and friends for cheering us on at the District competitions.

Our seniors were honored on November 5, the last home football game of the season. The cheerleaders and parents thank the coaching staff of Head Coach **Melissa Rapp** and Assistant Coaches **Liz Nelson** and **Sharon Kim** for a great fall season!



Prior to competition, the varsity cheer team listens to the music and visualizes their routine. Also pictured is **Sarah Shan**, JV alternate.

JV Cheer: The squad and **Coach Carolyn** attended the Liberty District Semi and Final competitions in support of the varsity squad. They led those TJ fans in attendance in cheering at the right times during the performance. The varsity squad thanks the JV squad and Coach Carolyn for their support! **Sarah Shan** and **Akhila Ananthram**, two JV cheerleaders, joined the varsity squad as alternates for the District competitions. The squad continued their support of the JV football team at every home and away game.

The co-captains this year are freshmen **Yana Kaplun** and **Sarah Shan**. Members of the squad also include juniors **Akhila Ananthram, Sarah Sam** and **Emilie Fortman**; and freshmen **Emma Gee, Sunny Song, Ashley Kim** and **Jamie Kim**. The cheerleaders and parents thank Coach Carolyn Wilson for a great fall season!

Cross Country: Congrats to the teams for a fantastic season! Sincere thanks go to Coach **Jeff James** and his assistants **Gary Grimsley, Todd Withington** and **Kim Grabarz** for a great year.

Girls Varsity - Congratulations to **Kelly Rogers** and **Stephanie Marzen** for being named ALL-REGION! Our team of Marzen, Rogers, **Sarah Stites, Rekha Schnepf, Lisa Junta, Sarah Nielsen** and **Rachel Kuprenas** took second place at the Northern Region Championships and fourth at the VHSL State Championships (but FIRST for our region!)



TJ Girls Varsity at States

Boys Varsity - Congratulations to **Jonathan Phillips** for being named both ALL-REGION and ALL-STATE! Jonathan placed an outstanding ninth at States. The boys team of Phillips, **Michael Wattendorf, Andrew O'Shea, JB Reiter, Chris Rom, Dan Matson** and **Greg Anderson** placed sixth at the Regional tournament.



TJ Boys Varsity at Regionals

Junior varsity - At the Liberty District JV Festival, our runners easily won both boys and girls Jr/Sr races and finished second in the boys Fr/So race. First place honors: **Ronit Malka, Thomas Tapen and Christine Mayuga.**

JV upperclass (Jr/Sr) girls: Malka, **Kate Sanders, Katherine Sheridan, Margaret Coad, Laura Handley, Elizabeth Ellor, Katie Bailey, Holly Jachowski, Ciara Prencipe, Kelly Ivens-O'Keefe, Jamie Kim and Megan Clark.**

JV underclass (So/Fr) girls: Mayuga, **Emily Barret, Amanda Hicks, Aparajita Sur, Crystal Calderon, Carrie Murton, Shayna Hume, Karen Xia, Carolyn Carrithers and Irene Hwang.**

Top JV upperclass (Jr/Sr) boys: Tapen, **Dylan Keightley, Elliot Simon, Zach Brunt, Sam Girvin, Matt Baron, Ryan Anderson, Alex Chen, John Lykins, Nick Hayes, Connor Hann, James Graham and Andy Crump.**

Top JV underclass (So/Fr) boys: **Gordon Hart, Luke Kuprenas, Nick Haliday, Michael Kim, Chandan Singh, Kyler Blodgett, Cole Rosenberg, Sebastian Lerner, Steven Kool and Peter Price.**

Dance: The varsity dance team participated in their first competition this season on November 13 at Paul VI High School in Fairfax, at the **UDA Fairfax Dance Championship.** Congratulations to the team for placing 4th in the large group Varsity Pom Division and 8th place in the Varsity Jazz Division as they faced some tough competition. **Yasmine McBride and Stephanie Levin** also competed in the Varsity Solo Division. The team just wrapped up the fall season and is looking forward to the winter season where they will perform at many of the home varsity basketball games. Thanks to **Coach Melissa Weber** for a great fall season, as the girls continue to work hard and perfect their dance routines.

The team will compete in their second dance competition of the season on **December 12** at GMU in Fairfax at the George Mason Dance Championship. Please come out to support the team!

Varsity Field Hockey: The team finished the season with an overall 14-5 record and a 6-0 record in Liberty District play. At the beginning of the season, the team won their bracket in the Westfield Bulldog Tournament. The team also made it to the finals of the Liberty District Tournament, losing in a close match (1-0) to Fairfax. Led by seniors **Allie Brouckman** (captain), **Erin Corey, Taylor Enders** (captain), **April Hyon, HaeMee Kang, Amber Kuo, Kelli Keith, Elizabeth Pina** and **Allison Smedberg** (captain), the team was competitive in every contest. The defense was especially solid all year with senior goalkeeper **Kelli Keith** making 60 saves and junior **Rheem Brooks** making 34. The team scored 57 goals throughout the season, with **Allison Smedberg** tallying 17, and the rest well-distributed throughout the team.

Next year's returning players **Rheem Brooks, Laura Brouckman, Katy Burgio, Helen Hastings, Allie Ivener, Connie Scoggins, Ceci Vollbrecht** and **Caroline Woods** should form the base for another competitive squad. Thank you to Coach **Teri Davis** and JV Coach **Carol Horton** for their outstanding leadership and coaching, and to the girls for their dedication and efforts this season. Special thanks as well to manager **Thalia Aoki** for her hard work on behalf of the team.

ALL-REGION-- First Team: **Allison Smedberg;** Second Team: **Erin Corey and Allie Ivener.**
ALL-DISTRICT-- Liberty District Coach of the Year: **Teri Davis;** Liberty District Player of the Year: **Allison Smedberg;** 1st Team: **Erin Corey, Taylor Enders, Allie Ivener and Allison Smedberg;** 2nd Team: **Allie Brouckman and Elizabeth Pina.**

JV Field Hockey: The team ended the season with an overall record of 2 wins, 6 ties, and 3 losses. Freshmen **Priya Seetharaman** and **Megan Ganley** guarded the goal, with captain **Julia Ruth, Kleo Greenwood, Lucia Lee, Florencia Son, Quinnlan Sweeney, Tricia Tran** and **Lizzie Woods** rounding out the defense. The offensive players included captain **Karen Clark, Nadege Aoki, Molly Hemenway, Tara Gupta, Brittany Peck, Clara Pitts, Isabel Roscoe, Emily Schneider** and **Sharon Zhao.** Coach **Carol Horton** started the season with only 4 players who had previously played on a high school team. Her expert guidance honed stick skills and field strategy. She shaped all 18 players

into a team whose talents will carry TJ field hockey far in the years to come.



JV Field Hockey team with Coach Carol Horton.

Varsity Football: In a heart-stopping game where the lead switched five times, TJ triumphed over Marshall at our Homecoming, 27-20. In the first varsity victory in two years, the Colonials offense racked up four touchdowns with its signature combination of run and pass plays. The first TD was set up by a series of **Kevin Karn** passes and capped off by **Patrick O'Connor's** 23-yard dash across the goal line. The second score was a Karn-to-**Jim Skehan** throw; the third a **Daniel Yoo** plunge across the goal; and the fourth resulted when TJ snagged an on-side Marshall kick-off and marched 55 yards to the goal-line, for a 25-20 lead at the end of the third quarter. A fourth-quarter drive by Marshall threatening the TJ lead was frustrated by an **Ian Ladner** sack and **Ed Cai** key tackle. A safety by **Albert Khim** late in the fourth quarter produced the final score of 27-20.

Next, TJ travelled to Madison and made a valiant come-from-behind surge, but fell short, 17-12. Down 14-0 at the beginning of the second half, TJ capitalized twice on recovered Madison fumbles, driving for TDs both times. Unsuccessful PATs and a follow-on Madison field goal yielded a final 17-12 score.

The last home game (also Senior Night!) was against Fairfax High. Key tackles by **Alex Harasty** and **Dimitre Nitchev** helped slow down the Rebels. A recovered Fairfax fumble and recovered on-side kick, both by **Myles Cook**, gave TJ good field positions. Our offense brought the ball to the Fairfax 2-yard line twice, but the tough Rebel defense prevented any score, leading to a 21-0 loss.



Senior **Jonathan Yun** leads the varsity team off the field after Senior Night vs. Fairfax HS.

Though the Colonials finished with a 1-9 record, an amazing NINE players received recognition for excellence by the Liberty District coaches!!

All-District:

Second Team Offense: **Jim Skehan** and **Luke Birch**; Second Team Defense: **Alex Harasty**
Honorable Mention Defensive Line: **Myles Cook** and **Jason Schwartz**; Honorable Mention Offensive Line: **Jordan Bundy**; Honorable Mention Linebacker: **Albert Khim** and **Ian Ladner**
Honorable Mention Quarterback: **Kevin Karn**.

We thank our 10 seniors, referred to by Coach **Ken Kincaid** as the "**10 from '10**" – the only players from their freshman team of 43 members to stay with the program all four years: **Jordan Bundy, Sung Won Byun, Daniel Choo, Myles Cook, Alex Harasty, Albert Khim, Jason Schwartz, Jim Skehan, Daniel Yoo** and **Jonathan Yun**.

JV Football: After three consecutive away games, the Colonials faced off against Washington-Lee and showed quickly that they would not be denied. Building off an explosive start on both sides of the ball, including a punt return to the six-yard line, the team jumped out to a 16-point halftime lead. With determined play from the defensive backfield (cornerbacks **Sean Waterton** and **Quark Wei**, and free safety **Andy Loh**), the Colonials shut down the W-L offense. A steady rotation of stout defensive linemen allowed the team to stay fresh while making the opposing offensive line guessing. **Scott Gibson, Ben Torczon, Ji-Soo Song, Prajal Bishwakarma, Joe Angello, Brandon Zhang** and **William Kozlowski** racked up more sacks than we can list and held W-L to only 6 points.

All in all, the 2010 campaign proved to be a great success for the JV team. Highlights include the 30-point outing against W-L (the most points the sophomore class has scored in a game so far and the highest single-game point total for a JV team since 2005) and winning 24-20 at Marshall. The offense scored 92 points on the season. Meanwhile, the defense unit only allowed an average of 17 points per game, posting a shut-out of Falls Church, holding regional powerhouse Stone Bridge to only 14 points, and not allowing any opponent to score more than 29 points.

With their 3-5 record, the squad became the winningest JV team since 2004. Congratulations to all the players for their hard work and see you all on the gridiron next year!

Freshman Football: The team started the second half of the season with a thrilling 42-33 win over Marshall. **Nathan Kim** scored 3 touchdowns, including a spectacular 65-yard punt return. **Daniel Noh** also scored 3 touchdowns and completed a 20-yard pass to **Kia Eskandarian** to keep a critical drive alive, and **Alyssa Bruce** had a QB sack to stop a late Marshall drive. In the next game against powerful Madison, the Colonials revved up their passing attack to score four touchdowns. Afforded great protection by the offensive line of **Brian Welch, John Wood, Taylor Yohe, Josh Fang** and **Albert Andrews**, Noh completed two touchdown passes to **Tim Zhong** and one to **Ben Carniol**. **Andrew Fountain** made a superb sideline catch to set up a touchdown run by Noh. Despite valiant defensive efforts by **David Zhao, Nebeyu Daniel, Phillip Yu** and **Saad Guliwala**, the Colonials ended up on the short end of a 48-26 score.

After losing to then-undefeated Washington-Lee 32-8, numerous turnovers on a rainy night doomed the Colonials in their last game against Fairfax. After falling behind 37-0, the Colonials rallied to score 3 touchdowns while holding Fairfax to one, losing 44-18. Noh ran for a score and completed touchdown passes to Zhong and Kim.

Key contributors this season also included **David Chae, Daniel Fontenot, Arvind Gupta, Jason Huang, Daven Kim, Kyu Kim, Jason Huang, Jimmy Wei** and **Andrew Zhang**. The team had a great year, demonstrating perseverance in every

game, and laying the groundwork for a potentially strong varsity team.

Boys Golf: The team finished with a 2-6 record and showed continued great progress from last year. With an influx of new talent, the team looks to be much improved next year in the very competitive Liberty District. The highlight of the season was the improvement of overall team scores going from a high of 173 to a low of 154 during the course of four matches. At every match the team lowered its score against District rivals. Our #1 golfer, **Meghan Anand**, was our most consistent golfer, always finishing with the low score or next to lowest in all of our District matches.

Girls Golf: We had a great year. With 11 players on the team, we won 2 and lost only 1 of our matches (to Langley). The team finished as one on the top teams in the Region based on the qualifying tournaments. We had the most entries (8), second only to Langley (10) at the final qualifier. Two qualified for the State Tournament at Virginia Beach, senior **Meghan Anand** and freshman **Hana Chan**. Meghan finished in a tie for 18th place and Hana was in a tie for 59th place. Everyone came through the season with a good understanding of what we need to do next year to improve our regional showing and qualify more golfers for states. The ultimate goal for next year is to beat the 92 qualifying score for States.

Varsity Volleyball: Congratulations to the team for making it to the Northern Region championships! The Lady Colonials had a tremendous season with an overall record of 10 wins/8 losses and clinched fourth place in the Liberty District with a shutout against Madison on Oct 28. The team got stronger throughout the season, played extremely exciting matches and thrilled their fans.

The roster, filled by veteran varsity Head Coach **Charlee Johnson** and Assistant Coach **Thao Luc**, was comprised of nine returning players: senior co-captain **Kathleen Roche** and seniors **Blair Graham, Shannon Eriksson, Limor Steinberg** and **Sara Gokturk**; junior co-captain **Angela Liu** and juniors **Nicole Gonzalez** and **Anna Hicks**; and sophomore **Maggie Engler**. The other team members included freshman **Care Shoabi** and two teammates from last year's JV team: senior **Rebecca Kolkmeier** and junior **Suzanne Mueller**.

Our manager, senior **Katie McAtamney**, did a remarkable job running the matches and keeping the statistics.

The team honored wounded warriors from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in a special ceremony at Senior Night on October 28. The varsity seniors wanted their last game to be about giving back to our heroes in uniform and raised money to support the Walter Reed “**Wii’s For Warriors**” Program for rehabilitation. Wii Fit machines were donated to ten wounded servicemen that were individually sponsored by each of the seven varsity seniors along with a junior, sophomore and freshman varsity player. Distinguished guests, including a wounded warrior, attended Senior Night to accept the machines. What a memorable night! Four players received **All-Liberty District** honors this year: **Liu** was selected for the First Team and **Roche**, **Graham** and **Eriksson** were selected for Honorable Mention. Coach Johnson was voted Liberty District Coach of the Year!



Girls varsity volleyball team co-captain, **Kathleen Roche**, delivers ten Nintendo Wii Fit machines to Walter Reed Army Medical Center representatives as part of the team's fundraiser presentation in honor of Wounded Warriors during Senior Night on October 28.

JV Volleyball: The team, led by Coach **Kristy Wright**, had a fun, exciting season and put forth a good effort. This year's team had four returning players: juniors **Nancy Wang** (OH) (co-captain), **Allison Wang** (OH/OP)(co-captain) and **Stefanie Van Rafelghem** (DS); and sophomore **Kirsten Cardinal** (OH/OP). There were five players from last year's freshman team: **Christina Shincovich** (M), **Schyler Pa** (DS), **Michelle Wang** (S), **Emmelyn Luu** (S) and **Yihemba Yikona** (OH/OP). New players welcomed were junior **Helen Li** (OH/OP) and freshmen **Cara Cunningham** (M) and **Mya Abousy** (DS). Team managers **Kate DeWeese**, **Jenny Chen** and **Mashal Wakilpoor** did a great job running the matches. The team started out strong, defeating West Potomac and West Springfield in pre-season play, then went on to

defeat Mount Vernon in their second game of the season. A highlight of the season was their win in a tough match against Centreville. Later in the season they once again showed great teamwork and defeated Marshall. The ladies worked hard, had fun and grew as athletes. They had a lot of team spirit and had a great time playing together. We are very proud of this year's JV team!

Freshman Volleyball: The team had a rewarding and fun season. The girls wish to thank Coach **Charlee Johnson** and Assistant Coach **Carly Layfield** for pushing them hard throughout their season, and for their dedication to the team. All of the girls were new to the sport at the beginning of tryouts, but they took to the task of learning a new set of athletic skills with enthusiasm and determination. The coaches instructed the girls and the strength of each player gradually emerged. The team, led by co-captains **Gloria Cho** and **Jessica Sun**, with members **YouNa An**, **Michelle Chen**, **Amelia Griese**, **Jung Huh**, **Rachel Iwicki**, **Navya Kambalapally**, **Maddy Martin**, **Vaidehi Patel**, **Jenny Seo** and **Olivia Sullivan** worked hard during practices and displayed great sportsmanship and team spirit throughout the season. Team manager **Priyanka Raju** took good care of the team. The two pre-season matches gave the Colonial freshmen some confidence as well as finding out the needed improvement areas. The beginning of regular season became more of a challenge, but the team broke through with a victory over Mount Vernon. The Lady Colonials are to be commended for working hard all year and continually improving!

Band Boosters

On October 31, the Thomas Jefferson Marching Colonials capped off their undefeated season at the USSBA Northern States Championships in Allentown, PA. The group was crowned group IV A champions, and also posted the highest score of all 37 groups competing of any size! The band has previously been VA state champions the past two years, and the students decided unanimously this August that we they would like to step up their competition level and go for a regional championship. With an outstanding performance the band was able to finish in 1st place ahead of the state champions from PA and NJ (who finished 2nd and

3rd respectively). Also represented in this competition were bands from NY, CT, DE, MA, and VA.



The Marching Colonials receiving their trophy in Allentown on Halloween.

The **winter band concert** is at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8**, in the auditorium.

Come see our jazz band, symphonic band, and symphonic wind ensemble.

The Winter Drum Line and Color Guard season has begun! You'll be able to see both TJ units perform here at home when they host a huge Drum Line/Color Guard competition on March 19, 2011.

Mark it on your calendars now! The world-class United Percussion drum line and many of your base schools will be there, too.

Support TJHSST Bands, ORDER YOUR WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENTS TODAY! Pick up an order form in the band hall or contact Kitty Beckhard at [kbvienna at cox.net](mailto:kbvienna@cox.net) for more information. Orders can be picked up at the front office. Makes the perfect Hostess Gift for all those holiday parties.

Our popular TJ LICENSE PLATE FRAMES are available. To order just fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and mail it to Peggy Menzin (address on form) or go to www.tjbands.org and click on fundraising to find the order form. Contact Peggy at [pegmill21 at msn.com](mailto:pegmill21@msn.com) for more information.

Virtual Tag Day: The TJHSST Band program is holding its annual "Virtual Tag Day" asking for monetary contributions to help defray the costs associated with running our multi-faceted program. Since our school-community boundaries extend beyond any base-school geographical location, we run our solicitation via a mailing in hopes that we can reach all current TJ Band families, TJ Band Alumni, and Friends.

Our program encompasses many performing groups which include: Symphonic Concert Band, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Marching Colonials, Color Guard, Winter Guard, Winter Drum Line, and an extra-curricular Jazz Band.

For a Virtual Tag Day Donation Form, please visit our website at <http://www.tjbands.org>. Please send your tax-deductible donation before **December 15, 2010** to: TJHSST BAND BOOSTERS c/o Cindy Hann, VP-Fundraising Chair, 3253 Pony Ridge Way, Oakton, VA 22124. For tax purposes, a receipt will be mailed.

Choral Boosters



The first choral concert of the year, An Evening of Folk Songs, brought new pieces performed by the women's, men's, and mixed chorus, as well as crowd pleasing favorites.

The concert ended with the Powers of Ten encore performance of Ninety Three Million Miles Away.



Dr. Glazer joins Peter Reischer, Andy Crump, Matt Swanhorst, Adrienne Doebrich, and Daniel Perkes to sing *Ninety Three Million Miles Away*.

The next weekend, the curricular and extra-curricular choirs headed to the Cox Farms *Fields of Fear* for some fun, and later that week closed the home football season with their last National Anthem performance.

December brings a variety of extracurricular caroling performances, the **Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-a-long** on December 5, and the **TJHSST 25th Anniversary Celebration** performance on December 16.

The **December Choral Boosters Meeting has been cancelled**. Please check the website for updates: <http://www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/fa/choir/>.

Orchestra Boosters

A “Thumbs Up/Well Done” goes out to all TJ Orchestra and Band students who participated in the Northern Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra concert, on November 13, at Hayfield High School!

The next TJ Orchestra concert will be **Wednesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Auditorium. Admission is free, and a short reception will follow the concert. Volunteers are needed to set up, serve, and clean up after the reception, so please be generous with your time. Look for additional details in a Booster email.

Looking forward, the perennial favorite Viennese Ball is scheduled for Friday, January 7, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m., in the TJ cafeteria. This event is open to the entire school – tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the door. Our TJ students dress in semi-formal or formal attire to be ready for an evening of elegant waltzes and music performed by members of the Symphonic Orchestra. It is truly a marvelous experience for all involved, with “Winter Wonderland” as the overall theme. Orchestra students coordinate the Viennese Ball, but we will need parental assistance to provide food donations and to set up, serve, and clean up. Coordinators Bonhee Ku and Patti Curtis will seek your help for this event, or you can contact Bobbie Herbst, [mautumn at aol.com](mailto:mautumn@aol.com). Look for a volunteer sign-up sheet at the December 15 concert.

Our next Booster meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Principal’s Conference Room, has been canceled. Many thanks for your continued support of the TJ orchestra program, and please remember our program as you evaluate your “end-of-year-giving” decisions. We wish you and yours a very happy and healthy 2011!

Theatre Boosters (Shakespeare and Drama)

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Pride and Prejudice*. Love and laughter exploded on the TJ stage on November 19 and 20. Over 40 students participated in this wonderful production, directed by **Vincent Pollet** and **Elena Lagon**.

The cast included (in order of appearance) **Rishi Malhotra** (Mr. Bennet), **Timothy Yuan** (Hill), **Samantha Schipani** (Mrs. Bennet), **Michaela Brown** (Lady Lucas), **Christine Jacobs** (Charlotte Lucas), **Heather Storeide** (Jane Bennet), **Anna Burke** (Elizabeth Bennet), **Rebecca Edelstein** (Lydia Bennet), **Keegan Cotton** (Mr. Darcy), **Daniel Perkes** (Mr. Bingley), **Art Kulatti** (Mr. Collins), **Saloni Chaswal** (Amelia), **Adam Friedman** (Mr. Wickham), **Saniya Suri** (Belinda), **Jordan Goodson** (Amanda), **John Pulice** (Young Man), **Ben Andre** (Captain Denny), **Emily Kelly** (Miss Bingley), **Liesl Jaeger** (Agatha), **Ben Andre** (Young Man) **Crystal Yi** (Maid), **Katie Earl** (Maggie) **Malaika Murphy-Sierra** (Mrs. Gardiner), **Darcey Pancoast** (Lady Catherine de Bourgh), **Leif Bakke** (Colonel Guy Fitzwilliam), **Hailey Johnson** (Mrs. Lake).

Production Personnel included **Albert Tholen** (Stage Manger and Technical Director), **Alec Greiser** (Assistant Stage Manager and Technical Director), **Hailey Johnson** (Head of Make-Up), **Rebecca Edelstein** (Assistant for Make-Up), **Anastassia Kornilova** and **Andrew Martin** (Lighting Directors), **Peter Town** and **Ceci Vollbrecht** (Sound Directors), **Samantha Schipani** and **Anna Burke** (Head of Costumes), **Heather Storeide** and **Michaela Brown** (Assistants for Costumes), **Rebecca Edelstein** (Prop Master), **Christine Jacobs** (Assistant for Props) **Esther Wang** (Head of Paint), **Aria Sharma**, **Rishi Malhotra**, **Heather Storeide** (Head of Publicity), **Allie Nelson** (House Manager).

Stage and Construction Crew: **Anastassia Kornilova**, **Kevin Sun**, **Esther Wang**, **Tahmina Achekzai**, **Merete Lund**, **Quynh-My Luu**, **Erika Fitzpatrick**, **Alla Herman**, **Elizabeth Johnson**, **Jordan Basl**, **Alec Grieser**, and **Madeline Reinsel**.

The 24th Annual Knight of One Axe – Auditions - December 13 and December 14; **Callbacks** - December 15; **Performances** - February 4 and 5 at 7:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for experienced actors and for students that would like to try acting.

The next Theatre Boosters Meeting is on December 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the TJ library.

--Get TJ drama information on Facebook at *TJ Drama Now*.

--Questions regarding auditions – contact **Mr. Pollet** at [Vincent.Pollet at fcps.edu](mailto:Vincent.Pollet@fcps.edu).

--Questions regarding TJ Theatre Boosters – contact Dawn Meyer at [TJTheatreBoosters at gmail.com](mailto:TJTheatreBoosters@gmail.com).

Announcements

TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair 2011

Many students are hard at work on projects for the 2011 TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair. The competition will be held on Saturday morning, February 5 (snow date February 12) in the cafeteria. The fair is closed to the public during judging, but will be open for visitors at 1:00 p.m., with an awards ceremony in the auditorium scheduled for 2:15 p.m. If you know any junior high students who are interested in science, math, or technology, please invite them to visit our fair.

The TJ Fair requires students to use the International Science and Engineering Fair rules and forms. Students whose projects must be approved by the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) have already submitted their forms. Students whose projects are not hazardous, have no sensitive aspects, and do not require SRC review, have until the end of school on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, to submit their ISEF forms. No entries will be accepted after that date.

The awards and rankings given by judges at the TJ Fair will determine which students will be invited to present their projects at the Regional Science and Engineering Fair at Robinson Secondary School, March 18-20. Grand prize winners at the regional competition will be invited to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles next May.

Fair organizers are in the process of contacting potential judges, as well as hospitality volunteers, for this event. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer in either of these roles, please e-mail [Susan.Luxenberg at fcps.edu](mailto:Susan.Luxenberg@fcps.edu) in the Science and Technology Division office.

Active Minds Club

Active Minds is the nation's only nonprofit organization dedicated to using student voices to change conversations about mental health on school campuses.

Active Minds was founded in 2001 by Alison Malmon, then a junior at the University of Pennsylvania, following the suicide of her 22-year-old brother. Troubled that her brilliant and popular brother had struggled with depression in silence even though he maintained a full schedule of extra-curricular activities and a superior grade point average at Columbia University, Alison was convinced that stigma and lack of information kept her brother from seeking help.

Determined to combat the stigma and address the lack of awareness about mental illnesses that often strikes young people at the pinnacle of their educational careers, Alison launched a program to promote mental health awareness on her campus. The nonprofit organization she created now works with students on over 200 college campuses nationwide and is beginning to become a presence on high school campuses.

TJHSST started an Active Minds Club last year. This December, the club will invite an outside speaker to discuss signs of and ways to cope with stress, and have other activities relating to stress. The club meets on Wednesdays during 8th period, B block.

Third Annual tjSTAR - Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 1, 2010!

For those who are new to this event, tjSTAR (TJ Symposium to Advance Research) is a symposium in which students present their research and scientific achievements. Scientific demonstrations of advancements in technology and design challenges are held to inspire students and expose them to real life problems. A major part of this event is the panels and speakers—from both inside and outside of TJ—who excel in their respective fields.

Last year, we had many educational and entertaining speakers that made our event a success. This could not have been possible without your

efforts as parents. To help make tjSTAR a success once again, please consider being a speaker or recommending someone who may wish to speak at this event. The deadline for submitting speaker suggestions is March 1, 2011. Please contact us with your suggestions at [tjstarspeakers at gmail.com](mailto:tjstarspeakers@gmail.com). For more information about tjSTAR and the kinds of speakers we are seeking, we invite you to look at our website:
www.tjhsst.edu/studentlife/events/srs/overview.php.

Check back frequently for up to date information on tjSTAR 2011! Also, check out [tjToday's summary of tjSTAR 2010](#). Thank you!

Natasha Bandopadhay
Lisa Miadzvedskaya
tjSTAR Student Planning Committee

Useful Links

TJHSST Home Page: www.tjhsst.edu/
TJ PTSA website:
www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsa

TJ PTSA President: Louise Epstein
[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: Celeste Fritzson
[ptsa.secondvp at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.secondvp@tjhsst.edu)

Treasurer: Eileen Swoboda
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Tech cetera 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: www.colonialathletics.org

Band Boosters: www.tjbands.org

Choral Boosters: www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/fa/choir

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

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

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

TJ Partnership Fund: www.tjpartnershipfund.org

TJ Alumni Association: www.tjhsstalumni.org

Other:

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

FCPS Keep in Touch (KIT): www.fcps.edu/kit

FCPS School Board: www.fcps.edu/schlbld

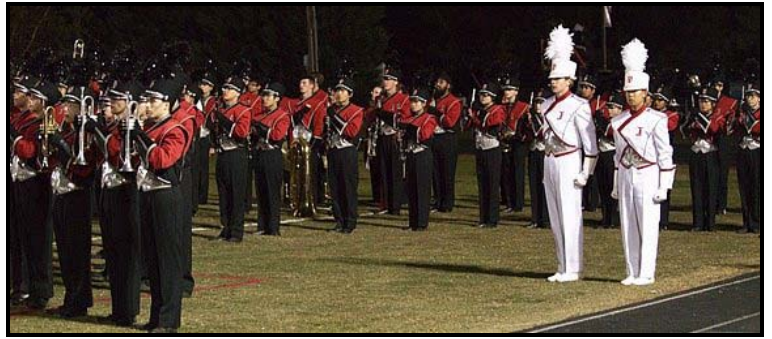
Fairfax County Supervisors:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/

Noteworthy Dates

December 2010	January 2011
2 PTSA Meeting, 7:30pm in Library	3-7 SOLs
6 Follow-up to Practice SAT, 7pm in Auditorium	6 PTSA Meeting, 7:30pm in Library
7 Driver Education Parent/Student Required Meeting, 6:30pm in Lecture Hall	7 Viennese Ball, 7-10pm in Cafeteria
8 Band Concert, 7pm in Auditorium	11 Choir Concert, 7pm in Auditorium
8 Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library	11 Orchestra Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
8 Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center	11 Showing of "Race to Nowhere" at Langley HS
9 Crew Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in College Career Center	12 Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
10 Freshman Soc-Hop, following basketball game, 9-11pm	12 Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
13 Drama One Axe Auditions, 4pm in Auditorium	12 Senior Parent Night, 7:30pm in Auditorium
13 Theatre Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library	13 Crew Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
14 Drama One Axe Auditions, 4pm in Auditorium	13 Junior Parent College Night, 7pm in Auditorium
15 Orchestra Concert, 7pm in Auditorium	17 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Holiday
16 TJ 25th Anniversary Celebration, 5pm in Auditorium	18 ANGP Meeting, 6:30pm in Library
18 Citrus Fruits Sales & Distribution, 7:30am-3pm in Band Room	18 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Room 106
21 ANGP Meeting, 7pm in Library	19 Choral Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Choral Room
22 Modified Red Day, Early Dismissal at 10:50am	20 Junior Parent College Night, 7pm in Auditorium (snow date)
23-31 Winter Holiday - Happy Holidays!	21 TJ Talent Show
	24 Theatre Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
	28 Citrus Fruits Sales & Distribution, 7am-3pm in Band Room
	31- February 1 – Teacher Workdays, Student Holidays

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME



Class theme t-shirts: Senior, Junior, Sophomore & Freshmen!



A packed stadium and spirited TJ fans cheer the Colonials to victory!



The Colonials end the night with a 27-20 win over Marshall.
(Thanks to Hung Bai and Thuy McMurray for the terrific photos.)



