

## Principal's Letter

Dear parents/guardians, teachers, and students,

We are now full swing into the school year with Homecoming Week (October 18-23) right around the corner. You should anticipate students staying late at school that week for many class-related activities, including designing personal costumes related to the theme "Rhyme Time." Please note most teachers cut back on homework that week, but it is still assigned and should be considered a first priority!

Congratulations to the faculty for winning the **Intel Schools of Distinction** in the high school science category. The school received over \$100,000 in prizes, including \$10,000 cash, hardware, and innovative technology resources. While this award is for our excellence in science and technology, it is the result of an entire school community supporting the mission of our school. Together with our science and technology teachers, the fine arts, humanities, world languages, math, computer science and PE teachers provide students with learning experiences to develop critical inquiry and research skills, and problem solving skills. And everyone supports the students' intellectual curiosity and interest in social responsibility. Our student services office, administrative staff, and support staff effectively work behind the scenes to nurture confidence in our students, provide resources to staff, and ensure that a positive environment is set for students to ask great questions, propose creative projects, and use systematic approaches to address complex problems.

Our investigation of the One Question this year has begun with several activities. The One Question developed and selected by our student body is: How can we maintain our individuality and creativity in an increasingly impersonal and technological world? Before our 8<sup>th</sup> period activities began in September, students viewed and discussed the movie *Gattaca* or

reviewed a news story about the potential for engineers to turn science fiction into reality. You might imagine the great ideas brought into the conversation, as well as the reflections on the ethical implications of advancements of technology. On October 12, our students will be discussing *Brave New World* across grade levels, where seniors will serve as small group facilitators to younger students. Following this session, students will learn about a One Question grant sponsored by the Partnership Fund, where students can receive resources for related projects and activities throughout the year.

The faculty and administration look forward to seeing you on October 6 at our Back-to-School night, starting with the PTSA meeting and opening remarks in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m. Our first quarter interim reports will be distributed to students at the end of that week. If and when you have questions about grades, please ask your child to show you grade reports and to explain any missing work, rather than first turning to the teacher or administration. We feel that students learning to advocate on their own behalf is a top priority in developing self-discipline and time management skills. Their counselors are coaching them along the way and offering tips when needed. Thank you for teaming up with us so our students can become independent, responsible young adults before they enter college.

I appreciate your thoughts on how we can continue to offer a high quality education to our students. Please don't hesitate to offer ideas by contacting me at [Evan.Glazer at fcps.edu](mailto:Evan.Glazer@fcps.edu).

Sincerely,

**Evan Glazer**  
**TJ Principal**

## President's Message

The PTSA had a busy September, and we hope you enjoyed some of the activities we sponsored.

On September 16, the PTSA, DSA's office, SGA, and Athletic Boosters collaborated to organize a TJ Bash. Students, faculty and their families, and parents turned out to enjoy the activities and food. Thanks to all for contributing to a wonderful event!

Thanks also to the panelists for the PTSA Forum on "Navigating TJ." Navigating TJ has turned into a TJ tradition, where knowledgeable TJ parents share information about how they help their children get as much as possible out of their TJ years. We hope that parents enjoyed the informal give and take of the panel, and came away feeling like they learned a lot during the evening!

Publishing the TJ Directory is always a major undertaking. This year was exceptionally challenging. Some of our volunteers toiled into the wee hours of several mornings to ensure the highest quality directory possible.

The TJ Directory is one of the PTSA's most significant services to the TJ community. It has indices that allow you to find all the students who live in each zip code, who belong to each graduating class, and who have a parent with a different last name. It also has information on the TJ schedule, TJ bus transportation, faculty, staff, administrators, student government and class councils, booster groups, the Partnership Fund, and over two dozen PTSA chairs or PTSA liaisons.

The 2010-11 Directories will be sold for \$10 each at Back to School Night, October 6. Buy at least one – after my first few years at TJ, I realized how useful the directories were and I began to buy one for each car, the kitchen, and my study!

We look forward to seeing all of you at Back to School Night. Band Boosters will be serving its annual pasta dinner in the cafeteria from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the booster groups, Partnership Fund and PTSA will be answering questions, recruiting volunteers and selling merchandise in Gym 1 from about 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Back to School Night program will begin at 6:30 p.m. in

the auditorium, with the PTSA general meeting. At approximately 7:00 p.m., parents will begin walking to their child's first-period classroom. Information about Back to School Night can be found at [www.tjhsst.edu/abouttj/b2sn-2010.php](http://www.tjhsst.edu/abouttj/b2sn-2010.php).

For those of you who missed the first PTSA meeting in September, it moved along briskly, which gave parents a chance to talk with each other and with Dr. Glazer and still leave the building at 9:00 p.m. Copies of minutes are available by contacting the recording secretary at [ptsa.recordingsecretary@tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.recordingsecretary@tjhsst.edu).

Our next PTSA meeting will be on Wednesday, November 17, in the morning. Please join us for the principal's coffee at 9:00 a.m., and for the PTSA meeting that starts at 9:30 a.m.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

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

## PTSA Update

### FCCPTA 2010-2011 Reflections Program

"Together We Can..."

Artist? Composer? Photographer? Dancer? Wherever your creative talents lie, consider an entry in this year's Reflections program. Reflections is a program of the National PTA; its purpose is to provide an opportunity for students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works. Each year, a new theme is selected and students are encouraged to interpret the theme using visual arts, photography, literature, musical composition, dance choreography and film production. This year the theme is "Together We Can..." Submit your entry by October 20, 2010, with a completed Student Entry Form. (To locate the entry form, go to [www.fccpta.org/committees-and-liaisons/reflections/](http://www.fccpta.org/committees-and-liaisons/reflections/) and scroll down to the list of attachments at the bottom of the page.) Students can contact [TeresaBrowning@aol.com](mailto:TeresaBrowning@aol.com) for more information.

## Landscaping Committee



Last year at this time I was writing about the gentle rains that were making the TJ Landscape lush; what a difference this year as we valiantly water to keep the plants alive!

Despite our drought, there are blooms in our gardens this September and October: the callicarpa (beauty berry bushes) on the Native Hill are bright with purple berries, the solidago fireworks (goldenrod) is blazing yellow on the herb hill and so is the pink sedum autumn joy; in the main courtyard the woodland asters are arching white blossoms and the turtleheads have lovely pink blooms; and the eupatorium rugosum (white snake root) is blooming in the audlob garden.

By the time you read this we will have had our first Weekend Garden Effort. **Our next Weekend Garden Effort is October 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We really need all TJ supporters to come out and help us in our effort to clean up the gardens, and plant new plants! Students can count these hours towards NHS volunteer hours.** We have updated our web page with times for week day gardening and our Fall Weekend Efforts. Go to [www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsacommlandscape.htm](http://www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsacommlandscape.htm) to find us. We welcome as much help as you feel able to give; please join us to keep the TJ Landscape green. We have a lot of fun and you can learn about eco-friendly methods of gardening!

## Volunteer Committee

**Myers-Briggs Test Scoring** is coming soon! For those who have helped in the past, you know how much fun this is; for those who have not, this is a

good time to find out! The MBTI is a personality type test administered to freshmen in their IBET groups. We don't have an exact day yet, but scoring will be done the week of October 18 - please contact Jill Cook ([cooks471 at gmail.com](mailto:cooks471@gmail.com)) to get your name on the volunteer list.

**Opportunities for you** - please consider the following PTSA volunteer openings:

After-School Library: The PTSA needs more parent volunteers to chaperone students in our library from 3:50 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., especially on Tuesday afternoons. Please contact Mary Ruth Phillips: [mphillips11 at cox.net](mailto:mphillips11@cox.net).

Hospitality: Do you enjoy baking, buying, preparing or serving food, or decorating for special events? You will be one of the most appreciated (and thanked) people if you join our Hospitality team! Our next event is "**Apples for Teachers**" on October 13 - **we will provide baskets with home-baked goods for the teachers to enjoy.** The following items are needed: pumpkin bread; sweet potato bread; carrot raisin cake; brownies; apple spiced muffins; spiced breads; oatmeal, chocolate or sugar cookies; granola packages; or any "Fall" baked goods.

To donate or volunteer, contact Lakshmi Bala at (703) 618-9298 or [laks\\_bala at yahoo.com](mailto:laks_bala@yahoo.com).

FCCPTA Representative: TJ's voice should be heard! We are looking for someone to represent us at the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, which meets monthly. Please contact Louise Epstein ([lepstein at cox.net](mailto:lepstein@cox.net)) for more information.

Faculty Recruitment Team: In an effort to support the school in its recruitment of the highest quality staff, we are looking for parent volunteers to assist in the identification of talented teachers across the nation as prospective TJ faculty.

**We'd love to have you at TJ (and we need you)!** Both new and returning families must sign up online to volunteer for the many choices listed on the "Volunteer" page of the PTSA site: <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsalogin.htm>. There are one-time events as well as regular monthly/weekly tasks. Please register your professional skills/special interests; you never know

what need may arise – and you might be the one person who can fill that need!

~Jill Cook, Rajni Goel and Nancy Levonian  
Volunteer Coordinators,  
[ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](http://ptsa.volunteers.at.tjhsst.edu).

## News Round-Up and Awards

### Intel Schools of Distinction Award

On September 14, 2010, Thomas Jefferson received the Intel Schools of Distinction Award in the high school science category. This award recognized TJHSST for its “extraordinary commitment to instituting 21st century teaching and learning environments” and for “exemplary instruction in math and science.” TJ’s administration and staff were applauded for their collaborative learning communities and their efforts to “engage students in high-level scientific inquiry and hands-on, technology-enhanced research to solve real-world problems.”

TJ’s award included a \$10,000 cash prize from the Intel Foundation and approximately \$100,000 worth of hardware, software and teacher professional development products from award sponsors.

Congratulations to **Assistant Principal Dr. Mary McDowell** for preparing the award application, to **Jim Jarvis** (Division Manager, Science and Technology) for his leadership, and to the entire TJ staff for supporting the school's mission in their daily teaching and curriculum development.

### National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

One hundred twenty-five students from TJHSST have been named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) for 2011. Congratulations to:

**Megs Anand, Thalia Aoki, Kathleen Atkath, Christopher Au, Eli Auerhan, Bart Bachman, Scott Badgett, Jacob Baldwin, Max Beckhard, William Bergan, Tristan Berger, George Bocchetti, Jack Borsi, Jake Brooks, Eran Brown, Zach Brunt, Will Bunting, Anna Burke, Natalie Cauley, Margaret Coad, Myles Cook, Emily**

**Crowe, Alex DeLuca, Elizabeth Denning, Connor Docherty, Kevin Dodd, Rachel Dorn, Catherine Dworak, Stephen Eltinge, Ziyi Fan, Divya Garg, Alisha Geldert, Diana Gerr, Ashu Goel, Blair Graham, Akaash Gupta, Cindy Han, Laura Handley, Peter Hansen, Andy Hanson, Siddharth Hariharan, Alishan Hassan, Kittie Helmick, Elizabeth Herbst, James Heron, Jane Hu, April Hyon, Kelly Ivins-O’Keefe, Steven Jackson, Alison Jarmas, Alvina Jiao, Hailey Johnson, Saman Kamgar-Parsi, Aman Kansal, Stefani Karp, Andre Kessler, Bianca Kim, Brianna Kim, Jamie Kim, Jun Hong Kim, Sin Kim, Youngji Kim, Karthik Krishnan, Dylan Ladwig, Barbara Lantz, Ivy Le, Amber Lee, Chris Lee, Graham Lobel, Andrea Lorico, Alexa Lowman, Vivian Lu, Lydia Luu, Esha Maharishi, Rachel Marzen, Katie McAtamney, Brett McLean, Jeffrey Menzin, Sabrina Mohamed, Olivia Murton, Venkat Muruganandam, Benedict Nguyen, Yunan Nie, Jeremy Owen, Nikki Pangilinan, Janice Park, Zachary Perconti, Jonathan Phillips, John Pulice, Will Pyrak, Siyuan Qian, Nolen Ramminger, Gireesh Reddy, Christopher Reffett, John Reiter, Andrew Rice, Raymond Richhart, Kelly Rogers, Andrew Rowberg, Marty Scherr, Siddhant Sethi, Kathy Shi, Jim Skehan, Kyle Slugg, Suyeon Son, Philip Song, Mitchell Stern, Sara Suarez, John Sununu, Jad Tabbara, Jenny Tobat, Timothy Tran, Roberto Valle, Max Wang, Andrew Watson, Marc Wechsler, Alex Weissenfels, Jeremy Weller, Willis Wendler, Michael Wu, Abigail Xu, Andy Yang, Tim Yuan, Rebecca Zhang and Sulan Zheng.**

More than 1.5 million juniors entered the 2011 National Merit program by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which serves as the initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists (approximately 16,000 high school seniors), which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state’s percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

Three types of Merit Scholarship awards will be offered in 2011: National Merit \$2,500

scholarships, corporate-sponsored scholarships, and college-sponsored scholarships. Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in spring 2011.

## National Achievement Scholars

Congratulations to the following students for being named National Achievement Scholars: **Daniel Barnes, William Bundy, Ariel Copeland, Kelli Keith, Sabrina Mohamed, Robert Orleans-Pobee, Darcey Pancoast and Aaron Williams.**

## Serving the TJ Community

### Free Money \$\$\$

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).

### Register Your Grocery Cards NOW to Earn \$ for TJ!

Thank you to those who have already registered their Giant, Safeway, Harris Teeter and Target Redcard loyalty cards! If you haven't registered your cards yet, please sign up ASAP. You must re-register EVERY year. Our goal is to reach over 1000 registered cards. The fastest way to start earning is to **sign up online**:

- **Giant A+ Bonus Card**  
[www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus) TJ  
Code: 02307
  - **Harris Teeter Together in Education VIC Card**  
[www.harristeeter.com/community/together\\_in\\_education/link\\_to\\_your\\_school.aspx](http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx)  
TJ Code: 5534
  - **Safeway Club Card for Education**  
[www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)  
TJ Code: 154534149
- Current Escrip participants:** Click "Renew." Verify that TJ is your designated school.

**New Escrip participants:** Now through October 9, 10% Back to School Bonus redemption code will print on bottom of Safeway receipt. Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), click on the yellow 10% Bonus school bus, designate TJ as the school and enter redemption code. Don't forget to register your Safeway card for Escrip.

If you have questions, please contact Stamo Georgiou at [stamog1 at aol.com](mailto:stamog1@aol.com).

## All Night Graduation Party (ANGP)

The countdown to Graduation **2011** has begun! Homecoming is fast approaching, and seniors know this is the final year for all their beloved TJ events...but the best event of the year is yet to come: the **ALL NIGHT GRAD PARTY.**

Every year, immediately after graduation, TJ Seniors attend the most exciting, most extraordinary, and most excellent party of their four years at TJ! **ANGP 2011** will be the best party EVER, but we need help from parents, guardians, friends and supporters. Here are some ways you can help:



### 1. VOLUNTEER!



The ANGP is an enormous undertaking involving hundreds of volunteers. We still need committee heads (there are only a few openings left – sign up soon!). Please contact the 2011 ANGP Co-

chairs at [ptsa.angp11 at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.angp11@tjhsst.edu) for more information.

Second, we need volunteers to fill in places on every committee to help create the biggest party of the year. **ALL** parents are welcome to join in. You will make new friends and work together to make this the best ANGP yet. Undergrad parents will learn from senior parents all the secrets of ANGP. Sign up at the ANGP table at Back-to-School Night on Oct. 6, or Senior Night on Dec. 1, or contact the 2011 ANGP Co-chairs

at [ptsa.angp11 at tjhsst.edu](http://ptsa.angp11.tjhsst.edu). We encourage and invite the parents/guardians of students from ALL grade levels to get involved in the planning and to volunteer at the party.

## 2. BUY TICKETS!

The sooner our tickets are purchased, the sooner we can plan and purchase the items we need to give our seniors the best send-off party ever. Check out our information table at Back-to-School Night and at Senior Night. To purchase tickets, download the Ticket/Acknowledgment of Risk form at: <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/tickets.html>. Drop the form and a check in the ANGP Ticket box in the TJ front office, or send both to the address on the form. Tickets are paperless and the names of students that have purchased tickets will be posted on a link to "The List" on the ANGP 2011 ticket page.

**EARLY BIRD SPECIALS:** All tickets purchased in 2010 will be discounted to \$95. Beginning January 1, 2011, the price will rise to \$115. **EARLY BIRD RAFFLE:** Purchase your ticket by October 22, and your name will be entered in a raffle to win one of two \$25 gift cards!

*Our goal is 100% attendance. Scholarships for tickets are available if needed. Please see your child's guidance counselor.*

## 3. DONATE!



Honor your graduate with a donation and a dedication. All donations in cash and in-kind are gratefully received and will

be recognized. The website for donations is: <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/payments.htm>.

**ANGP 2011 is TJ's alcohol-free, drug-free, all-night celebration and is sponsored by the TJ Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA).**

*In 1987, the Northern Virginia Project Graduation created an after-graduation event model with the aim to provide an alcohol and drug free night of fun for graduating seniors. High schools across our region participate in ANGP, and, for 22 years, there have been no accidents or deaths attributed to drugs*

*or alcohol on graduation night for our students who attend ANGP.*

## ANGP Meeting Schedule

The ANGP monthly meetings will be held in the Library at 7:00 p.m. on: October 19, November 16, December 21, January 18, February 15, March 15, April 12 (to be held in the CCC) and May 17 (a June meeting date will be set as needed).

**The Graduation ceremony will be held at the Patriot Center on Saturday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m., with the ANGP to follow immediately afterwards at TJHSST.**

## Student Services Corner

### Guidelines

The latest edition of the TJHSST Student Services Department newsletter (*Guidelines*) (September – November 2010) has been posted under "Publications and Resources" at:

[www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/dss/pubs.php](http://www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/dss/pubs.php).

### Student Government Association

The Student Government Association is happy to be back at school and working with this year's Executive Committee:

**Nadine Skaff '11** -- Community Coordinator  
**Neal Chaudhuri '12** -- Community Coordinator  
**Dan Perkes '12** -- Communications Coordinator  
**Stacey Zhou '12** -- Communications Coordinator  
**Kaley Thornton '13** -- Activity Coordinator  
**Bethany Connor '11** -- Activity Coordinator  
**Aria Sharma '11** -- Activity Coordinator  
**Hannah Tam '11** -- Activity Coordinator

The SGA also selected the 4<sup>th</sup> Student Advisory Council (SAC) member: **Saloni Chaswal '13**.

At the SGA Retreat in late August, students took part in a number of team-building activities and tested their boundaries and courage on the ropes course. There were two large group meetings where Homecoming and other pressing issues were discussed. The overall theme for this year is "Rhyme Time." Class themes are: Seniors-**Fright Night**; Juniors-**Leap Into the Deep**;

Sophomores-**Situation Animation**; and Freshmen-**Don't Stop the Pop**. The Spirit Days are: Monday (Oct. 18) -- Wear with Care (But Don't Make Them Stare) [Dress Your Best]; Tuesday (Oct. 19) -- Blast from the Past (Don't come in Last); Wednesday (Oct. 20) -- Pairs with Flair But More Is Fair; Thursday (Oct. 21) -- Rhyme Time: Scream Your Theme; and Friday (Oct. 22) -- Red, White, Blue (and Togas, too).

Classes have already begun practices and sign-ups for many different activities. But the students are not the only ones who can get involved! The SGA is still in need of convertibles to drive the Homecoming Court across the field during halftime of the Homecoming Football Game. If there are any parents who would allow us to use their convertible for this purpose (adults would drive their own vehicles), it would be **greatly appreciated**. Please contact Hannah Tam at [bubbleteea at gmail.com](mailto:bubbleteea@gmail.com) if you can help. Thank you!

## Academic News

### French News

All of us in French Honor Society are excited for the year to come. We are solidifying our relationship with the French Embassy, arranging more speakers to visit from the French Cultural Center, planning for National French Week, and working to incorporate more engaging activities in the club. As always, we will offer our tutoring sessions every Monday afternoon and hold club meetings every Wednesday B Block. New this year we are also going to host one meeting a month outside of school, whether that be a film screening at the Alliance Française, a presentation at the Elliott Foreign Center, or a club breakfast at Le Pain Quotidien.

If you are interested in joining the Society, please feel free to come to one of our Wednesday general meetings, to ask a French teacher or current member for information, to visit our website at <http://activities.tjhsst.edu/fhs/news.php>, or to e-mail the officers directly at [fhs.officers at gmail.com](mailto:fhs.officers@gmail.com). Benedict, Kathleen, Timothy, Meghna, Alice, and I hope to see you soon! *À bientôt!*



The new officers of TJ's French Honors Society (l-r): Treasurer **Timothy Tran**, Co-Presidents **Benedict Nguyen** and **John Sununu**, Webmaster **Alice King**, and Historian **Meghna Khosla**. Not pictured is Secretary **Kathleen Roche**.

## Spanish News

Everyone has *regresado* from *vacaciones* with lots of *energía* for this new year. Several of the Spanish teachers will likely be escorting a small number of students during spring vacation on a fully immersion style trip to Puerto Rico. The trip will include scientific, cultural, environmental and adventure activities--all in Spanish. There will be an application process; to be eligible, students must be enrolled in at least a Level 2 study of Spanish and must feel comfortable conversing entirely in Spanish with staff, guides, and other students. More *información* will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Spanish Honor Society is beginning to plan our Hispanic Dinner, in which we honor our Hispanic students and their families. The dinner will be held on Thursday, October 15. It will be a memorable night filled with music, good food, and camaraderie. Invitations will be in the mail shortly.

## Class News

### 2011 – Seniors

Thank you to the parents who chaperoned our first soc hop on September 24. We will sponsor our second and last soc hop on November 5. We will need 10-12 chaperones. Please volunteer! We are building a float and gearing up for Homecoming activities, to be celebrated October 18 –

October 23. We will need to provide 10-12 chaperones for the Homecoming Dance on October 23. Please volunteer!

We would like to remodel the senior lounge. If you have any gently used furniture, gaming systems or other entertainment items such as foosball, ping pong, board games, dart boards, speakers etc., that you would like to donate, please let us know. We will happily add them to our lounge.

To volunteer or to donate items, please contact **Connie Valle**.

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

## *2012 - Juniors*

It appears the Class of 2012 is getting back into the school routine. Junior year looks to be a very busy and challenging one.

A couple of things we want to mention for this month. First, we gave some incorrect information in the September Tech cetera about the Junior Class Float for Homecoming. We are very appreciative that the Neuberger's made their garage available to shelter the Class of 2012's float for the past two years. They are passing that honor on to the Steele family. The Steeles are located near McLean High School. The class will announce float-building dates and times in the near future.

The second item also relates to Homecoming. We've been asked to assist with the Homecoming Dance on October 23. We will need volunteers to help out that night. Please let us know if you are able to help by sending an email to either of us or to [TJClassof2012 at cox.net](mailto:TJClassof2012@cox.net).

~~ 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*

October buzzes with excitement at TJ, as students are busy preparing for Homecoming Week, October 18-23. Events for the week include: Spirit Days, T-shirts, Pep Rallies, Class Skit, Musical Extravaganza, Canned Food Drive, Spirit Banner and the Float competition. We'd like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Swanhorst (Matthew's parents) for graciously opening their home for students to build the class float.

Homecoming Week ends with the Homecoming Dance on October 23, and we are recruiting 20-25 volunteers to man the coat check area for the dance. Please stop by and see us as we, the class liaisons, will be at the PTSA table on Back to School Night, October 6 with a sign-up sheet.

For the Canned Food Drive, please advise your students to bring the cans to either your student's HUM English teachers OR to Mr. Lewis's room (Room 150).

This year, there is a new competition called "Pennies for Peace," where students bring in coins/cash for points. The class with the most points loses. How does it work? Our students bring in money which they deposit in other classes' jars so that we may win in the end.

All Night Grad Party (ANGP) 2011 is looking for underclass parent volunteers to help at ANGP on June 18. Senior parents will be at the Patriot Center for the graduation, and they need other parents to man all the activities until the senior parent volunteers arrive. If you are interested, please respond to [TJ2011ANGP at gmail.com](mailto:TJ2011ANGP@gmail.com), or to [ptsa.angp11 at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.angp11@tjhsst.edu).

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

## *2014 – Freshmen*

By now, we hope that your family is starting to feel a part of the TJ family. We are pleased to introduce ourselves as your parent liaisons for the class of 2014. We are Amy Shaw (daughter Emily), Anita Rezazad (daughter Meena), and Vicki Ruitter (son Tim). We are looking forward to working with the students, parents, and faculty! Planning is well

underway for **Homecoming Week (October 18-23)** and we will be looking for about 20 parent volunteers from our class to assist during the **Homecoming Dance (October 23)**.

Other upcoming events include freshman soc hops and the Freshmen Lock-in in the spring. Although planning for this event is student-led, we will need a lot of volunteers (about 100!) to make this popular event successful and safe for our kids. We would love to hear from many freshman parents that they would be available to help out sometime. Please send an email to one of us to add your name to the list to be kept current on upcoming dates and events. Lastly, while it's hard to imagine our kids as seniors, that day will come and we will be very thankful for the support of underclassman parents during graduation and the All Night Grad Party. Consider doing your part to help out during these events this year – not only will you have a preview of yourself in a couple years, but having underclassman parents helping means that we don't have all of our knowledgeable parents leaving each June.

We are excited for a great year!

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

## TJHSST Partnership Fund

**TJ Partnership Fund: Because Our Kids' Education is Worth it**

**BACK TO SCHOOL APPEAL:** 2010-2011 is off to a great start. Thanks to our wonderful early supporters, we have already collected over \$35,000, including 10 gifts of \$1000 or more! Donation forms may be mailed to the PF Office, or you may donate online at [www.tjpartnershipfund.org](http://www.tjpartnershipfund.org). We will also be accepting donations (and handing out delicious goodies) at the PF table under the balloon arch at Back-to-School Night on October 6. See you there!

**UNITED WAY/COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN:** It's that time of year again. Please

remember to include TJ in your workplace giving. The numbers are: UW #8705; CFC #81947. We will be recognizing last year's UW/CFC supporters in a Donor List Supplement at year-end.



"Tommy," the Partnership Fund's Colonial panda mascot, insists that the best part of his new job is thanking donors.

### **"FRESHMAN PARENTS" ENJOYED**

**RECEPTION:** The many "Freshman Parents" who attended the reception on September 12 learned all about the PF and also had a chance to chat with **Principal Evan Glazer, Assistant Principal Mary McDowell, Lab Directors LeeAnn Hennig, John Dell and Lisa Wu, PF Board Chair Mark Skolnik** and other PF representatives, and several veteran parents. Some enthusiastic attendees have already gotten involved in the work of the PF.

**LAB TOURS:** The best way to learn about TJ's labs and the research your students will be doing at TJ is to sign up for a lab tour. On the tour, you will hear from the Lab Directors, see how purchased equipment is being used, find out about current and future needs, and hear from students about their research. There are only two lab tours scheduled for this fall: spaces are limited, and spots fill quickly. The dates are: Tuesday, October 26, 8:30 a.m.-- 10:30 a.m.; and Tuesday, November 2, 9:30 a.m. -- 11:30 a.m. (no school – Election Day). To sign up, contact Ellen Smith in the PF Office at (703) 750-8317 or [ellen.smith at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ellen.smith@tjhsst.edu).

**BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW:** Everyone knows that the PF raises money to buy state-of-the-art equipment for TJ's labs, but I bet you didn't know that the PF also funds the School's "One Question" grants. The PF has committed to providing over \$6,000 to fund all twenty-one grants awarded by the

School last year, and we're excited to be supporting this unique opportunity again this year.

**VOLUNTEERS:** The response to our Volunteer Form has been terrific, and we're already beginning to integrate our newest volunteers into the work of the PF. If you've been thinking about volunteering, please turn in a completed form or contact our Parent Chair at [hildekahn at verizon.net](mailto:hildekahn@verizon.net).

**Thank you for all you do to help KEEP TJ NUMBER ONE!**

## TJHSST Boosters

### Academic Boosters



Over 20 Academic Teams are making plans to attend events and competitions this school year. Representatives from each team will soon be submitting requests for funds to the Academic Boosters as well as making presentations about their financial needs to the board members at the October 19 meeting.

Our mission is to provide funds to support these outstanding academic teams. While we are not able to cover all academic team costs, we do help pay for team registration fees, judging fees and teacher travel costs, among other things. Following the presentations in October, the Academic Boosters board members will start deciding which academic team activities we can help fund this school year.

**You can help us by joining the TJ Academic Boosters!** Family memberships are our #1 source for funding! Occasionally we have the opportunity to sell coffee mugs and t-shirts to beef up our available funds, but this represents a small portion of the money we collect during the year. Your membership to the Academic Boosters is critical for us to support all these wonderful teams in their extra-curricular activities! Pick up an AB membership from our bulletin board in the main lobby or go to <http://academics.tjhsst.edu/aboosters/> to join online. Your membership in Academic Boosters – also a tax-deductible donation – directly

supports the endeavors of our academic teams. Thank you!

### *Colonial Athletic Boosters (CAB)* [www.colonialathletics.org](http://www.colonialathletics.org)

The 2010-11 sports season is in full swing, and the parents, supporters and fans have enjoyed some beautiful fall weather while cheering for our student-athletes!

Our records show that we are now at **43%** total membership – let's try for 100% by the fall sports banquet! *Varsity football reached 90% on September 15 and won the CAB fall membership challenge - \$500 for the team!* In second place is JV field hockey at 67%, and third place is a tie between varsity field hockey and freshman football, both at 65%.

Please remember the mission of CAB - to supplement the small amount of funds we receive from Fairfax County with our own contributions in order to *maintain safe and proper playing surfaces, well-appointed gyms and up-to-date equipment, and to provide our teams with uniforms and other accessories.*

**Memberships** begin at \$50/year; higher contributions earn passes to home games and other perks! Join at: <http://colonialathletics.org/index.cfm?action=main.membership>.

**We love volunteers!** Many are needed to run a successful sports program: concessions (profits go 100% to athletics), ticket sales, announcing, merchandise sales, etc. Show your son or daughter you support him/her! Contact your individual team liaison, our 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)). All team liaison names and contact information can be found on our website: [www.colonialathletics.org](http://www.colonialathletics.org).

So here's how to support your student-athlete: **Attend games and meets! Cheer! Refresh yourself at the concession stand! Buy and proudly wear your TJ spirit merchandise!**

**\* ATTENTION SENIORS!** The CAB awards four \$1,000 **scholarships** each year to deserving

seniors. Start thinking about it – we will soon post an updated application form on the website.

*And now for team news...*

**Varsity Cheer:** SCHOOL SPIRIT continues! The team continues to pump up the crowd and cheer on our football team. They show their spirit by getting the crowd involved and hitting the ground for pushups – one pushup for each point the football team scores. The team is working hard on their stunting and tumbling skills as they prepare for their upcoming district competition. Plan ahead and come out to support the team at the Liberty District semi-finals at South Lakes High School, October 19 at 6:30 p.m. The District Cheer finals will be held at Fairfax High School, October 26 at 6:30 p.m. Come show your school spirit and support for TJ's varsity cheer!

The JV and varsity cheerleaders have begun selling Papa John's pizza cards. Be sure to ask a cheerleader how you can get great deals on pizza!



## SENIORS!

**Cross Country:** TJ Excels in First Meet Of Season! The TJ harriers gave an impressive performance on September 11, at the first meet of the season - the Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake Park in Burke, VA, where we competed against 32 other schools from the Northern Virginia High School Athletic Region.

The **varsity girls**, **JV girls**, and **JV boys** all won the team championship in their races! Although they didn't win, the **varsity boys** placed a very respectable fourth, which gives strong hopes of the team's returning to compete in Virginia State AAA Championship race in November.

*TJHSST PTSA Tech cetera*

The varsity girls were led by individual medal winners **Lisa Junta** (3rd), **Sarah Stites** (4th), **Stephanie Marzen** (7th) and **Rekha Schnepf** (14th). The boys varsity were led by **Jonathan Phillips**, who placed 12th. **Elizabeth Ellor** was the individual champion in the girls JV race. The **freshman boys**, led by **Luke Kuprenas** (11th), finished sixth in their race, while the **freshman girls** placed eleventh.



**TJ Girls Varsity Cross Country Team** wins first place at the Monroe Parker Invitational. Team members are (from left): **Ronit Malka**, **Rachel Kuprenas**, **Stephanie Marzen**, **Sarah Stites**, **Rekha Schnepf**, **Laura Handley**, **Taylor Reffett**, **Kelly Rogers**, **Lisa Junta** and **Sarah Nielsen**.

October will be a busy month for the TJ harriers with three JV inter-league meets, three invitational meets and the District Championship. Go TJ!!

**Varsity Dance:** The team is off to a great start despite the rain and they had a great performance at our first half-time show at the football game on September 16. The team will perform at all remaining half-time shows during varsity home football games. They have been busy learning new routines and perfecting their skills, and are very excited to show off their new material. The team is led by returning Coach **Melissa Weber**. Team members include: **Suyeon Son (captain)**, **Lianna Cramer (co-captain)**, **Amelia Dahl (co-captain)**, **Wendy Guo**, **Victoria Holt**, **Amanda Infeld**, **Vicky Kelley**, **Deborah King**, **Stephanie Levin**, **Yasmine McBride**, **Katrina McTigue**, **Stephanie Nguyen**, **Sekar Novika**, **Christin Park**, **Suganya Sridharma** and **Emily Stone**.

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Dance team with our first team car wash on September 5. We appreciate your support! We will compete in the UDA Fairfax Dance Championship competition at Paul VI High School in Fairfax on

Saturday, November 13. Please come on out and support the team!

**Varsity Field Hockey:** After winning their bracket in the Westfield Tournament, the team has played three regular season games, winning against West Springfield 2-0 and Edison 4-1, and losing to Washington-Lee 0-2. There are nine seniors on the team: **Allison Smedberg, Taylor Enders, Allie Brouckman, April Hyon, Kelli Keith, Erin Corey, HaeMee Kang, Amber Kuo and Elizabeth Piña.** Juniors **Rheem Brooks, Katy Burgio, Helen Hastings, Allie Ivener, Connie Scoggins and Caroline Woods;** and sophomores **Laura Brouckman and Ceci Vollbrecht** round out the team. The team looks forward to several busy weeks filled with multiple games!



Varsity Field Hockey Seniors - **Allison Smedberg, Taylor Enders, Allie Brouckman, April Hyon, Kelli Keith, Erin Corey, HaeMee Kang, Amber Kuo and Elizabeth Piña.**

**JV Field Hockey:** With two scoreless ties against West Springfield and Washington-Lee, the JV team was due for a clear win. They earned it last Wednesday with a 2-0 game against Edison. Eight sophomores and ten freshmen comprise the team with more than three-quarters of them playing for the first time this year. This team has a high level of natural talent, which **Coach Horton** has honed into some fine ball handling skills. Look for more exciting play from the JV in future contests!



Back l-r: **Quinnlan Sweeney, Brittany Peck, Molly Hemenway, Kleo Greenwood, Lizzie Woods, Sharon Zhao, Coach Horton.** Middle l-r: **Priya Seetharaman, Karen Clark, Clara Pitts, Florencia Son, Nadege Aoki, Tricia Tran.** Front l-r: **Emily Schneider, Isabel Roscoe, Julia Ruth, Lucia Lee**  
Not pictured: **Megan Ganley, Tara Gupta.**

**Varsity Football:** The Colonials have played hard and have faced tough and fast opponents in the opening games of the season! We welcome back nine seniors, **Jordan Bundy (RB/DL), Sungwon Byun (WR/DB), Daniel Choo (OL/DL), Myles Cook (OL/DL), Alex Harasty (TE/LB), Albert Khim (OL/LB), Jason Schwartz (OL/DL), Jim Skehan (WR/DB), Daniel Yoo (RB/DL) and Jon Yun (WR/DB),** who will play their last season of high school football under former TJ head coach **Ken Kincaid,** who has returned after several years away from Jefferson. Other returning varsity players are juniors **Kevin Karn (QB), Ian Ladner (QB/TE/LB) and Stas Schaller (OL/DL).**

Joining the varsity team this year are juniors **Luke Birch (WR/LB), Ed Cai (RB/LB), Saul De La Barra (OL/DL), Mark Elias (OL/DL), Jay Li (OL/DL), Mike Maccannon (RB/DB), Dimitre Nitchev (TE/LB), Bryce Summers (RB/LB), Ryan Tasker-Benson (TE/LB), Ben Torczon (OL/DL), Paul Yea (OL/DL), Patrick Yu (WR/DB) and Alex Zaita (WR/DB);** and sophomores **Jack Brown (OL/LB) and Patrick O'Connor (RB/LB).**

The Colonials have only three games under their belts so far, but we are looking forward to more highlights, like the 4<sup>th</sup>-quarter 30-yard touchdown pass from **Ian Ladner** to **Jim Skehan** at South Lakes; and to good work by the defense, as evidenced by our holding opposing teams at the goal line several times.



Senior **Jim Skehan** crosses the goal line for a touchdown against South Lakes.

Our **Homecoming** game this year is **Friday, October 22** against Marshall HS, and we will celebrate **Senior Night** on Friday, November 4 against Fairfax. Please come cheer for us!!

**JV Football:** The team scrimmaged South Lakes in early September and showed that they will be a formidable opponent this year. After allowing South Lakes a touchdown on their opening drive, our defense stiffened and stopped South Lakes the next six times they had the ball. The defensive line took control of the line of scrimmage and the blitzing linebackers confused the South Lakes offense. Meanwhile, the TJ offense got rolling and scored the next five touchdowns! **Patrick Maribojoc** scored two touchdowns on quick plays up the middle and **Rashad Laher, Salim Najjar,** and **Michael Chan** each added a rushing touchdown as well.

Against Falls Church, the offense took the opening kickoff and drove 9 minutes down the field on runs by Laher, Maribojoc, and **Jeffrey Fang**; capped off by a QB sneak by Chan for a 6-0 lead. The half ended with TJ driving to the 1-yard line before time ran out. In the second half, the offense continued to run the ball well behind the offensive line of **Gio Basurto, Daniel Edwards, Scott Gibson, Weldon Burrow,** and **Alex Kim**. Laher scored the next touchdown on a nice cutback run. The defense continued to play well with **Andrew Draganov** getting a crushing sack on the Falls Church QB on 4th down. Laher then capped off the scoring with a 50-yard sweep around the right end to make the score 18-0. Falls Church had one last chance to score, but their final drive was thwarted by an interception by **Andy Loh**. Overall, a great first

game for the team - we hope there are more wins to come!

**Freshman Football:** The freshman Colonials began their 2010 campaign with a convincing win over the Falls Church Jaguars. On the opening drive, the Colonials, led by QB **Daniel Noh**, drove the ball 65 yards in impressive fashion, mixing in draw plays, running back sweeps, and quarterback keepers to keep the Jaguars on their heels. The drive was capped off by a five-yard toss to running back **Nathan Kim**, who scored his first of three TDs.

With the kickoff downed at the opposing 12-yard line, the defense intimidated Falls Church into three successive negative plays. First, the Jaguars lost yardage on a bad snap, no doubt caused by the fearsome Colonial defensive line, anchored by **David Chae** and **Andrew Fountain**. Falls Church promptly committed a holding penalty due to the pass rushing pressure by **Alyssa Bruce** and **Daniel Fontenot**, knocking the Jaguars back to their one-yard line. The Colonials then went after the Jaguars QB, with **Phillip Yu** sacking him in the end zone for a safety and an 8-0 lead.

Before the final whistle blew, TJ put 36 points on the board with TDs by **Devan Kim, Kia Eskandarian**, and Nathan Kim, who also scored on a two-point conversion early in the game. Nathan also provided the most electrifying play with a 46-yard scamper on a 4<sup>th</sup>-and-16 play late in the first half. Defensive highlights included sacks by **David Zhao, Fontenot, D. Kim, Yu** and Bruce, a fumble recovery by Eskandarian, and numerous QB pressures by Chae and Fountain. Final score: Colonials 35-FC 6.

**Varsity Volleyball:** The team is off to an impressive start with four wins in their six matches. All aspects of the Lady Colonials game have improved since last year. The TJ attack is led by senior outside hitter **Kathleen Roche**, senior middles **Blair Graham** and **Shannon Eriksson**, sophomore outside **Maggie Engler** and opposite hitter **Sara Gokturk**. A tough defense and passing game has been led by senior libero **Limor Steinberg** and junior defensive specialists **Anna Hicks** and **Nicole Gonzales**.

The Lady Colonials opened with a 3-1 win over Annandale followed by a 3-0 win over Mount

Vernon. School opened with a 3-1 win over Centreville. Following a 0-3 loss to perennial power Chantilly, TJ rebounded the next night with a 3-1 win over Bishop Ireton. Playing for a third straight night, TJ lost to Yorktown 0-3.

Key to the Lady Colonials quick start is junior setter **Angela Liu** who has spread her sets among the strong TJ frontline, leading to a powerful attack. Senior setter/DS **Rebecca Kolkmeier**, sophomore DS/L **Suzy Mueller** and freshman middle **Care Shoaibi** have all come off the bench to make key contributions.



Sophomore hitter **Maggie Engler** attacks the ball against Mount Vernon. Clockwise from left: **Limor Steinberg** (white jersey), **Nicole Gonzalez**, **Blair Graham**, **Shannon Erickson**, **Engler** and **Angela Liu**.

**JV Volleyball:** The team, led by Coach **Kristy Wright**, is off to a great start this season. The team started practicing in August, and won their two scrimmages against West Potomac and West Springfield. They also participated in a very successful car wash along with the varsity and freshman teams to benefit the volleyball program. Regular season games have included wins against Mount Vernon and Centreville.

The team is led by junior captains **Nancy Wang** (OH) and **Allison Wang** (OH/OP). Other juniors on the team are **Helen Li** (OH) and **Stephanie Van Rafelghem** (DS). Sophomore players are **Christina Shincovich** (M), **Schyler Pa** (DS), **Emmelyn Luu** (S), **Michelle Wang** (S), **Kirsten Cardinal** (OH/OP) and **Yihemba Yikona** (OH). Freshmen are **Mya Aboussy** (DS) and **Cara Cunningham** (M).

We are looking forward to a great season!

**Freshman Volleyball:** The team kicked off the season under the guidance of Coach **Charlee Johnson**, with a close match against Annandale – TJ lost in three sets. Our young Colonials came back with a strong win against Mount Vernon. **Amelia Griese** and **Maddy Martin** have shown extraordinary serving skills, each having several aces per match. **Gloria Cho** (co-captain and libero) and **Jessica Sun** (co-captain and setter) have had good digs and dives.

### *Crew Boosters*

**JEFFERSON CREW** TJ Crew rowers and coxswains are looking forward to their 2010 - 2011 season under the leadership of new head coach, and men's coach, **Bill Randall**. **Matt Shoop** will continue to lead the women's team. Please join us for TJ Crew Interest Night on October 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the TJ Cafeteria. Coaches, captains and parents will provide information and answer any questions you may have about crew. Winter training starts on November 15 in the Cafeteria. If you have any questions about crew please contact: [TJCrewPresident at gmail.com](mailto:TJCrewPresident@gmail.com), [TJMensCaptains at gmail.com](mailto:TJMensCaptains@gmail.com) or [TJWomensCaptains at gmail.com](mailto:TJWomensCaptains@gmail.com).

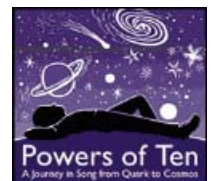
### *Choral Boosters*



The choral community is off to a busy start with home football game and school board performances already this year. In addition, our three student a cappella groups just completed auditions. Congratulations to the 2010-11 **Madrigals**, **Manchoir**, and **Sirens** members!

Coming up in October, we have many more activities:

- On October 10 at 5:00 p.m. at the UMD Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center we will join DC area singers in



performing the **Powers of Ten – A Journey in Song from Quark to Cosmos**. Details are at: <http://claricesmithcenter.umd.edu/2010/>.

- Please join us at our next **Choral Boosters Meeting** on October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the TJ Music Wing – M8. We will be finalizing plans for a fall social event. Our meetings are open to all!
- Our first **Choir Concert** is on October 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the TJ Auditorium. Come hear this free performance of choral selections. Look for our updated concert attire adding TJ Choir spirit.

For more information remember our new website, [www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/fa/choir/](http://www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/fa/choir/).

### *Orchestra Boosters*

For those of you who have rejoined the Boosters, thank you!! If you have not yet joined, forms will be available at Back To School Night, on-line, and will be forwarded to parents under separate email. Additional forms are also available by contacting Bobbie Herbst at the email below. A reminder – our first concert will be on Wednesday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. You should be seeing concert CD order forms and student pre-concert dinner forms in a few weeks.

The Orchestra Boosters is still very much in need of a few parent volunteers for the following: Co-Concert Hospitality Coordinator to attend the monthly PTSA meetings and coordinate the pre-concert dinners for our students. **We especially need someone to assist in the organization of the concert receptions or, at the very least, to co-ordinate hospitality for the October concert.** Please let me know if you are available to help.

Senior Regional Orchestra auditions are Monday, October 4 at South County Secondary School – participation is optional. Those students who auditioned and were selected will perform at the Senior Regional Orchestra concert at Hayfield High School on November 13. Good luck to all!

Our next Boosters meeting will be on Tuesday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Principal's Conference Room. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to help with our many volunteer opportunities. Thank you so much, and we look forward to seeing you.

Bobbie Herbst ([mautumn at aol.com](mailto:mautumn@aol.com)).

### *Theatre Boosters (Shakespeare and Drama)*

Calling all parents of students that like to act, provide technical support or make new friends... TJ Theatre Boosters will meet on Monday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Come and find out about TJ Theatre and meet some really nice families.

The two fall productions -- *Pride and Prejudice* and *Wive's Tales* – have been cast. Congratulations to all the students participating in the productions.

*Wive's Tales* will be performed on October 29 at 8:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency in Reston for the Virginia Theatre Association competition. Good luck to all students participating in this play.

Mark your calendar -- *Pride and Prejudice* will be performed on November 19 and 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the TJ auditorium.

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

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

## In Remembrance of Sebastian Hamilton

### The Falling Hacky Sack By Michael Wu

“Bonjour tout le monde. Votre examens sont ici. *Your tests are here.*” Sebastian, Alex, and I, or rather *Les Trois Mousquetaires*, quickly found our seats. We fought no violent duels with the Cardinal’s guards, nor did our adventures take us to distant and exotic lands. The only thing we did that was vaguely musketeer-like was jab each other – with pencils. As Monsieur Beeckman walked back and forth returning our tests, Alex asked “How’d you do?” I showed him my scores and he returned the favor. For an instant a look of gloominess flashed across his face before he returned to his cheery self again.

“How about you, Sebastian?” I asked. But I really didn’t have to because it was written all over his face. “Well, I thought it was hard,” he said. What he really meant was that he had done well. This was the typical Sebastian, always so modest. On every French test, I was pretty much guaranteed to be the last one to finish, trying to remember where to put my *accent aigu*. Even though Sebastian often missed entire days of school, it seemed like all the right answers were perpetually at the tip of his pen.

At lunchtime the musketeers headed out to play hacky sack. “But it’s so hot outside!” Alex and I both complained. “C’mon now. What’s the worst thing that could happen to me, skin cancer?” said Sebastian, raising one eyebrow. His sense of humor was contagious and we broke out laughing. Sebastian had thick arched eyebrows, large round eyes, and a smile that stretched from one cheek to the other. As we pushed open the Thomas Jefferson school doors that spring day of our sophomore year, Sebastian’s face was beaming. We played underneath the shadows of the tree in front of the school. Fifteen consecutive hits were the most we ever got to. I would always resort to using my hands, not being very coordinated with my feet. Sebastian, on the other hand, whether it was balancing the hacky sack on his broad shoulders or doing fancy tricks with his feet, was in his element. He was great at French, and even greater at hacky sack.

The car lurched to a stop in front of a blaring red light. The seatbelt held me back but my head jolted forward,

waking me up from my reverie. I was no longer under that great protective tree at TJ but on the streets of D.C., rushing to the hospital. I had just started junior year but every day of school was another day without Sebastian because his cancer had unexpectedly come back. One of my best friends was being whisked away by a disease that had gripped him for years, and I had no more control over it than the traffic. While I sat in the car, I thought about the people in the streets who were dressed in bright flamboyant colors, clearly prepared for the city nightlife. I thought about Sebastian, who was lying sick in a hospital bed. I thought about the endless chain of red traffic lights ahead of me, wondering when they would turn green.

The rest of that night remained a blur. Alex and I stayed by Sebastian’s side until early in the morning. We must have gone through all of the hospital’s tissue boxes. We wanted to do something for him, but it was too late now. The cancer had won and Sebastian had lost.

Life for the next few months was hard. Alex dropped French. My grades slipped. Nothing really seemed to matter anymore. *Les Trois Mousquetaires* had become *Les Deux Mousquetaires*. Alex and I ate lunch together, but everything had changed. Sometimes, we looked at each other and realized that we were both carrying around the same lost expression on our faces, and then would quickly hide it with a joke or a laugh. For me, French class only served as a painful reminder of what had happened. Sebastian’s desk was perpetually empty, and I sat across the room from it, staring at it every day, wishing that it was all a dream.

Alex and I never played hacky sack again; the hacky sacks had fallen to the ground, forever. But sometimes I can still hear Sebastian’s hearty laugh. When I think of his laugh, *Les Trois Mousquetaires* will always be *Les Trois Mousquetaires*.



Sebastian’s favorite hacky sacks. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Hamilton.)

## Useful Links

**TJHSST Home Page:** [www.tjhsst.edu/](http://www.tjhsst.edu/)

**TJ PTSA website:**

[www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsa](http://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

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

Recording Secretary: Jane Li

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

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

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](http://www.colonialathletics.org)

**Band Boosters:** [www.tjbands.org](http://www.tjbands.org)

**Choral Boosters:** [www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/fa/choir](http://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](http://www.tjpartnershipfund.org)

**TJ Alumni Association:** [www.tjhsstalumni.org](http://www.tjhsstalumni.org)

### Other:

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

**FCPS Keep in Touch (KIT):** [www.fcps.edu/kit](http://www.fcps.edu/kit)

**FCPS School Board:** [www.fcps.edu/schlbd](http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd)

**Fairfax County Supervisors:**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/)

## Noteworthy Dates

October 2010	November 2010
<b>2 Open House, 8:30am</b>	<b>1-2 Teacher Work Days, Student Holidays</b>
2 Honors Choir Audition (time and location TBD)	5 Class of 2011 Soc Hop, 8pm in Cafeteria
6 Band Boosters Pasta Dinner, 5-6:30pm	6 District Choral Audition, Centreville High School
<b>6 Back to School Night: PTSA Meeting, 6:30pm in Auditorium; Begin Visiting Classrooms, approx. 7pm</b>	9 Orchestra Booster Meeting, 7pm in Principal's Conference Room
<b>11 Columbus Day Holiday</b>	10 Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
12 Crew Parent Interest Night, 7:30pm in Cafeteria	10 Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
12 Orchestra Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Principal's Conference Room	11 Crew Boosters Meeting, 6pm in Career Center
<b>13 PSAT – half day</b>	12 Powder Puff Football Game, Stadium, 7pm
13 Driver Education Parent/Student Required Meeting, 6:30pm in Lecture Hall	12 All-District Chorus Auditions, Centreville High School
13 Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center	16 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Room 106
13 Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library	<b>17 Principal's Coffee and PTSA Meeting, 9-11am in Cafeteria</b>
14 Hispanic Dinner, 5pm in Cafeteria	17 Choral Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Music Wing M8
14 Crew Boosters Meeting, 6pm in Career Center	19-20 <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> performances, 7pm in Auditorium
19 ANGP Meeting, 7pm in Library	20 Citrus Fruits Sales & Distribution, 7am-3pm
19 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Room 106	<b>24 Early Release, 10:50am</b>
20 Choral Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Music Wing M8	<b>25-26 Holiday – Happy Thanksgiving!</b>
<b>22 Homecoming Football Game, 7:30pm</b>	
<b>23 Homecoming Dance, 8pm</b>	
25 Theatre Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library	
26 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Room 106	
27 Orchestra Concert, 7pm in Auditorium	
28 Choir Concert, 7pm in Auditorium	
29-31 Theatre group performance, Reston (time TBD)	