
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology



Tech cetera

January 2012

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

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Students,

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed your winter break with family and friends. I used the break to visit family in Arizona and future family in Michigan. I know this time away helps me rest and recharge for an exciting second half of the year, and I hope the same is true for all of you.

TJ will be ending its first semester earlier than other FCPS schools this year in order to balance our semester schedules better. Typically, second semester has more interruptions in the schedule because of our special events and because of snow days. We feel that ending the first semester a week earlier, on January 20, will enable us to offer comparable curricula for semester classes offered both in the fall and the spring. Following the end of the first semester, we have tentatively scheduled a tele-learn anchor day for January 23, which will give teachers the opportunity to complete their semester grades. However, if Mother Nature causes a school cancellation between January 17-20, we will use January 23 as a make-up exam day (which would be either a red or blue day), and students would be required to come to school. The following week, we will maintain FCPS's schedule on January 30-31;

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those days are scheduled as Teacher Workdays, with no school for students.

The Fairfax County School Board recently approved our use of interior surveillance cameras. I know that our parents and teachers are split on this issue, and that the students are not in favor of using cameras because of their perceived threat to the trusting TJ environment. The security and administrative teams feel cameras could expedite possible future investigations and improve the accuracy of the outcomes of any such investigations. Since our school is open to the public and to students from other schools after our regular day, we do face safety and security concerns. In the past, incidents have commonly occurred on the access road, in the locker room, and in the Audlob. The most recent policy approved by the FCPS School Board grants us the authority to add surveillance cameras in the Audlob at our expense. Cameras would never be permitted in the locker rooms because of privacy concerns. At this juncture, I don't feel a need to install surveillance cameras before our renovation, unless there arises a compelling need based on a serious safety or security issue at the school.

Many of you know our students entered the "Under Armour Finding Undeniable" competition, under the leadership of **Christine**

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Galloway. Thousands of votes, representing the spirit of our community, poured in each day. I think about how our student body rallied to become a national finalist – yes, our students always strive to win, but more importantly they embrace everything TJ stands for and everything our school has to offer. Their enthusiasm is the result of the active involvement of our parents, teachers, and the students themselves. As we look ahead to the second semester, I know we have much to anticipate: I-night, Service Week, Mentorship Fair, Techstravaganza, tjSTAR, J-Day, Freshman Lock-in, Junior Camp-out, ANGP, and a wide array of athletics competitions and fine arts events. I can't imagine any other school having such a high commitment level from its entire community or demonstrating such great school spirit. I look forward to seeing you in the stands, in the classroom, and on stage.

Sincerely yours,

Evan Glazer
Principal, TJHSST

From the Tech Cetera Editor - A New Look For The New Year

We're trying out a new format, one which does not require scrolling up and down columns, yet accommodates a font size that is easy to read. Let us know what you think!

President's Message

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

For those of you with seniors, ringing in **2012** has special significance as it marks the end of their high school years and the beginning of a new chapter in their lives. Congratulations to the seniors who have by now completed (or almost completed!) their college applications. Enjoy your remaining 6 months at TJ and don't forget to keep up with your studies –funny how colleges keep track of things like that! Parents, please try to attend Senior Night, which is on January 18th – more information about the evening is in the Senior Class News section of this newsletter.

The safety of our children is always something that we, as parents, take very seriously. The SCC (Safe Community Coalition) is a volunteer organization that promotes maintaining a safe environment, one free of alcohol, substance abuse and violence, for our youth. In fact, every year we are very thankful that they donate financially to our ANGP. Although the SCC serves the McLean HS and Langley HS pyramids of public and private schools, because we have many families in those pyramids, our school has been invited to partner with them to promote their message and reach out to our community.

Please take a look at two of the programs that are being offered in the New Year:

****“The Perils of The College Drinking Culture”** will be held on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean HS auditorium. This free event features a screening of the award-winning documentary, HAZE, looking at the crisis of competitive and binge drinking on college campuses. It will be followed by an audience discussion with key experts including: Raymond F. Morrogh - Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County; Dr. William Hauda - Emergency Physician at INOVA Fairfax Hospital; Chief Dave Rohrer and Captain Bruce Ferguson - Youth Services Division of the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPS); Jeff Levy - father of a student who died following drinking at a college party; and Ryan Smith - Va. Tech grad student. This is a must-see event for juniors and seniors, and their parents. Parental discretion is advised for students below grade 11 due to mature subject matter.

This program is presented by the Unified Prevention Coalition (UPC) of Fairfax County Public Schools, and its Countrywide Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking (CIRUD), in collaboration with the FCPD, SCC, and others.

**** “What's Love Got to Do with It? Healthy Relationships and Dating”** is being presented on Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean HS auditorium. This educational interactive program is for parents and high school students. Due to mature content, it is not recommended for middle school students. This free event features a live theatre presentation performed by “Remote Control,” that explores issues, attitudes and beliefs about dating relationships, and incorporates skill-

building exercises designed to encourage healthy decision-making. It will be followed by keynote speaker, Lynne Russell, president of Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH) and mother of a 19-year-old who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in Oak Hill, VA two years ago. A community forum, moderated by a social worker specializing in adolescents, and a trauma physician from INOVA, will guide the audiences in an exploration of healthy relationships and dating.

This program is sponsored by the SCC in conjunction with McLean HS PTSA, Langley HS PTSA, the Madeira School, and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology PTSA.

If you have any questions about these two programs, please contact our SCC liaison, Robin Hatanpää, at hatanpaa6@gmail.com. In the future, we will be highlighting these programs on the PTSA website under the heading “Student Safety Programs.”

Speaking of safety, we all tell our kids about the dangers of texting while driving but sometimes we need outside reinforcement to help drive the point home. One of our TJ parents recently sent me a link to a very powerful video produced by AT&T, entitled “It Can Wait.” [Click here to view the video.](#)

A huge “Thank You” to all of you who have signed up to become members of the PTSA, and to those who have selected TJ when taking advantage of the various Free Money Programs. We are so grateful for your support. Please don't forget that if you're a PTSA Board

Member (which includes all chairpersons of standing committees), our PTSA bylaws require you to become a member! For your convenience, membership forms can be found by [clicking here](#).

Finally, although it is only January, we are beginning to plan for next year's PTSA executive committee. If you would like to volunteer for the **Nominating Committee**, please contact Sara Schneider at [ptsa.recordingsecretary at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.recordingsecretary@tjhsst.edu).

FYI

PTSA Meeting – Why not ring in the New Year with your fellow TJ parents, students and teachers! Our next PTSA meeting is scheduled during the first week back at school on Thursday, January 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the TJ Library. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

And, as always, please feel free to contact me or any other member of the PTSA Executive Committee to discuss any topic or concern.

~~ Denise Bunting
TJ PTSA President
[Bunting.denise at gmail.com](mailto:Bunting.denise@gmail.com)

Reminders and Updates From The Administration

Bus Passes To Be Issued in January

Our school buses have faced overcrowding in multiple locations as a result of students riding buses, without permission, different than those to which they have been assigned. To address this safety concern, TJ will be issuing passes to regular riders in late January.

Bus rosters are determined based on the locations of students' base schools. In January, attendance will be taken on all buses to determine the names of regular riders. Parents can request a different bus than that assigned by completing an exemption form. ([Click here to access the exemption form.](#)) Permission will be granted as space is available.

Later this year, the TJ administration will explore the possibility of using depot busing, to start next fall. The goal of depot busing is to take into account pick-up locations desired by families, and to maximize the desired bus routes, regardless of students' base schools.

Service Learning Requirement

Beginning with the Class of 2013, the FCPS School Board has established a goal that all students will earn 40 hours of service learning by the time they graduate. (The Class of 2012 is only expected to complete 30 hours of service learning.) Students are expected to self-report this information at the end of each school year while at TJ. Students who reach

this goal receive a service cord to wear at graduation. While approximately 90% of our student body completes this requirement naturally through their class projects and 8th period activities, some students need encouragement from home and school to make a concerted effort to reach this goal. Please have a conversation at home to discuss how your student can give back to the community using the knowledge learned in school. Becoming a STEMbassador is one way to complete this requirement! ([More information about STEMbassadors can be found by clicking here.](#))

PTSA Update

Landscape Committee

December was a very productive month for TJ landscapers. Two truckloads of mulch were delivered by Fairfax County on December 2; parent volunteers under the direction of Carol Miranda mulched the Native Hill garden that weekend. On December 16, the Cultivators of the Earth Club and the National Honor Society sponsored a mulch marathon during 8th period B block. Student volunteers and parents mulched the Water Wise Hill garden and most of the area under the trees in the Audlob garden. Many thanks to students **Matthew Callahan, Crystal Calderon, Robert Campion, Dasith Gunawardhana, Rebecca Hyndman, Eileen Lin, Stephanie Pitts, Robert Wharton, Alison Yu and Emily Zhou**. And to **Milde Waterfall, Monica Russ, Elaine Tholen and Richard Campion**.

We hope to sponsor another B block mulch marathon, if the weather cooperates in January, to get the rest of the gardens mulched for winter. Watch the [Landscape Committee website](#) and the Intranet postings for up-to-date information.

We could not maintain the gardens at TJ without volunteer support. Many thanks to our dedicated student volunteers—they have done much of the work this year.

Weather may not permit working outdoors in January, but we will continue our horticultural pursuits during 8th period B block: from seminars on eco-savvy horticultural practices to fun projects involving food and “gifts” from our gardens.

Volunteer Corner

What a great way to start the New Year off right – volunteering at TJ! Eighth period is one of the opportunities that makes TJ so special. Featuring more than 165 clubs and 25 varsity sports, many 8th period activities can only be found at TJ due to its unique technical labs and the special nature of our school. As volunteers, we are integral to making 8th period a success. **Eighth period volunteers** are needed for Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. If you can help on any of these days, please contact Sherrie Burson at [sherrieb58 at gmail.com](mailto:sherrieb58@gmail.com) or (703) 506-1819. Thank you!

There are many, many other volunteer opportunities requiring as much or as little time as your schedule allows. **Please sign up online.** If you have any questions, you can

always reach your volunteer coordinators, Rajni Goel, Lakshmi Bala and Nancy Roodberg at [ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.volunteers@tjhsst.edu).

The **After-School Library Program** is still in need of volunteers. For information, please contact Gail Brodfuehrer at [GBrodfuehrer at verizon.net](mailto:GBrodfuehrer@verizon.net).

Student Services Corner

Welcome to the Student Services Corner, where we are trying something new this year. In an effort to provide pertinent and timely communications between the Department of Student Services (DSS) and the TJ parent community, the DSS and the PTSA are experimenting with some new communication channels and initiatives. We welcome your feedback as we fine tune this process.

(Note: Our goal is to have all of the following information readily available on the Student Services section of the TJHSST webpage. Please be patient with our efforts here.)

Communication Channels

First and foremost, **Brandon Kosatka**, the Director of Student Services, will be sending out an *eNewsletter* twice a quarter (about 8 times per year), around interims and at quarter ends, with important updates, event dates, information, and general advice about academic and college planning. This eNote, in conjunction with postings on the **Student Services' section of TJHSST's website**, will

replace the former “Guidelines” publication, which was distributed about 4 times per year. (You should already have received two of these eNotes, on October 14, 2011, and November 15, 2011, to your primary email address from the following email address: Brandon Kosatka<mailer@email.naviance.com>. If you did not receive these emails or other emails from your counselors, please contact Mr. Kosatka, and also check to make sure you are signed up on Blackboard. Blackboard is the channel that FCPS and the DSS use to communicate with parents through Blackboard’s link to Naviance/Family Connection.)

Second, check out the new and improved **calendar function** on TJHSST’s website by going to the home page and clicking on “Calendar” in the left column, or **click on this link to the TJ Calendar**. Here you will find almost everything going on at the school, from academic events, to athletic activities, to student services events. You can search by category or event.

Third, stay tuned for improvements in the **Student Services' section of the TJHSST website**, both in terms of content and navigation. We hope to announce these changes soon!

Click here to view the Student Services' webpage.

Click here to view the College and Career Center webpage.

Finally, we are hosting a *series of Coffees with the Director of Student Services* on a monthly basis, targeting different constituencies each month for an open dialogue about topics of interest. Signup is open to any parent on a first-come first-serve basis (limited to 8 parents per meeting), and is available at the PTSA meetings and through targeted email blasts. Mr. Kosatka will disseminate any relevant information and ideas exchanged during these meetings in his eNewsletter, so that the general parent public also will be aware of initiatives discussed.

Coffees with Class Parent Liaisons, Senior Parents and Freshman Parents have already been held. There will be a coffee for Junior Parents at a date to be determined in January. In addition, a “Money for College Night” presentation was held on December 7, 2011. See **Laurie Kobick** in the College and Career Center if you would like information about the presentation.

Upcoming Events - See the calendar for details:

- **Coffee with the Director of Student Services:** (for Junior Parents, at a date to be announced in January).
- **College Kickoff Night for Junior Parents** will be held on Thursday, January 12 from 4:00-9:00 p.m. Please look for your assigned time slot in an email from your counselor the first week of January.

- **Curriculum Night for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade parents** will be on Thursday, February 16 from 4:00-9:00 p.m.

Questions and feedback are welcome! Send an email to either Director of Student Services **Brandon Kosatka** (bpkosatka@fcps.edu) or PTSA Liaison Leslie Culman (ldupreeculman@aol.com).

Items of Immediate Interest

TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair

On Wednesday, February 8, TJ will hold the 2012 TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair, beginning after school and ending no later than 7:30 p.m. Traditionally, we have held our annual Science Fair on a Saturday, but this year we decided to schedule our fair mid-week due to weekend conflicts with other regional science competitions.

The fair will be open to the public from 3:10-3:50 p.m. (Period 8B) in TJ’s cafeteria. Visitors are invited to see the projects and talk to students about their research. While we welcome the public to this viewing, we wish everyone to be aware that parking and traffic around the school will be congested during this pre-dismissal time. Public viewing will close promptly at 3:50 p.m. to allow a break for competitors prior to the judging. Guests are also welcome to attend the Awards Ceremony, which will be held in the auditorium on Friday, February 10 from 2:20-3:50 p.m. (Periods 8A and 8B). In case inclement weather causes

closure of FCPS facilities on February 8, the fair will be held the following Saturday, February 11.

Parents who are interested in serving as judges for our fair are welcome to contact either **Susan Luxenberg** (susan.luxenberg@fcps.edu) or **Jane Curtis** (jane.curtis@fcps.edu) for further information. Judges will be asked to be available from 3:00-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8.

A number of award winners at the TJ fair will be selected to present their projects at the Regional Science and Engineering Fair, to be held at Robinson Secondary School from March 16-18. Students with first place awards at the Regional Fair have traditionally been invited to compete at the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair, to be held at Old Dominion University on April 6-7. Grand prize winners at the Regional and Virginia State Fairs will be invited to present their research at the International Science and Engineering Fair, to be held in Pittsburgh, PA, May 13-18. Student expenses for the international fair will be paid by the affiliated fairs.

International Night (I-Nite)

International Night, or I-Nite, is TJHSST’s annual celebration of the many cultures represented at our school. For those of you who have never attended, I-Nite is a colorful variety show consisting of about 25 performances of cultural dance and music. The acts are organized by TJ’s culture clubs, and the clubs also sell food in Gym 2 before the

show and during intermission. I-Nite has gotten bigger every year; to accommodate the growing audience, and for the first time ever, I-Nite has expanded to two nights this year. The dates are Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18. Both shows will be in the auditorium, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending around 10:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale in the cafeteria, during lunch the week of the show. Based on last year's turnout, we expect to sell out both shows during lunch. [Click here for information and updates.](#)

Free Money \$\$\$



Please remember to 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).



Thank you to all who have signed up for the grocery and Target Rewards programs. Through November, TJ has earned over \$4500! If you have not signed up yet, it is not too late. Make it a New Year's Resolution to sign up now!

- **Giant A+ Bonus Bucks** runs through the end of March. [Click here to sign up.](#) Use **School Id 02307.**
- **Harris Teeter in Education Program** ends at the end of May. [Click here to sign up.](#) Use **School Id 5534.**
- **Safeway** shoppers can sign up at <http://escrip.com>.
- **Target Redcard** members can save 5% on their purchases and earn 1% for TJ. [Click here to sign up.](#) Use **School Id 119746.**

Both Target and Safeway/escrip are year-round programs. For more information, [go to the TJPTSA website](#) or contact Stamo Georgiou at [stamog1 at gmail.com](mailto:stamog1@gmail.com) or Vince Wang at [vincep.wang at gmail.com](mailto:vincep.wang@gmail.com).

All Night Graduation Party (ANGP)

TICKETS!

Does your child already have an ANGP ticket? Historically, about 95% of graduates attend. **Tickets will not be sold at the door!** Tickets cost \$100 now – but will increase to \$125 after Senior Night on January 18, 2012. The ticket price includes unlimited activities, food and refreshments, an engraved Jefferson cup, a gift from the “store,” and, above all, a great time with 400 of your closest friends! No real money is required once inside.

Ticket order forms are available on [the ANGP Website](#), at the Front Office, or follow us on Facebook/TJ ANGP 2012.

No student will be denied a ticket due to financial hardship. If funding is a consideration, contact your guidance counselor, who will arrange for your student's ticket.

DONATE!

Honor your student as a member of the Class of 2012 with a donation to ANGP and include a personal dedication. All donations are tax-deductible and go directly to defray the costs of the party. We are hoping to receive 100% participation from the families of the Class of 2012!

All donations will be recognized on the ANGP 2012 website under Donor Recognition and on the Donor Wall at the ANGP in June.

- [Click here to make an online donation.](#) (Scroll down to ANGP Donations.)
- [Click here to make a donation using a check or cash, or to make any other donation.](#)

VOLUNTEER!

WE NEED YOU! [Sign up online now](#) to get your first choice of jobs and shifts. Senior parents are **STRONGLY** encouraged to help. It's FUN, so don't be left out! Jobs range from: Activities, Casino, Concierge, Decorations, Food, Security, Store/Raffle, and Wrap-up. There's something for everyone to do!

Volunteering to work ANGP is the **ONLY** way parents will be allowed to participate!

Student Government Association

December kept us busy. First, we hosted Winter Chill-Out on December 21. Over 200 students ate food sold by class governments, relaxed, and hung out with friends during the last 8th period block before the break. We also planned the Winter Sports Pep Rally, which takes place on January 9. The pep rally culminates in a teacher-student dance-off, where students chosen from the crowd are paired up with teachers and each pair tries to advance to the next round.

Finally, we began planning for Service Week. Service Week is a school-wide event where each club will have the opportunity to host a service event or collection of some sort. This year, Service Week will kick off during I-Nite on February 17 and conclude on February 27. We are excited to announce that we will be providing \$200 grants to two clubs that come up with the most beneficial Service Week idea. We look forward to hearing some great ideas from clubs!

Academic News

Spanish News

Spanish Honor Society has been very busy preparing gifts for two needy families from

Holmes Middle School. Our students are doing an outstanding job with peer tutoring during 8th periods and during JLC. On December 21 we had our own little fiesta and then sang carols to the dedicated office staff.

Class News

2012 – Seniors

Happy New Year! We have Senior Parent Night scheduled on Wednesday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the TJ auditorium. A representative from Balfour will be there to help with placing orders for graduation announcements, as well as other merchandise. Additionally, PTSA representatives will be available for All-Night Grad Party ticket sales, and there will be some general announcements from the class sponsors and/or Student Services regarding other things you can expect during the second semester of senior year. The cost for graduation cap and gown is \$25 and you can pay your student's fee at Senior Parent Night.

~~ Ann Nguyen ([ann.h.l.nguyen at cox.net](mailto:ann.h.l.nguyen@cox.net))

~~ Janet Tasker ([jtasker at cox.net](mailto:jtasker@cox.net))

PTSA Class of 2012 Representatives

2013 - Juniors

Welcome back Class of 2013! We hope you had a relaxing and restful winter break. Our students will no doubt hit the ground running this month with a final push to complete the 2nd

quarter. Encourage them to stay “on track” during the 3rd quarter. The 4th quarter will be here before we know it and it will be filled with spring sports and AP testing. There are several upcoming events to tell you about and some important volunteer opportunities.

On **January 14** the class will again sponsor the Kaplan SAT practice exam. The test is open to all TJ students, their siblings and high school students from other schools. The cost is \$20. A sign-up sheet is attached to the back of this Techcetera. Kaplan will hold a review session to go over the test results on **January 24**. On Friday evening, January 20, the Class of 2013 will sponsor our final soc hop for the year. We will need several volunteers to be chaperones, so please email us if you can help out.

Preparations are underway for the Class of 2012 **All Night Grad Party** (ANGP) and literally hundreds of volunteers are needed to make the event successful. Many of the volunteers will be underclassman parents; because our class will be leading the ANGP effort next year, **NOW** is the time to consider taking on a “shadowing” volunteer role. This year's ANGP committee is looking for junior parents in particular to fill some key positions. Please take a look at [the ANGP Website](#) to sign up, and consider attending a meeting on January 5 or February 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the library (just before the PTSA meeting) to learn more.

The 2nd Annual TJ PiMiler, sponsored by the Class of 2013 and the Class of 2015, will be held on Saturday, **March 24, 2012**. Registration is \$25 and includes a t-shirt. Sign

up at PiMiler.com. Please consider a donation or a sponsorship of this fun community and school event. We will also need a host of volunteers on race day, so watch this space for further details.

As always, please feel free to contact either of us should you have any questions.

~~ Yun Pang ([yunjungp0201 at gmail.com](mailto:yunjungp0201@gmail.com));
(703) 573-0882

~~ Pam Cooper ([cooperlaw at verizon.net](mailto:cooperlaw@verizon.net));
(703) 450-0321

PTSA Class of 2013 Representatives

2014 – Sophomores

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing time with family and friends.

The Class Council has exciting events planned in the next couple of months. First up, they will revive a dormant tradition and host a winter formal at TJ. *A Night in Paris* will be held on **Saturday, February 25** from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets will be \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and will be available starting February 1, 2012. Asking Week will be February 13-17. Of course, all of this means we will need you – our dependable **Volunteers!** Since this is a formal affair, we will have a coat check in the auditorium. We'll need about 30 volunteers in the auditorium, and we'll also need 10-15 chaperones in the gym and around the building. If you are interested, please contact Anita Rezazad at [arezazad at orchidtech.net](mailto:arezazad@orchidtech.net).

Show your Class of 2014 Pride! In December, the class council sold Spirit Packs of sweat shirts and sweat pants, and they do have a few extras available. Email **Christine Mayuga**, [queenstine123 at gmail.com](mailto:queenstine123@gmail.com), to place an order. You can also email Christine if you need any more TJ grocery bags – at 3/\$10, they are great to have on hand for last minute gifts.

Our auction will be held online this year and the class is seeking donations to auction. Please contact [tjclassof2014 at gmail.com](mailto:tjclassof2014@gmail.com) if you have any items to donate – sports or event tickets, vacation home stays, gift baskets, tutoring, sharing of a special talent – use your creativity! Watch for an email from the class council soon.

Hope your 2012 is off to a wonderful start!

Please feel free to contact us at any time.

~~Amy Shaw ([wyoamy at gmail.com](mailto:wyoamy@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

News Round-up and Awards

TJHSST Students Named National Hispanic Scholars

The following students have been named National Hispanic Scholars: **Nick Arango; Joshua Baquedano; Saul De la Barra; Nicole Gonzalez; Daniel Mares-Zarate; Stephanie Melendez Ramirez; Katherine Morley; Alec Powell; Sarah Sam; and Thomas Tapen.** Congratulations to all!

tjTODAY a Finalist for the 2012 CSPA Crown Award

Congratulations to tjTODAY, a finalist for the 2012 CSPA Crown Award. Jefferson was one of only two schools in the Commonwealth to garner finalist status. A total of 1,351 newspapers published during the 2010-2011 academic year were eligible for judging in the 2012 Crown Awards Program. Only 40 were chosen as finalists. Scholastic Crown Award finalists will be presented with either a Gold or Silver Crown Award during CSPA's **88th Annual Convention**, held from March 14-16, 2012 at Columbia University.

TJ Student Wins Piano Competition

Congratulations to **Rachel Chon** (2015), the alternate State winner at the MTNA-Kawai Junior Performance competition, a piano competition sponsored by the Music Teachers National Association. The competition took place on October 28 at Virginia Commonwealth University. [Click here for more information about the competition.](#)

TJHSST Partnership Fund

In 2012 TJ Needs You More Than Ever

DURING THIS SEASON OF RESOLUTIONS, PLEASE MAKE TJ A PRIORITY: The TJ Partnership Fund is asking for your voluntary contribution to support the School. Your funds provide the tools that TJ students use to develop the skills that will allow them to change the world. Donations are not keeping pace with last year, yet the School is counting on our support. Let's do everything we can to get TJ what it needs to provide the best education for our students. Please write your check to the Year-End Appeal today . . . or donate online at www.tjpartnershipfund.org.

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE PARENTS: GIVE NOW AND AVOID THAT PHONE CALL. At the end of February, Phonathon volunteers will be calling EVERY freshman and sophomore parent who has not contributed to the Partnership Fund this school year. Help shrink our Phonathon call list. Avoid the call and the follow-up email. You know you want to help keep TJ as strong as it can be, so please write your check to the Year-End Appeal today ...or donate online at www.tjpartnershipfund.org.



Chris Rom (TJ '12) discusses his senior research project and his future plans with Battelle CEO, Dr. Jeffrey Wadsworth. Battelle is the world's largest research and development organization. Senior executives from both Battelle's Columbus headquarters and their local office spent two hours in the Optics & Modern Physics, Biotechnology and Energy Systems Labs on December 15th, speaking with students about their projects and learning from Lab Directors about the labs' needs.

ONE MORE TIME FOR GOOD MEASURE: Anecdotal reports have confirmed that coffee tastes better from a TJ mug and cars with TJ bumper magnets get better parking spots. Take advantage of our incentive gift opportunities by writing your check to the Year-End Appeal today or donating online at www.tjpartnershipfund.org.

Thank you for all you do to help TJ provide OUR kids with the BEST OPPORTUNITIES, EQUIPMENT, FACULTY AND SUPPORT!

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters



Academic Boosters welcome TJ Academic Teams' leaders, part 3

The November Tech cetera provided information on the student leadership for 2011-2012 for Chess, Forensic Speech, Future Problem Solvers, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Quiz Bowl, and the Varsity Math Team.

The December Tech cetera supplemented this list with information on Certamen, Model United Nations (MUN), NASA Student Launch Initiative (SLI), Rubik's Cube, and Team American Rocketry Challenge (TARC).

Below is the information we've received this month. We hope to share information on the remaining teams next month.

*We encourage you to join the TJ Academic Boosters to support these terrific teams. It's easy to **join the Academic Boosters by downloading the membership form or joining online.** Your contributions are likely to be tax-deductible, and may be eligible for matching funds from your employer.*

Chemistry Team

Co-captains: **James Bradbury** and **Wooram (Chris) Seok**

Teaching Coordinators: **Victor Shao** and **Raynor Kuang**

Activity Managers: **Stefanie van Rafelghem** and **Peter Shao**

Webmaster: **Zeming Lin**

Policy Debate

Co-captains: **John Chae** and **George Liang**

Teaching Coordinators: **Nick Kim** and **Rishi Khanna**

Treasurer: **Yana Kaplun**

Webmaster: **Jake Shields**

Publicist: **Katherine Lee**

Research Director: **Peter Ahnn**

NEWS ABOUT TJ ACADEMIC TEAMS

Model United Nations (MUN) team dominates Prince William Model United Nations conference

The Model United Nations team continued its success, bringing back numerous awards from their most recent conference. TJ won the top award for teams representing large schools. In addition, numerous delegations also won awards:

School Award

TJ - Secretary General Award for Large School

Individual Awards

Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural (SOCHUM)

Gavel - **Aidan Hennessey-Niland** and **Azeez Abdikarim** (Portugal)

Outstanding - **Iman Abdikarim** and **Arusha Reghu** (India)

Outstanding - **Sreya Atluri** and **Paris Mitzelfeld** (France)

Verbal- **Nathaniel Taylor** and **Vikram Sardana** (Hungary)

United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)

Outstanding - **Jason Kim** and **Saad Guliwala** (Peru)

Outstanding - **Nishant Garg** and **Wills Johnston** (France)

Outstanding - **Parth Chopra** and **Rishabh Masmudar** (Portugal)

Honorable - **Yena Seo** and **Jay Herbert** (Republic of the Congo)

Honorable - **Aishwarya Nugooru** and **Becca Merriman-Goldring** (Guatemala)

UN Forum on Forests

Oustanding - **Connor Hennessey-Niland** and **Varun Jain** (France)

Honorable - **Rahul Ramraj** and **Jay Devanathan** (Dominican Republic)

Verbal - **Kyle Angelotti** and **Zach Moser** (Spain)

Verbal - **Hari Sridhar** and **Thomas Hillenbrand** (Malaysia)

OPEC

Gavel - **Saniya Suri** and **Kevin Cao** (Qatar)

Cold War

Verbal - **Rachel Merriman-Goldring** and **Garrett Shapiro** (France)

Holocaust and UN Outreach

Gavel - **Chris Groskaufmanis** and **Michelle Wang** (Italy)

Historical African Union (pre-2001)

Gavel - **Allen Shi** and **Sarah Rachal** (Lesotho)

Outstanding - **Ashley Hwang** and **Jihun Kim** (Gambia)

Honorable - **Carrie Murton** and **Niharika Dar** (Liberia)

Verbal - **Sage Teasley** and **Hannah North** (Senegal)

Avatar-Earth, Water, Air

Gavel - **Daniel Shanker** (Long Fen)

Avatar-Fire Nation

Gavel - **Naveed Mostaghimi** (Fire Navy Officer)

Honorable - **Brendan Kim** (Ty Lee)

Tribunal Courts of Cambodia

Outstanding - **Carson Hotard** (Judge Thou Mony)

Unification of Italy

Gavel - **Collin Jones** (Talleyrand)

Lincoln-Douglas Debate produces impressive results at WACFL 3

Varsity Lincoln-Douglas debaters were extremely successful at WACFL 3, with three debaters among the top six in the competition. **Nancy Ding** took second place, **Kunal Khurana** took third, and **Tushar Kamath** finished fourth.

In JV, **Vashali Jain** took the sixth-place slot. This was quite an achievement, since the JV field was unusually crowded, with 99 competitors!

In novice, with another crowded field, **Jessica Guo** took sixth place.

All of these competitors have now qualified for the regional Metrofinals tournament in March. (Metrofinals determines which students go on to Nationals.) In addition, **James Wang** and **Neeraj Gandhi** qualified for Metrofinals based on their cumulative win-loss records at this tournament and a previous tournament.

Policy Debate achieves success at JMU tournament

Policy Debate has had an extremely successful start to the school year. The team's most recent tournament was at James Madison University:

Varsity Division

Three of our four teams were in the top nine of 22 Varsity teams competing: **Richard Wang** and **David Gao** were 4-2 in preliminary rounds; **Nick Kim** and **Rishi Khanna** were 4-2 in preliminary rounds and went to quarterfinals; **Sam Luo** and **Peter Ahnn** were 5-1 in preliminary rounds and went to semifinals, earning a top 4 finish.

Novice Division

Overall top individual speaker scores were from TJ: **Kendra Song** - 1st place; **Joyce Choi** - 2nd place.

All of the TJ novice teams made it into the semifinals (top 4) out of 25 total teams:

Jessica Kim and **Jeong-In Seo**
Jessica Hu and **Kendra Song**
Joyce Choi and **Jessica Covan**

Joyce Choi and Jessica Covan competed in the championship round!

Policy Debate also produces impressive local (WACFL) results

In the most recent local tournament (WACFL 3), the team had several impressive finishes, including:

Varsity

4th place: **John Chae** and **Nick Kim** [3-1]
Additional Qualifiers (AQ): **David Gao** and **Richard Wang** (7th place) [3-1]

JV

1st place: **Ben Hsu** and **Daniel Wang** [4-0]
2nd place: **Sravani Korupolu** and **Katherine Sizov** [4-0]

Top JV Speakers

1st: **Katherine Sizov**
2nd: **Ben Hsu**
3rd: **Daniel Wang**

Novice

Top Novice Speaker
1st: **Lucas Lin**

WACFL 2 results included:

JV

1st place: **Richard Wang** and **Peyton Randolph**
4th place: **Jamie Kim** and **Yana Kaplun**
Top JV Speaker
1st place: **Richard Wang**

Novice

6th place: **Kendra Song** and **Joyce Choi**

At WACFL 1, Varsity Policy debaters fared particularly well:

Varsity

5th place: **Nick Kim** and **Rishi Khanna** [3-1]
6th place: **Richard Wang** and **Avinash Ramesh** [3-1]

Public Forum

Public Forum sent a record number of teams to WACFL 3. Nearly 30 TJ Public Forum teams competed, with 10 teams featuring novice debaters. Here are the highlights:

Varsity

Carrie Sun and **Saloni Chaswal**: 3-1; 4th place; full qualification to Metrofinals in spring 2012
Aileen Huang and **Kevin Cao**: 3-1; half qualification to Metrofinals

Junior Varsity

Eric Xie and **Ellen Kim**: 4-0; 5th place; full qualification to Metrofinals
Kyle Angelotti and **Karen Clark**: 3-1; half qualification to Metrofinals

Mya Abousy and Nathan Dass: 3-1; second half qualification to Metrofinals - now fully qualified for Metrofinals

Tahmina Achekzai and Amani Farooque: 3-1; second half qualification to Metrofinals - now fully qualified for Metrofinals

Colonial Athletic Boosters (CAB)

www.colonialathletics.org

The winter sports season has gotten off to a great start, with many enthusiastic fans supporting our student-athletes! Remember, the indoor concession stand is open during home events, so please come cheer, eat and enjoy! For individual team schedules, go to www.colonialathletics.org.

Thanks to all the parents who attended the CAB-sponsored Food Safety Workshop, conducted by the Fairfax County Health Dept. on December 14. We all learned a great deal about food handling and preparation. Many new suggestions and ideas will be implemented at our Indoor and Outdoor Concessions stands!

DON'T FORGET THE WINTER MEMBERSHIP CONTEST! The new season brings a new opportunity for each team to sign up new CAB members, and compete to win funds for their coach to buy equipment and/or supplies to help bring home the championship!

UPDATED CONTEST RULES (effective Winter 2011-12): First place of \$500 is awarded to the first team to achieve a 90%

membership level (50% for teams with more than 50 players/members); Second place of \$200 is awarded to the second team to achieve a 90% membership (50% for teams with more than 50 players/members). Team managers are included in the calculation if the coach lists them on the roster.

We need volunteers! Remember that we need many people to make our sports program successful: concessions (100% profits to athletics), ticket sales, announcing, merchandise sales, etc. ***So please respond when your team liaison comes calling!*** To learn other ways that you can help, please contact your individual team liaison or CAB Liaison Coordinator Michelle Engler ([englermd at gmail.com](mailto:englermd@gmail.com)).

And now for the team news...

Boys Varsity Basketball: TJ's Boys Varsity Team has begun its season with a sound start. They won their first three games, displaying a strong work ethic and cohesive team spirit. The last of these three wins was a nail-biter overtime contest against Falls Church. It was a home game with a very enthusiastic crowd. **David Rice** was instrumental in securing this victory, but the joy of this team is that the bench is very deep and allows **Coach Gray-Mendes** great flexibility.

The last two games have been disappointing losses. In the game against Langley, **Joe Nissen** tapped the tip-off to **Marcus Prater** and the Colonials sped off to take the lead. **David Rice** tied it up with a three pointer with two minutes to go. **Marcus Prater** then stole

the ball with 1:28 to go and drove down the court to put the Colonials ahead 14-12. Langley tried to run down the clock, but **Burke Deutsch** stole the ball, ending the first quarter. In the second quarter, **Mike Taylor, Samy Singh** and **Joe Nissen** kept the Saxons at bay, and at halftime the Colonials were ahead. However, in the third quarter, Langley came out with a strong defense, and by the fourth quarter, the Colonials' early lead had diminished to a 58 to 42 loss.

In the game against Chantilly a combination of factors led to another disappointing loss, but the Colonials played strong. **Richard Kuzma** was the high scorer of the game.

We encourage you to come watch a game! Not only is the action on the court exciting, but the enthusiastic students in the stands keep you smiling long after the game has ended.



Boys Varsity Basketball Team

Boys JV Basketball: The Boys Junior Varsity basketball team had a strong opening this season. The players are in great shape, with all the conditioning and practice they have been

doing since before the season started this fall. Most of the team rose a level up from their Freshman experience of last year, adding in just three new players, **Ryan Morris** and **Seth Jaffe** (both freshmen) and **Suddy Sriram** (sophomore).

The boys are on a 2-1 roll so far. The first game was a win against Stuart High (65-40), and the second a win against Langley High with a score of 46-34. During both of these games, the boys started strong and maintained pressure on the defending team and displayed teamwork and focus.

The team lost to Chantilly High (41-61), despite continuous effort and a very good defense. The opponents were strong and the score was narrow up until half time. The boys continued to defend and drive the ball with every opportunity, but lost ground to the opponents' three point shots.

The team is in good shape, and the spirit in them is tangible as they show maturity and cohesiveness while playing this early in the season.



Boys JV Basketball Team

Boys Freshman Basketball: We are starting out this 2011-12 season with an excited and enthusiastic set of freshmen who bring a variety of skills to the team. The remarkably tall front line, consisting of **Matthew Alexander**, **Neway Araya**, **Sharan Arkalgud**, **Nikhil Gupta** and **Nick Zugris**, has been a key part in **Coach Jeff Clubb's** campaign in his second season (his first full season as head coach of the freshman team). All of the post players are very close to or above six feet. It is always a tough task for the opposing team to match up to the incredible height of this team.

Moving to the backcourt, we have **Parth Desai**, **Addison Dunn**, **Henry Ellis**, **Sam Morris** and **Sam Veroneau**, along with **Sean Lee**, **Eric McCord-Snook** and **Dilip Thiagarajan** playing the wings in the frontcourt. The speedy guards are versatile players, penetrating in the paint and furthering their range to beyond the three point line, making the job of defending them a much harder task. **Al Ahmed** has graciously taken the job of Student Manager for this freshmen basketball team and helps the coach and students with various administrative tasks.

The season has started off with a couple of very close losses. The first game was played against Stuart High, when our boys maintained an even score throughout the game, narrowly losing in the last quarter by 7 points, where the backcourt played a significant role on defense to keep Stuart at bay. The second game was played against Langley High and our boys played hard, taking advantage of the height of the frontcourt, but lost it in the fourth quarter, the final score being 46-56. However, the

focus shown by the team in the first half was a large improvement from the previous game. We look forward to a great fun-filled basketball season.



Boys Freshman Basketball Team

Girls Varsity Basketball: The Girls Varsity Basketball team has gotten off to a very busy start! For example, they participated in the Arthur Turner Memorial Tip Off Tournament in early December. In addition to their regular season games, during the holiday break in the last week of December, the team participated in the Pohanka Chantilly Classic Basketball Tournament.



Girls Varsity Basketball Team

Center **Minh Bui**'s dad, Hung Bui, has been taking some amazing pictures of all the basketball action. [Click here to go to the team website for some excellent action shots.](#)

Girls JV Basketball: After an impressive and spirited pre-season of three solid wins against St. Stephens and St. Agnes (27-20), Wakefield (44-8), and Stuart (26-21), the Girls JV Team last week faced two of the toughest teams in the league, Langley and Chantilly, without the support of their strong center, **Rachel Iwicki**, who has been on injured reserve for the past two weeks. Langley and Chantilly, with substantial height advantage and quick, flexible team play, dominated the boards and ball possession in both games, and emerged victorious, 58-13 and 44-15, respectively.

After the loss to Langley, **Coach Melody Cook** and the girls dramatically adapted their offense with Chantilly three days later, and while rebounds were still a challenge, they moved the ball beautifully, with quick, short passes to get the ball inside to an open player or kick it out for an open shot from the baseline or just inside the three-point line. They are playing an aggressive, high tempo game with an effective full-court, man-to-man press, lots of ball-stripping and intercepted passes, especially by speedster co-captains **Tessa Muss** and **Isabelle Walton**, often leading to easy fast breaks. The strongest shooting so far has come from **Quinnlan Sweeney**, who seems to be able to hit from just about anywhere, **Maddy Naide**, who is playing a very effective inside short game against taller players, and **Michelle Namkung**, who drives the baseline with aplomb. **Anna Seo** and **Carolyn Ours** have

added their effective inside shooting and have pulled down key rebounds. **Irene Hwang**, **Maria Kim**, **Katie Cox** and **Somya Shankar** have all contributed solid performances when they come in to energize their teammates.

The team is impressive for their spirit and tenacity, their ability to move the ball to the open shooter, and strong defensive pressure, forcing opposition turnovers. They are gelling well after a relatively short time together, and the team looks forward to the return of center Rachel Iwicki.

Girls Freshman Basketball: Head Coach Jim Wilcox feels his 2011-2012 edition of the TJ Girls Basketball Team can follow in the footsteps of his 2010-2011 squad. Last year's team defeated Fairfax, had impressive wins at Madison and Annandale, and swept Marshall. This year's team is led by tri-captains **Kayleigh Vance**, **Tara Abrishami** and **Carly Springer**. Forwards **Rhea Sharma**, **Teja Sathi** and **Claire Murphy** form an imposing presence under the basket, and guards **Samantha Lek**, **Sam Cadd** and **Emily Rogers** are providing points from the perimeter. Forwards **Shani Cave** and **Hannah Wied** give the Lady Colonials a combination of speed and power, and guards **Sage Teasley** and **Mikaela Ruiz-Ramon** show promise on both sides of the court.

A decisive victory in a scrimmage at Dominion and a regular season win against Stuart have the girls off to a great start. The girls are looking forward to the challenges that face them in the Liberty District in 2012.



Girls Freshman Basketball Team

Varsity Dance: The Dance Team competed at the 2011 George Mason Dance Team Invitational on December 11. Twenty local dance teams were part of the annual competition. TJ Dance performed well, placing fifth in jazz (a three place improvement since the November competition), sixth in pom, and fifth in kick. The Dance Team captains, **Amelia Dahl**, **Yasmine McBride**, **Sydney Ulrich-Dogunniuck** and **Stephanie Levin** performed a new routine in the Officer Competition. Dancing in the soloist category were Stephanie Levin, Yasmine McBride and **Lindsay Williams**.



Varsity Dance Team

The team's next competition is scheduled for West Springfield High School on January 22, 2012.

Gymnastics: The team placed 5th in the first meet of the season at Lake Braddock, defeating sixth-place Annandale. Highlights included junior **Caroline Kerr** finishing 4th in all-around with a 33.1, tied for 2nd on floor and 5th on vault; and fellow junior **Jasmine Denizard** finishing tied for 5th in all-around and 3rd on beam. Competing in vault, bars, and beam was senior **Kristen Skowronski**. Kristen had a strong start to the season in her first gymnastics meet ever. Competing on vault, bars, and beam was junior **Jennifer Wang**, on beam was junior **Zophie Quan**, and on beam and floor was freshman **Tahia Emran**.

The team also competed on Tuesday, December 13 in their home meet. The team improved their team score and placed 3rd out of six teams, led by junior Jasmine Denizard in 3rd all around and junior Caroline Kerr in 5th all around. Coaches this year are **Pete Novgrod**, **Christina Jones**, **Brad Wasserman** and **Melanie Hunt**. The team anticipates more of its gymnasts entering competitions as they develop skills and learn routines.

The next meet is a home meet and Senior Night, and is on Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Gym 2.



Girls Gymnastics

Swim and Dive: Mid-way through the dual meet season, the TJ swim and dive teams each have 3 wins to one loss. The season has been marked by intense competition – including 3 tie races in our last two meets – a rarity in a sport where results are measured in hundredths of a second.

Against Marshall, the girls won 10 of 12 events, and swept five. The boys won nine events, including sweeps in three. The boys' 200 FR Relay of **Luke Thorsell**, **Miles Oakley**, and **Stephen** and **Andrew Seliskar** made the cut for the State Championship meet, as did the 200 Medley Relay of **Reese Frerichs**, Thorsell and the Seliskars. The following week against Stone Bridge, the boys swept three events and the girls swept four swim events, plus diving.

The boys' meet against McLean was faaaast. Stephen Seliskar broke the team record in 100 Backstroke – shaving more than half a second from a record that had stood since 1998! He also swam a Regional cut in the 100 FR. Andrew Seliskar swam Regional cuts in both

the 500 FR and the 50 FR. Andrew is within a whisper of the school record in the 50 FR.

Despite a close loss to McLean, the girls had numerous Regional-qualifying performances, including diver **Emily Saitta**, and **Katie Bennett** in the 200 IM and 100 Backstroke. The girls 200 Medley Relay and 200 Free Relay also swam Regional cuts.

Against Madison, **Nathan Hughes** grabbed a Regional cut time in the 100 Free. The Boys 400 Free Relay of Hughes, Thorsell and the Seliskars got their state cut time. Freshmen really stepped it up, with Andrew Seliskar swimming State cuts in both the 200 IM and 100 Breast, Luke Thorsell a Regional cut in the 500 Free, and **Carrie Heilbrun** a Regional Cut in the 100 Fly. Junior **Sarah Liu** swam a Regional cut in 100 Breast.



Andrew Seliskar Miles Oakley Katie Bennett



Sarah Liu Carrie Heilbrun Aedan Collins

Is the secret to our success something in the water? Is it new **Swim Coach Ian Handerhan** and **Dive Coaches Charlotte Edwards** and **Hannah Mendelson**? Maybe all those siblings on the team? Come out and see for yourself –

our season continues on January 6, with a meet against South Lakes High School.



Swim and Dive Teams huddle for a team cheer.



Swim and Dive Teams Seniors

Indoor Track: TJ's Indoor Track team is off and running (and jumping, and throwing). At the PR Holiday Invitational, **Ed Cai** won the 55 meter high hurdles, defeating a field of over 50 other hurdlers, and **Raeford Penny** was 10th in a field of 75 runners for the 500 meter dash. **Andrew O'Shea** also finished 10th, of 60 runners, in the 3200 meter race, and **Michael Wattendorf** took 17th place (of 87 finishers) in the 1600 meter run. In the Girls' competitions, **Katherine Sheridan** placed 3rd and **Grace Zeng** placed 6th, in a field of 45 runners for the

3200 meter race. **Sarah Nielsen** was 9th of 73 runners in the 1600 meter run, and **Cheyenne Rivera** was 15th of 75 runners in the 500 meter dash. **Lizzie Miranda** placed 5th in Pole Vault, and **Tania Ermak** was 16th in the Long Jump.

The team congratulates **Katherine Sheridan**, who was recently recognized with an Honorable Mention in the Washington Post's All-Metropolitan Cross-Country listing.

Indoor Track families are encouraged to join the Colonial Athletic Boosters, via their online registration site (www.colonialathletics.org, click on the Boosters Membership tab at the top of the page). Also, if you would like to be added to the Indoor Track news and newsletter distribution, please send an email to [TJRunLiaisons at gmail.com](mailto:TJRunLiaisons@gmail.com).



Katherine Sheridan coming on strong as she passes a runner in the 3200 meter race.

Varsity Wrestling: The team is off to a terrific start this season under the steady hands of **Head Coach Clint Behling** and **Assistant Coach James Pilkington**, including strong

showings at the Chantilly, NOVA Classic, and Raider Classic tournaments. Three TJ wrestlers won titles at Chantilly on December 3, including senior co-captain **Peter Reischer**, juniors **Paul Bentz**, and co-captain **Patrick O'Connor**. **Giovanni Basurto**, **Peter Sulucz** and **Alex Zaita** also placed.

The NOVA Classic was a two-day, double elimination event held December 9-10 that featured 32 teams. **Andy Loh** notched his first varsity win at 132 lbs, and TJ advanced three wrestlers to the second day, led by seniors Alex Zaita, Peter Reischer, and junior Patrick O'Connor. Congratulations to O'Connor, who went 5-0, taking 1st place at 195 lbs (first TJ champion in 10 yrs), and Zaita who took 8th place at 138 lbs. TJ finished 24th overall.

On December 17, 13 wrestlers contributed to the team score, earning 3rd overall at the eight-team Raider Classic. **Charlie Maier** started the scoring with an inspiring pin at 106 lbs. **Vincent Billet** followed with his first varsity win at 113lbs, and Giovanni Basurto (285) gutted out a tough 2-0 win in the first round. Seven wrestlers placed, including 4th place honors by Zaita (138), **Paul Wolfteich** (145), **Peter Sulucz** (160), **Skyler Anderson** (170) and champions Bentz (182), O'Connor (195), and Reischer (220).

Wrestling will have TWO home meets this season, on January 4th against Fairfax/Marshall, and Senior Night on January 18th against Edison/Falls Church. Come out and catch your TJ grapplers in action!!

(photos on next page)



Patrick O'Connor at the Raider Classic.



Peter Reischer at the Raider Classic.

JV Wrestling: The team has competed in three JV Jamborees this season, enjoying significant success as they sharpen their skills. The team will compete in several more jamborees in preparation for JV District competition on January 24th at Madison HS. A few highlights include great matches by first year wrestlers, juniors **Daniel Min** and **Ben Hatanpää**, and sophomores **Vishal Talasani** and **Ramanan Ramesh**.

Crew Boosters

TJ Crew winter conditioning is in full swing in the TJ Cafeteria every day after school. We have a committed group of 75 kids preparing for the spring rowing season. It's hard to believe, but we'll be on the water in less than 50 days!

Please remember to register online at <http://www.tjcrew.org/join>. Registration must be complete before the Parent Information Meeting on February 1. This mandatory meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

TJ Crew's Annual Million Meter Ergathon will take place on Friday, February 10 in the TJ Cafeteria. To support the fundraiser, each rower will receive a prospective donor form during the first week of January, which they will need to turn in to their Team Captains by Monday, January 9. Please support TJ Crew and sponsor a rower!

TJ Crew members continue to make news nationally and internationally. **Colleen Maher**, **Erin Slatery**, and **Emory Ruscus** attended US Rowing Jr. Team high performance camps the weekend of December 10. This is a step towards selection for the Junior National Team. TJ Alumni **Will Zeng** (2007) is a contender for a seat in the Oxford University crew to compete in the Oxford-Cambridge boat race in spring 2012. In addition, TJ Alumni **Ty Otto** (2007) placed 3rd in the US Nationals Team pair speed order trials and has been invited to the Olympic Training Camp.

Orchestra Boosters

Ring in the New Year by celebrating at the Viennese Ball! Don't miss the TJ Orchestra event of the year on Friday, January 6, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.! Come waltz the night away and enjoy delicious food in the TJ cafeteria turned winter wonderland! Tickets are \$12 presale Monday through Friday and \$15 at the door.

Orchestra Parents--[please click here to sign up to help](#) or contact Laurie Meyers ([amevers1 at cox.net](mailto:amevers1@cox.net)) or Bonhee Ku ([bonhee3 at yahoo.com](mailto:bonhee3@yahoo.com)). It's an event you won't want to miss! Thanks to all who helped with the Winter Concert and reception. Boosters were pleased to represent Boosters past and present when they presented **Ms. Bailey** with three new cellos and two bows to replace worn out practice instruments.

Questions? Please contact Barbara Steele at [jbstele5 at verizon.net](mailto:jbstele5@verizon.net).

Announcements and Information

tjSTAR: New Look, New Site



Call for Speakers

Thanks to the outreach of our hardworking students, the tjSTAR Committee has confirmed 30 external guests for this year's tjSTAR, a day-long, school-wide research symposium held at TJHSST on

May 30, 2012. To provide the best schedule possible, we need 50 more STEM professionals to participate as speakers, panelists and demo providers during a choice of presentation blocks that last from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If you can recommend anyone that would be a great fit for tjSTAR, please let us know by contacting [tjstarcommittee at gmail.com](mailto:tjstarcommittee@gmail.com) or calling (703) 750-8339.

Also, please visit bit.ly/tjstar for the latest updates and news. Thanks for your support!

TJeCycling Collection Program Starts Again

The TJeCycling Program is up and running again for the new school year. Last year, TJeCycling collected more than **1000** pounds

of old electronics and disposed of them properly through the Fairfax County Electronic Sunday Program. Stop letting your old electronics take up space in your house. Please don't throw them away with your household trash. Old cell phones, computers, keyboards, radios, etc. can contain precious metals that are harmful to the environment. TJeCycling will once again work with Fairfax County to recycle these electronic items to keep the harmful materials out of the landfills. Please email [tjecycle at gmail.com](mailto:tjecycle@gmail.com) or contact **Michael Cooper** at (703) 450-0321 with questions and for information on drop off sites at TJ. Be kind to the planet and eCycle!

Useful Links

TJHSST Home Page: www.tjhsst.edu/

TJ PTSA website:

www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsa

TJ PTSA President: Denise Bunting

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

Vice President: Celeste Fritzson

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

Vice President: Amy Shaw

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

Treasurer: Frances Kim

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

Recording Secretary: Sara Schneider

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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://www.tjcrew.org/>

Orchestra Boosters:

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

Theatre Boosters:

www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/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/schlbd

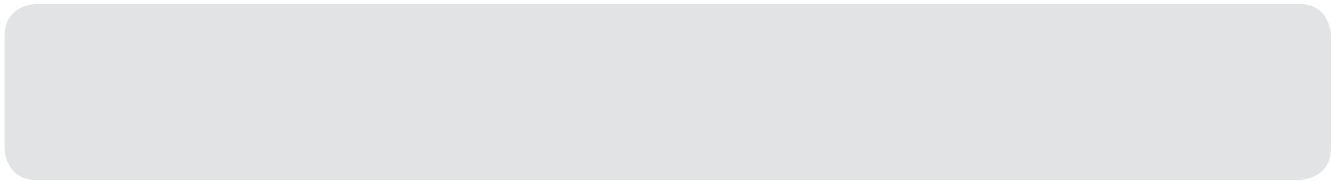
Fairfax County Supervisors:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/

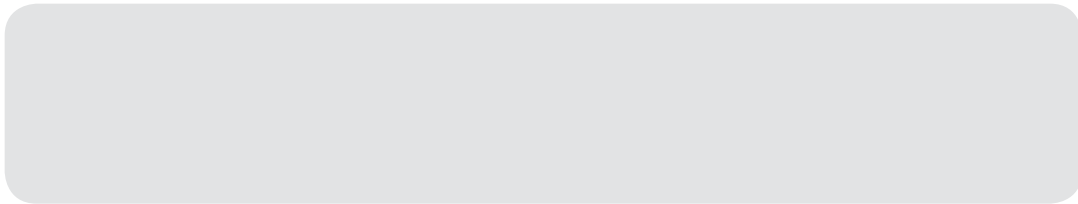
Noteworthy Dates

January 2012	
2	Winter Break, No School
3	Orchestra Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
5	PTSA Meeting, 7:30pm in Library
6	Viennese Ball, 7pm in Cafeteria
11	Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
11	Crew Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Room 106
12	College Kickoff Night for Junior Parents, 4pm
16	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, No School
17	Volunteer Coordinator's Meeting, 6pm in Principal's Conference Room
18	Senior Parent Night, 7pm in Auditorium
20	Class of 2013-sponsored Sock Hop, 8pm in Gym 2
23	Tele-learn Day for Students
24	Swim/Dive Meeting, 6pm in Principal's Conference Room
24	Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
30	Teacher Workday, No School
31	Teacher Workday, No School

February 2012	
1	Crew Family Information Night, 7pm in Cafeteria
2	PTSA Meeting, 7:30pm in Library
3	Drama One Acts, 7pm in Auditorium
4	Academic Boosters Phonathon, 9am
4	Drama One Acts, 7pm in Auditorium
7	Parents for Safe Teen Driving, 6:30pm in Auditorium
8	Science Fair
8	Crew Family Information Night (snow date), 7pm in Cafeteria
8	Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
8	Crew Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Room 106
8	Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
10	Cluster III Meeting, 8am in Cafeteria
10	Crew Ergathon, 4pm in Cafeteria
10	Talent Show, 7pm
11	Winter Showcase, 8am in Auditorium and gyms
13	Cluster III meeting, 1:10pm in Cafeteria
16	Curriculum Night for 9th, 10th, and 11 grade parents, 4pm
17	International Night, 7pm in Auditorium
18	International Night, 7pm in Auditorium
20	President's Day, No School
22	Orchestra Booster's Meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
25	Class of 2014 Winter Formal, 7pm in Gym 1
28	Band Concert, 7pm in Auditorium
28	Academic Booster's Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center



Please bring 2 sharpened #2 pencils and a calculator!



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Parent Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____