



WHSIMD Newsletter

June 2010

Brian Peter, Instrumental Music Director

Liz Blake, Strings Director

Mike Gangemi, Asst. Music Director

Editor, Susan Wolf/Bill Berliner



From the Director's Podium

As my 4th year as director concludes, as June is now upon us, it is with the greatest appreciation and difficulty that I say “thank you” and “come back and visit” to the class of 2010. You all have my deepest and most sincere appreciation of who you are, what you have become, and everything you have done for WHS. You, the class of 2010, I have known for the longest period of time and thus, I have the most memories of. Though I am the teacher and you have been the student, our journey has been similar over the past four years. We all walked on campus four years ago wide-eyed, excited, and a little nervous, but ready for whatever lied ahead. We have each worked hard and made decisions which carved out the path to where we stand today. As we look back at our journey at WHS we see places we may have stumbled and places we triumphed. It would behoove us all to remember the lessons learned from those moments that so clearly defined our lives. Seniors, you should be excited to embrace the life and uncharted freedom that lies before you. During this new period, you will make new relationships and be given opportunities to further spread your wings in the areas you choose. College will be one of the best times of your lives. There is so much to learn, both inside and out of the classroom. So, enjoy your education and the exercise called life. Know that you, the class of 2010, leave a high water mark for your musical talents, leadership, hard work, and vision. Congratulations to all you have done and will accomplish in the future. I am proud of you all!

We started this school year with no band room or theater, and ended the year with two facilities that I could not be more excited about. Again, the journey was long and laden with obstacles and many, many decisions, but in the end produced an incredible product and home for decades to come. And through it all, the WHSIM ensembles weathered these distractions and continued to leave audiences wanting more after performances.

Many accolades are to be given to our concert groups who once again earned “Superior” ratings at contests this March. In addition, our exchange concert with Whitney Young HS and Moorpark HS was one I will not soon forget. The goose bumps I had at the end of that performance were incredible! The jazz program also continued to build upon its reputation by earning many awards around the state and leaving audiences inspired as to what high school jazz bands can do. Studio Jazz also recorded a 2nd album that will be out sometime in October. (Continued on page 2)

From the Director's Podium (continued from page 1)

Thanks again to George Stone and Cuesta College for providing the opportunity to make this historical marker in this point in our musical lives.

The Regiment also had a season filled with memorable performances and awards including WBA prelims and the undefeated CIF football championship. Also, many individual students proudly represented WHS across the state in honor jazz, orchestra and wind ensembles. These groups were conducted by some of the finest College professors and composers in the music industry who also gave students a glimpse into collegiate standards and experiences.

I am continually inspired by the talents and musical diversity of the WHSIMD students. They receive these incredible honors and accolades and succeed in balancing their academics and outside activities all at the same time. I can say none of these successes would have been possible without the tireless efforts and support of the boosters and parents of the WHSIMD. Your organization, creativity, and determination provide the fuel and heart that make this machine run so well. I truly appreciate each and every one of you for your time and support of this program. So, thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!!!

Please remember to check the website www.whsband.org on a regular basis for upcoming events and we'll see you in August. Thanks again for a tremendous year! I will truly miss all of the graduating seniors and senior parents.

Take care and thanks again!

Sincerely,
Brian Peter

News, Updates and Reminders....

We believe in keeping you informed and are committed to do so using the following tactics:

Emails

Newsletters

Flyers

Announcements at meetings and concerts

WHSband.org Website

In order to update your info and give us your current email address, please go to <http://www.whsband.org/> and click on "Update Roster Info"

String News with Liz Blake



In March, the orchestras took a trip to Rancho La Scherpa, where they rehearsed, worked with professional coaches, and had a great time (well, except that it rained). The work they did showed in the scores we received at the Thousand Oaks High School festival- both Chamber and Concert orchestras earned straight superior ratings from the judges, and String orchestra's excellent rating showed the highest scores the group has ever gotten. Way to go, strings! A week later both symphony orchestras took home straight superior ratings again, a testament to their hard work.

April brought us to the All District String Festival at the Kavli Theater. The group of string players on that stage gets bigger every year; this year's high school orchestra included over 110 students from Westlake and from TO's fledgling program. There's talk of having two nights next year, which I'm in complete favor of; this means there will be room on the stage for the kids to move their bows! A highly successful evening.

STAR testing, AP's- the start of May is always frenetic, and the class is like a jigsaw puzzle; I never know who I will have on any given day, or if there will be enough students to rehearse! Three days after that, we came to our Spring Concert. Note to self: at least a week between AP's and our concert is a good idea, if it can be scheduled.... We brushed up our festival pieces, added some, and returned to our roots (for some), holding the performance at Los Cerritos MS. It was nice to have the groups all listening to each other, and it was obvious how far they'd all come this year. The best part, though, was the ice cream social afterwards! (At 5:00 pm I was standing in the parking lot at Smart & Final in Newbury Park, in the hot sun, waiting for AAA, with 12 gallons of ice cream and my car keys locked in the trunk of my car. Brilliant, Blake!)

We have one more bit of major excitement before the year ended- on Thursday, 5/27, THE NEW THEATER OPENED with a Gala Premiere Celebration concert featuring Chamber, Symphony I, Wind Ensemble, Drama, and Choir with special guest Richard Carpenter. It was a FANTASTIC evening, and Chamber was the very first musical group to perform on that stage. Exciting!

That's almost the end, though. Symphony II made a brief cameo on the band concert night, and then we bid a sad goodbye to our seniors at the awards ceremony on June 3. I was not looking forward to that night, and bought my waterproof mascara already. Some of these seniors are students I've known for 7 years, and taught for 6 of those. They aren't students any more; they're my extended family, and I will miss them and wait to hear about their futures, just like their family will. They're very special people.

And then- SUMMER! I know you all are waiting eagerly for June 12th, just like I am- a chance to relax, recuperate, and get it all back together before we have to do it again. I wish all of you a safe, happy and fun-filled summer, and hope to see each and every one of my students back next fall, with lots of new faces too. Happy trails, everyone!

Play LazerTag—The Summer Fun-Raiser!

Sunday, June 13th, 4-6 PM (First Mission at 4:20!)

\$12 for 2 missions—50% goes back to the program!

LazerTag Extreme, 1775 E. Daily Drive, Camarillo

Plus—A restaurant night at Baja Fresh (in the same shopping center)



G's Corner

Well, this is that time of year when we welcome our new students to Westlake, and we send our graduates off to bigger and more challenging adventures. For the new students, we are thrilled to have you at Westlake! Take advantage of the number of new friends you will make on the first day of school (or Band Camp for those of you who are joining the Regiment). I still remember how easy it was for me on the first day of school (I attended high school at Westlake!) knowing that I had an arsenal of new friends and a very thorough knowledge of the campus before any of the “regular” freshmen stepped foot here! One of the great things about our Department is that everyone is an equal here and we all respect one another. Don't be afraid to ask questions, and use the older students and their expertise to your full advantage. You will soon find out that they enjoy being there for you.

As for our outgoing members, we can only hope that you take a little of what you learned in the WHSIMD with you as you move forward. I do have a favor to ask all of our graduates...*please come back and visit!* I cannot name a single person who is not welcome back here unconditionally. We love seeing you and hearing about how things are going at your new schools or jobs.

It is our sincere desire that all of the graduates look back on your years at Westlake with fondness. We hope we managed to challenge you to go the extra mile not just musically, but in everything you do. Just about everything we do can transfer to another aspect of your life and we hope you took full advantage of that. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to this program. You are why we will only be better next year, and for years to come. You will be missed.

On a personal note, I would like to thank and congratulate Mr. Peter and Mrs. Blake for another stellar year at the helm of this ship. This program has come so far during their tenure here, and although they do not like taking credit for the continued success of this program, there has to be strong leadership at the top if a program of this magnitude has any chance of survival. I am honored to be able to work with both of you on a daily basis, and I thank you for all that you do for these students.



Sue's News

We Came, We Saw and We Conquered!

Wow! What a year! I cannot begin to tell you how amazing this year has been. The list of accomplishments, achievements and improvements is monumental. We worked hard, we laughed hard, we had a ton of fun and we enjoyed and celebrated each success. I can't tell you how lucky we are to have Brian Peter at the helm of this incredible program. His endless dedication, long hours, hard work and love for music is outstanding. And there is Mr. Gangemi, whose spirit, talent and soul help to create an environment of fun, motivation and passion, and Mrs. Blake, who provides an extraordinary program with her incredible talent, energy and dedication. How lucky are we???? *Very!!!*

There are so many people to thank, so many that contributed their heart and soul to this program. A huge thank you to all our volunteers who worked tirelessly to move this program forward and enabled us to do so many wonderful things. So much work happens behind the scenes that many don't realize. I feel so lucky and appreciative to have an executive board that is extraordinary. These folks are amazing and loads of fun to work side by side with. Each has a unique skill, talent and sense of humor and I have enjoyed so much working with them.

Lynn Garruto—you are a force to be reckoned with. Your contributions to this program have been monumental! So much so that we have changed our Bylaws to allow and convince you to stick around and help us out! We don't want to lose you! You are too much fun and too valuable!

Karen Persichetti – You are an organized, proactive, smart and an amazing person. Your contributions to this program have been incredible.

Jim Faltemier –You are outrageously funny and your commitment to our financial wellbeing is incredible. You are our program's rock!

Sue's News cont.

Carrie Nebens – You are the QUEEN of recruiting. You know who is best suited for each volunteer position we have. Your people intuition is amazing and your “Get it Done” skills are outrageous.

Susan Cotton – You are a wonderful and incredibly smart and talented person who drives this machine forward in a positive and constructive manner.

Rochelle Kidd – Your joy, spirit, talent, skill and love of fun and laughter helps to create a culture of progress and success.

And...way, way behind the scenes is a man who isn't in the spotlight, but is quietly making sure that our website is beautiful and up to date, that each email blast goes out to all applicable parties and who also does our PR, newsletters, chaperoning and so many other things. A huge thank you to Bill Berliner. We could not have accomplished so much this year without you!

We will be working hard over summer to prepare for another incredible year. Have a great summer and we look forward to working with you next year. And to those of you who are moving on, we will miss you and we wish you the best of everything life has to offer.

Last but not least a message to the students of this program. I have never experienced such an amazing, warm, enthusiastic, smart, fun, friendly and passionate group of kids. You are what makes our job worth it! We so appreciate all of you and thank you for everything you did to help the program. We wish our seniors the best of luck in their next adventure! Thanks all! Have an incredible summer.



Production News from Rochelle Kidd

WHOA! Where did the time go? The end of the school year is upon us! It started with a successful Regiment season and the students continued to flourish and hone their skills during the Winter Drumline and Winter Guard season. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time once again to transport the students to their competitions, chaperone, push equipment, provide meals and cheer the kids on! Everyone had a great time and as always, collectively we were able to make sure that the show went on without a hitch! Congratulations to the students for their outstanding performances!

Although the school year is coming to a close, it is actually the beginning of preparations for next year's Regiment season. We look forward to the continued participation of our returning parents and definitely welcome the incoming Freshman parents and encourage your involvement! We have a hardworking group of parents leading the pack in our production department. Talk about a well-oiled machine! Our Truck Dad Committee is led by Paul Roth and Mark Embrey. The Food Committee Chairs include Jeri Embrey, Karen Persichetti and Karen Nutkiewicz. The Uniform Committee is led by me and Concert Wear is under the tender loving care of Sylvia Wooldridge. We are so very fortunate that all of our veteran parents are returning next year and we invite each and every one of you to get involved and join one of our committees! We work hard but we also have a lot of fun together! It is very rewarding to work closely with all of the students and witness their successes first hand.

We have one last order of business to address before the summer break:

During Band Camp II and III, the Regiment students will begin practicing and getting fitted for their uniforms, the Food Committee will be preparing the first feast of the year for the annual Beach BBQ and our Truck Dad's will be gathering to repair equipment and prepare the Semi. Production will be in full swing and WE WANT YOU! Please contact rochelle@whsband.org if you would like to jump on the band wagon!

Have a great summer! Rochelle Kidd, V.P. Production



Fundraising News from Lynn Garruto and Susan Cotton



Hard to believe this year is coming to a close!! However, don't pack-up your fundraising hats just yet!!!!

We have had a great year, trying to put the "fun" in fundraising!! Considering the economic climate and the fact that fundraising is not always "fun", we were very lucky to achieve the numbers we did! We fell short of our overall fundraising goal but managed to hit approximately 80% of it!! This would not have been possible without your continued support. So thank you, for buying cookies, for your family patron donations, attending the Dinner Dance, participating in the Jazz Festival, and for your solicitation of employer matching contributions. We sincerely thank you!!

Next year will be more of a challenge, as the economic climate is still unsettled. However, we are going to mix things up! We won't be having the large Dinner Dance and Auction, but rather more *little* "fun" events to try and raise the money we need. And we plan to start earlier, with a kick-off event during the summer!! So keep your eyes on the website and emails for information on upcoming *fun*-fundraising events.

If anyone is interested in chairing or co-chairing one of our fun events in 2010-2011, please contact Susan at susan.cotton@gmail.com or Lynn at agarruto@msn.com.

Thanks for a great year and think fundraising!!

Is your student's ISA in need of some funding??? Are you prepared for the BIG ONE?? If you answered yes to the first question and no to the second, then we have just the fundraiser to solve both problems!! On Sale Now are Earthquake Preparedness Kits that are perfect for your car, home and office. Each kit contains provisions for one person for three days, has a shelf life of 5 years and is boxed for compact storage. Each kit sells for \$20, with \$10 going back to your student's ISA. That's a 50% give back and a great way for students to earn money for music department expenses!! Check out the website for single and multi order forms. Be prepared!!

Karen's Korner

The Food Committee wants to thank everyone for such a successful year and for all your hours of help! As you can see the students really appreciate all the meals and snacks that we provide for them during the year.

It was also so wonderful getting to know so many of you and we look forward to the upcoming school year! The next food event is the beach barbeque, which takes place during band camp in August.

See you all soon!

Karen Persichetti
Jeri Embrey
Karen Nutkiewicz

Message from Cynthia Woodward

As a senior parent, it is time for me to say goodbye. Yes, it's time for me to hand off my WHS Scrip Seller Liaison position for the WHS IMD to someone else. I've enjoyed servicing our Music families for the last four years and would like to thank all those who purchased scrip through out the years, not only from myself, but from other scrip sellers as well. You not only benefited your student, you also helped hundreds of WHS Seniors receive scholarships.

I would like to announce Wendy Asarch as your new Scrip Seller. She has very enthusiastically volunteered to be the Music Dept's Scrip Liaison and has already begun selling the scrip cards. Wendy is off to a wonderful start. Her contact info is (805) 374-9912 and e-mail wendysue18@verizon.net. I feel confident Scrip is in great hands! Thank you Wendy for taking the position.

And, thank you WHS Music Families for your support in the past and your support going forward.

Café Press - Buy Department Apparel

Now you can buy WHSIMD Apparel and Accessories online at our

Café Press store!!!

All net proceeds go back to our program

www.cafepress.com/whsimd

Here are some examples of what is available and there is much, much more....



MORE COLORS AVAILABLE

[Women's V-Neck Dark T-Shirt](#)
\$24.00



MORE COLORS AVAILABLE

[Beach Tote](#)
\$21.99



SET OF 4

[Stackable Mug Set \(4 mugs\)](#)
\$40.00



MORE COLORS AVAILABLE

[Zip Hoodie \(dark\)](#)
\$45.00



[Throw Pillow](#)
\$20.00



[Apron \(dark\)](#)
\$20.00



MORE COLORS AVAILABLE

[Women's Dark T-Shirt](#)
\$24.00



MORE COLORS AVAILABLE

[Organic Men's T-Shirt \(dark\)](#)
\$27.00

Booster Executive Board

President:

Susan Wolf

president@whsband.org

VP Communication/Volunteers:

Carrie Nebens

cnebens@whsband.org

VP of Production:

Rochelle Kidd

rochelle@whsband.org

Treasurer:

Jim Faltemier

treasurer@whsband.org

VP of Development/Fundraising:

Lynn Garruto

lynn@whsband.org

Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Karen Persichetti

karen@whsband.org

VP of Development/Fundraising:

Susan Cotton

scotton@whsband.org

Important Dates

June 2010

6-13

LazerTag Event—Camarillo

6-14 thru 6-16

Regiment Band Camp I 12:00pm - 4:00pm

6-29

Regiment Percussion 6:00pm—9:00pm

July 2010

7-6, 8, 13, 20, 27, 29 Regiment Percussion Rehearsal 6:00pm - 9:00pm

August 2010

8-16 - 8-17

Regiment Band Camp II—12:00pm - 8:00pm

8-18 - 8-20

Regiment Band Camp III—12:00pm - 8:00pm

8-20

Regiment Beach Trip

8-23 - 8-27

Regiment Band Camp III—12:00pm - 8:00pm

8-27

Regiment Pot Luck and Show - 7:00pm