



From the Director's Podium

Instrumental Music Families,

Ahhhh...2010, and new decade is upon us! I hope your new year is off to a wonderful start and that you are staying true to your new resolutions, or at least trying to. And can you believe that January is already over!?! WOW, the time is already flying by!

With the start of February now comes one of our busiest times of the year. The Business Blitz is now in full swing, Honor Bands are practicing and performing, Winter Guard and Percussion Ensemble are rehearsing and performing, the Dinner Dance is around the corner, and the concert groups are working hard on their festival music. What does all of this mean? It means to check the calendar at www.whsband.org often so you won't miss any of these exciting performances and up-coming events.

This past week started rehearsals for our Concert Jazz III Ensemble, also known as "Jazzawesome" and they are going to be an absolute hoot! Spirit rehearsals have already been scheduled by our crazy trombone section. We have great instrumentation thus far but we will always take more. There are no auditions for this ensemble and no jazz experience is needed. If you know someone who is interested in learning to play jazz send them in and we'll make it happen.

The Regiment season finally came to a close with the annual Regiment Banquet which celebrated the hard work and dedication of all who were involved in this massive production. The video montages brought back so many wonderful memories from the season and the superlatives provided some great laughs too. (continued on page 8)

Important Dates to Remember

2-10-10 - Romio's night

2-11-10 - Dinner Dance Mtg

2-2-10 – Booster Meeting

2-24-10 - Romio's night

2-26-10 – VCHB Concert – Buena HS

2-27-10 – WG Show – West Ranch

2-28-10 – Dinner Dance at the Canyon Club

Inside this issue:

<i>String News</i>	3
<i>G's Corner/ Sue's News</i>	4
<i>Production News</i>	5
<i>Scholarship Info</i>	6
<i>Fundraising</i>	7
<i>Important Dates— February</i>	8
<i>Important Dates—March & April</i>	9

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

I want to again, thank the students, staff and parent volunteers who made *Carpe Diem* such a wonderful success this season. I am truly grateful to have such wonderful people to teach and work alongside in this program and community. And thank you to our amazing RSL/IMC who put on such a wonderful evening. In case you are curious, the title for next year's show is...*You'll Have to Wait and See*. LOL!

Big news is on the horizon! We have a wonderful 1st draft of our "Big Trip" 2011! This trip is open to all wind, percussion, and color guard students and parents of the WHS Instrumental Music Program. Please look ahead and save the dates for Spring Break 2011 (the end of April) as we will be traveling to "far away places." Final travel destinations, performance locations and itinerary will be announced sometime in February. So, start saving your money NOW for this awesome trip! You can get started NOW by getting involved in the Business Blitz and submitting donation items for the Dinner Dance and Silent Auction. Percentages for ads and items sold at these events go directly into your student's ISA account. Please start saving and raising money NOW for what promises to be a trip of a lifetime!

I look forward to seeing you at our many up-coming performances and events this winter and spring. Have a great second semester and remember to get involved however you can.

Take care,

Mr. 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



Dear families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and New Year celebration! I know I did- the week I spent in Chicago at the Midwest Clinic right before break was a great recharging experience, as always. There are so many opportunities to gain new information and ideas, I come home with my head stuffed full of possibilities. This year's program included some seminars and rehearsal techniques labs that I have already begun to use with the groups. The best part, though, is the new music. All of the major publishers bring their new releases for us to see, and I brought home loads of great pieces! You'll hear many of them this spring.

Now that we are past the holiday rush, the orchestras are settling in and focusing on upcoming performances. Chamber and Concert Orchestra students have their first chamber music recital on Sunday, 2/7, at 3pm at the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic Recital Hall (near the Melting Pot on TO Blvd). Their quartets have been rehearsing during the fall, and for the last month have worked with professional coaches Dianne Rammon and Melissa Phelps to polish their performances. I am looking forward to the recital, and hope many of you will join us. It's a great chance to do concert reports! This is the first time out for the chamber program, and in the future I'm hoping to expand the instrumentation- including woodwinds or pianists- as well as involving more students and coaches.

Our orchestra retreat weekend is coming up soon at the beginning of March (6-8), and the students are looking forward to it. We leave from school on Saturday morning at 8, and rehearsals will start at 11 that morning. The kids are excited about the ropes courses and paintball games that are available- the conference center has wonderful staff- and they've just started running nighttime geocaching treasure hunts, so this should be terrific fun! It will strengthen their musical skills and let them relax and have lots of fun together. NOTE- right now, we need more dads to chaperone. Please come along with us for some R & R!

Thanks to all of our parents for your wonderful support and enthusiasm; I appreciate all of you, and am glad to work with your children.

Save the Date! 15th Annual Dinner Dance and Silent Auction February 28, 2010 at the Canyon Club

Our biggest and most important fundraiser of the year will be held on Sunday, February 28th at the Canyon Club in Agoura Hills. This year's theme is "Disco Mania." It will feature performances by members of the String Chamber Orchestra, the Studio Jazz Ensemble, and our own Parent/Staff Band!

We are still looking for donations and sponsorships. Please call Carrie Nebens at (818) 444-0100 or email cnebens@wbsband.org with any questions.

Also—please RSVP before February 19th.



G's Corner

Quite an Honor, Indeed!

The next time you are surfing our website, take a look at the Honor Groups page. There you will find a list of individuals who have made various honor bands and orchestras ranging from The Ventura County Honor Band to the International Association of Jazz Educators Honor Jazz Band. Regardless of what ensembles they played in, one thing is for sure...we are so proud of these kids for "putting it on the line" for the world to hear. Remember – nobody is guaranteed a spot in these honor groups, and for teenagers to go through this process knowing that the ugly beast known as *rejection* is lurking around the corner, well that just goes to show what is right with young people today!

Let it be known that we are just as proud of the kids who auditioned and did not make an ensemble as we are of the ones who did. Our advice for you is to talk to the ones who were accepted and see how they prepared for their audition, mentally and musically. We all get nervous, but focusing that into making your audition memorable might not be as difficult as you may think. Get right back on that horse and do it again! You will be glad you did. Although you can see the list on the website, I would like to single out the students who were accepted into the state-wide (continued on page 8)



Sue's News

Happy New Year to you all. I can't believe we are already in February. We have so many exciting events ahead and I hope you all have an opportunity to volunteer and participate in the program with us. We have such an amazing group of parents who are incredibly dedicated to this program. They are passionate, hard working and extremely fun!! On that note, we implemented a new recognition program this year called the "**Virtuoso Award**". This award is for volunteers who have gone way beyond the call of duty and have given numerous hours to the program. Our first **Virtuoso Awards** went to Karen Nutkiewicz, Mark Embrey, Jeri Embrey, Paul Roth and Sylvia Wooldridge. Congratulations and thank you so much for all your hard work.

The other big thank you I want to give is to "**The Machine**", the incredible driving force behind the band and orchestra programs. It is our executive booster board. These are tireless folks who work behind the scenes to make this program successful! Passion, Drive, Initiative and Dedication is the mission of this incredible group.... thank you so much!

I hope you all get my email blasts every 2 weeks, which give all the important information and dates that you parents need to know... If you don't get my blasts, please let me know. A huge thank you to Bill Berliner who sends my emails out to you!! He is also key in getting this newsletter formatted and sent to you. Thanks Bill!

New website announcement!! We are in the final stages of designing our new whsband.org website. Can't wait to roll it out to you. You will be notified when we launch it live...

Thanks! Sue



Production News from Rochelle Kidd

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! Happy New Year! Well the Regiment Season came and went with great success! Thank you to all of the many volunteers who worked countless hours to make everything run smoothly! Together we survived Heartbreak Hill at College of the Canyons, 2 weekends in a row, with everyone pitching in to get the props and equipment up and down that hill with just a few tears shed! When the golf cart decided to take a nap, Paul Roth, Mark Embry and the rest of their crew really dug deep and showed their stuff by manually pushing those very large prop carts down that long stretch of hill and then back up again! PHEW! They fought the mountain and won! After those 2 shows it was all downhill (ha ha) and the students really gave it their best at the Semi Finals in Fresno (AKA Freeze-no because it was freezing!). Westlake High School stomped the yard and took 9th out of 19 schools! Congratulations! It was the last high school regiment show for our senior students and a special pre-Thanksgiving dinner was prepared in their honor by our top notch food committee, Karen Persichetti, Karen Nutkiewicz, Jeri Embrey and their crew of parent volunteers. The seniors were recognized with a special apple cider toast given by Mr. Peter and presented with a special keepsake picture collage of their 4 year history at Westlake High prepared by Lynn Garruto and her committee. The decorations were outstanding!

Thank you to all of the committees and all of the very many parent volunteers for your blood, sweat and tears! This season would not have been successful without each and every one of you and I look forward to working with you folks during the next Regiment season! Cheers to the Freshman parents for coming out and jumping in without missing a beat!

To the uniform committee, Sylvia Wooldridge, Cathy Hannah, Margaret Goldberg, Elena Lukasiewicz and Piet Chini, a very heartfelt thank you for your time pre-season and before, during and after every event! Each of you are now equipped to save the day due to your expertise with needle and thread, safety pins, Shout wipes, Sharpies, blue tape, scissors and white gloves! The students were decked out and ready to go because of your collective perseverance! A huge shout out goes to the faithful and hard working student uniform assistants, Rachel Downam and Allie Franklin!

We are now into the Winter Percussion/Drumline and Winter Guard season with the students practicing and getting ready for their shows beginning at the end of February and ending in March. If you have any questions regarding these programs, please send me an email or visit the website for calendar updates and more information. The students are also in full swing with their various Jazz ensembles, and the Orchestra groups are getting preparing for their retreat in March. Please visit our website to get the latest updates!

BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL!! There are blue polo shirts, gray sweat jackets, WHSIMB blankets and hats available for sale. Please contact me directly if you would like to purchase any of these items as they are available year round. If you have any questions or concerns regarding concert attire, please contact Sylvia Wooldridge via email at sparklewooly@sbcglobal.net.

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! Rochelle

The Jordan Bass Vocal/Instrumental Music Memorial Scholarship

To all 2010 Graduating Seniors:

The Jordan Bass Vocal/Instrumental Music Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a student involved in a Westlake High School Music Program. The scholarship requires a 3.6 GPA and above with a major in music.

Applicants must submit an **essay describing qualifications and future college plans**. PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE TOP SHEET WITH YOUR NAME and do not identify yourself within the essay itself.

Scholarship applications will be available from the WHS College and Career Center as of Monday, January 11, 2010. The completed packet, which includes a scholarship application, activities resume, and an essay (6 copies of essay with name on coversheet only), will be due back to Mrs. Franklin in the WHS Counseling Office no later than 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 17, 2010.

If you are selected as a finalist, you will be invited to attend a personal interview in the spring with the Scholarship Selection Committee; however, participation in the interview process does not guarantee the winning of an award. Interviews will be conducted in late March. FAILURE TO RSVP OR ATTEND THE INTERVIEW WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE ELIMINATION IN THE PROCESS.

Recipients and non-recipients will be notified prior to Senior Awards Night in June. Checks will be paid directly to the school you plan to attend and can only be used for tuition/books. Scholarships will be available starting with Senior Awards Night or after and must be redeemed no later than June 30th of the following academic year. Scholarship #1 is for \$2,500 for a music major and #2 is for \$1,000 a music minor

NOTE: Anyone disciplined for academic dishonesty (cheating) or inappropriate conduct within the school and/or the community is not eligible to apply.

If you have questions, please email Mrs. Starr Baker (WHSSF) at Whsvolunteers@aol.com.



Fundraising News from Lynn Garruto and Susan Cotton



We are in the home stretch of this amazing musical year!!! Only a little over 4 months of school left to accomplish some pretty big fundraising goal!!

As you probably know by now the annual Dinner Dance and Auction is just around the corner. It is a really good time for all that attend and we hope that if you haven't attended in the past you will try to make it this year. Although this is our biggest fundraiser for the music program, it really is all about the fun..dinner, dancing and fabulous music by your students and some amazing parents and staff. This year's theme is Disco, so if you happen to have survived the 70's and would like to relive that special time in your life, the Canyon Club on Sunday, February 28th is the place to be!!!! We hope to see you there.

We are also starting our annual Business Blitz, with the hope of raising \$7,000 from local businesses. Last year was our first time doing this and we had tremendous success due to our community partners, families and students. If you need additional information, please contact Susan Cotton at cotton.susan@gmail.com

We also have expanded our Corporate Sponsorship program with opportunities for corporations to have their logo on the WHSIM Semi-Trailer. This is a very effective marketing tool and we are happy to provide an Impressions Analysis specific to your company or to a company you might know may be interested in this form of marketing. Contact Lynn Garruto at agarruto@msn.com for more info.

Business Blitz Update: “Make Music Happen”

WHSIMB's annual business blitz is underway! From now until February 12th, we are asking all students and families to bring in one new sponsor (either business or family) and one auction item. Students will receive ISA credit for both. Donations already received will count toward this goal.

We have/will hosted two blitzing days—Wednesday, February 3rd and Tuesday, February 9th. The blitzes will take place from 3-6 PM, with pizza provided.

For more information, please contact Susan Cotton at cotton.susan@gmail.com.

G's Corner (Continued from page 4)

and southern California honor groups. These kids are truly some of the best California has to offer!

Paige Binsley - *euphonium, All State Band, All Southern Band*

Brandon Choi - *trumpet, All State Band, All Southern Band, All Southern Jazz Band*

David Faltemier - *tuba, Tournament of Roses Honor Band*

Rachael Klavir - *alto saxophone, Tournament of Roses Honor Band*

Josh Komie - *guitar, All Southern Jazz Band*

Sasha Mitrushina - *clarinet and baritone saxophone, All State Band*

Sasha Mitrushina - *baritone saxophone, All State Jazz Band*

Allison Muench - *alto saxophone, All State Band*

Sarah Persichetti - *percussion, All State Band, All State Orchestra*

Frank Sefton - *tuba, All State Band*

Cory Smith - *percussion, All State Band, All State Orchestra*

Brandon Woodward - *drums, All State Jazz Band*

Sean Wooldridge - *trombone, All State Band*

Stephanie Yang - *clarinet, All State Band*

Important Dates—February 2010

February 2010

2-10-10 - Romio's night

2-11-10 - Dinner Dance Meeting

2-24-10 - Romio's night

2-26-10 – VCHB Concert – Buena HS

2-27-10 – WG Show – West Ranch

2-28-10 – Dinner Dance at the Canyon Club

Important Dates—March and April 2010

March 2010

3-2-10 – Booster Meeting
3-6-10 thru 3-8-10 – Orchestra retreat
3-7-10 – WDL Show Temecula Valley HS
3-10-10 - Romio's night
3-13-10 – WDL Show Aliso Viejo/WG Show Saugus
3-21-10 – WG Show Bonita HS
3-24-10 - Romio's night
3-24-10 – TOHS SCSBOA Festival
3-25-10 - TOHS SCSBOA Festival
3-27-10 – Fullerton Jazz Festival/WG Show Tesoro HS
3-28-10 – WDL PSCO Prelims Great Oak HS
3-30-10 – New Band Parent Meeting
3-31-10 – Full Orchestras SCSBOA

April 2010

4-2-10 thru 4-9-10 – Spring Break
4-3-10 – WDL Championships CSUSB
4-7-10 - Romio's night
4-10-10 – WG Show Hart HS
4-14-10 – Booster Meeting
4-17-10 – WGASC Championships
4-21-10 - Romio's night
4-22-10 thru 4-25-10 – **RENO Jazz Festival**

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