

Grissom Band Parents Association, Inc. Newsletter

December 2003

Editors - Cynthia Brooks & Mitzi Crawford



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

With the hustle and bustle of the season, I hope you will take few moments to read the newsletter. There are several important changes and updates that are taking place beginning next semester.

Thanks to all of you that have stepped up to the plate to help with the fruit sale administration. We have some excellent folks helping but we could still use a few to fill vital roles. We have broken the jobs down into "manageable bites" so they would not be so time consuming for any one individual. If you can help, please contact us because we have a place for you.

Fruit Sale Changes (Beginning in January 2004)

1. We will be dropping the nuts and honey and will only sell fruit. We did an analysis and found that the profit we were making on the nuts and honey could not justify the cost in set up, inventory control, ordering, etc.
2. We will no longer do presales on Thursday evenings. (This time will be reserved to get the trailer set up for the sale). Based on the cost of staff to do presales on Thursday we would need to have presale orders of around 50 cases. We were selling on average 12-17 cases. **YOU CAN STILL PRE-SELL AND EARN YOUR \$2 PER CASE - THE ORDERS WILL JUST HAVE TO BE PICKED UP DURING REGULAR SALE HOURS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.** Please do not allow the \$1 discount on presales. If this is done, the discount will have to be deducted from the \$2 fairshare per case that we are offering.

We are trying hard to increase profitability, maintain the fruit sale to the standard our customers have come to expect and still have a manageable fundraiser. The board has worked long hours analyzing data from previous sales and feel by making some of these changes we can accomplish this with little or no disruption.

I know that each committee chair, volunteer, board member and the directors are working hard for the students to insure their needs are met from this program. I personally want to thank each and every one of you for your dedication to this end. While they might not all realize it now, when our kids look back on this in years to come, they will realize how fortunate they were to be a part of a group where so many cared to make it the very best.

I wish you and your family a happy, safe and healthy holiday season. I look forward to working with you next year! Happy Holidays!!!

Sincerely,
Teresa Montgomery
President 2003/2004

GRISSOM BAND PARENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2003-2004

Teresa Montgomery, President
881-9387; tdmont@HiWaay.net
Greg Harris, 1st Vice President
880-7564; harris4au@knology.net
Karen Parker, 2nd Vice President
883-4622; parker23@knology.net
Doris Lewis, Secretary
881-3154; dslewis@knology.net
Julie Ashcraft, Treasurer
650-5043; julie22@ashcraft.net
Kathy Francica, Treasurer
883-7132; KFrancica@bellsouth.net
Bill Connell & Theo Vernon, Directors
881-1075 (bandroom)

Committees

Chaperones

Debbie Rose: 882-9694; ROSEDJSCJ@aol.com
Loren Foster: 885-0743; LBF8887@hotmail.com

Color Guard

Joyce Amos: 883-0168; joyce.amos@comcast.net

Concerts

Nan Kirk: 881-3690; Kirk195@comcast.net
Monica Geiss: 881-4314; MGeis@juno.com

Fruit Sales

Lisa Johnstone: 881-6453

Hospitality

Janet Wade: 880-8116; JWadeSews@aol.com

Newsletter

Cynthia Brooks: 880-6669; brooks1981@knology.net
Mitzi Crawford: 882-2115; mitzi.crawford@adtran.com
*Please send email corrections to us!

Webmaster

Ron Lewis: 881-3154; RCLewis@knology.net

Publicity

Kristi Fugit: 881-1072

Stadium Setup

Colleen Toth: 880-5852; drummom13@aol.com

Transportation

Karen Ivey: 881-5291; KarenI@HHSYS.org

Trucks

Rick Cornelius: 650-5955; RHC@knology.net

Uniforms

Tiffany Hubbard: 880-3669; UniformFairy@msn.com

\$ Treasurer's Box \$

If you have earned enough Fair Share to cover the trip or a portion of the trip, please notify Julie Ashcraft so that Fair Share can be applied to the trip costs.

Senior Trip To Washington, D. C.

Cost - approximately \$500

December 2003 - deposit due

January 12, 2004 - second payment of \$150 due

February 9 - third payment of \$150 due

March 8 - final payment/balance due



Fair Share Is Due NOW!!!

The first half of your Fair Share was due December 19th!! Not sure what you owe? Can't remember how many hours you've earned? Call or email Julie Ashcraft and she'll be happy to let you know.

Need to Earn Some Fair Share Hours?

Email Dave Parkhill and tell him you'd like to sign up to work at an upcoming fruit sale. Don't wait until the last minute... the slots go fast!!

All fees and dues must be paid in full before students can participate in ANY trip!!

Fall Instrument Rentals of \$45 are PAST DUE. Renting a GHS band instrument? Please make sure you've sent in your rental fee!

As with your dues and other fees, payments may be taken care of as follows:

1. Make checks payable to **Grissom Band Parent Association** -or **GBPA**- and put purpose of check and student's name (especially if you don't share the same last name) in the note section. Then, do one of the following:
2. Place fee in the Treasurer's Box located in the Band Room, right outside the Director's office.

or

Mail payment to:

Grissom Band Parent Association

P. O. Box 4335

Huntsville, Al. 35815

or

Pay fees at the Band Parents Meeting

(4th Monday of each month @ 7:00).

Call or email either of us if we can help you in any way!!

Julie Ashcraft

650-5043

julie22@ashcraft.net

Kathy Francica

883-7132

KFrancica@bellsouth.net

Director's Notes

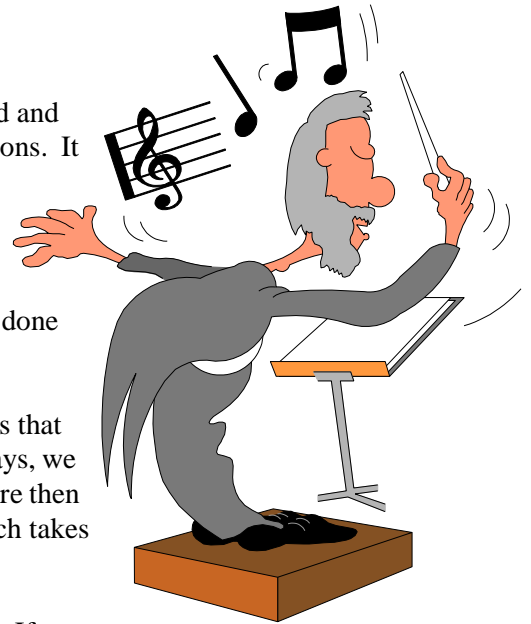
Band Auditions

Well, we're sure some of you are happy, some sad, some confused and dazed and others not sure what to think. That's the way we feel after every set of auditions. It is a difficult time for everyone, including the directors. The process of auditioning is mostly an objective process, although there is some subjectivity to it. Your son/daughter has just completed a very rigorous 'interview' on their instrument. The vast majority leave feeling as if they could have done better. Some could, but most couldn't, or they would have done better.

As they play, we assign a score to the performance, with the same guidelines that are used in the Alabama All-State Band audition process. After everyone plays, we put them in order according to their scores- highest to lowest. The sections are then divided up to form the three bands. It is a difficult and trying task; one which takes many, many hours to complete.

Not everyone can be first chair. Not everyone can be in Symphonic I Band. If your son or daughter was not pleased with their audition, there is a challenge process that is listed in the band handbook to challenge within their band placement only. No student can challenge to move up to another band after the initial audition process.

When students change bands, we try every way possible to keep the student with the same teacher if at all possible. Guidance works very hard with us to make this transition is smooth as possible. We hold auditions at the end of every semester, so everyone has the opportunity to improve their position twice yearly.



Symphonic/Concert Band Camp

Our annual winter camp dates are January 29, 30 & 31. We have invited Thomas Fraschillo and his associates from Southern Mississippi University to be our guest conductors. We also have Lynn Klock, professor of saxophone at the University of Massachusetts as our guest soloist this year. Our master class instructors (professionals on each instrument) are all from Southern Miss.

These activities start after school on Thursday the 29, all day Friday (students are excused from classes) concluding with a faculty student recital Friday evening, Saturday morning and concludes with the closing concert Saturday afternoon.

***All activities are required attendance by all students. Please see your band handbook (on line) for more details. A specific schedule of times will be distributed in early January.

All- State/Honor Band Auditions

Students who have registered for All-State Bands will have auditions in January.

All students trying out for Senior All-State/Honor Band will tryout at Sparkman High School on Friday, January 23. Ninth graders who are trying out for Junior All-State/Honor Band will tryout at Sparkman on

Saturday the 24th, with the exception of the 9th grade oboes, who will tryout for

Junior All-State at Boaz High School on January 10 and then tryout for Honor Band on January 24 at Sparkman.

Please remember: All students who make an All State/Honor band are required to attend the band clinic. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the 9 weeks. The dates for all the clinics were on the form that the students completed to





register. No one should have registered if they have a conflict. The Honor Band and All- State Band Clinic dates are on the Grissom Band website and on the calendar that was passed out at the beginning of school.

Senior Trip

We are certainly looking forward to the trip to Washington D. C. with our seniors in March. We will ride Amtrak to DC, something new for many of us. More details will follow in January. Payment schedule for the senior trip to Washington D.C. is as follows: January 12- \$150, February 1-\$150 and March 1 the balance of the trip fee is due. We are aiming at keeping the trip right at \$500 total, excluding any expenses the kids incur.

Hawaii!!

We certainly hope you have signed up for this fabulous trip! The directors had the opportunity to go at Thanksgiving to 'check it out' and we promise this trip is all it is made out to be!! We suggest you start making monthly payments after the new-year to spread the expense out as much as possible. A figure of \$200 per month should put you in pretty good shape. The final cost will be determined after air fare is secured in January/February. As soon as we know this amount, it will be forwarded to you ASAP.

Eight Grader Info

The Grissom Band Directors were very proud of the progress they heard at all the Middle School Holiday concerts and are looking forward to what they will do in the spring. The directors hope to get to the middle schools more this next spring to work with the bands. Their schedule makes it difficult to get out to 3 middle schools but they will try their best.

Registration for high school will come sooner then you know it. We would love to see every one of you join the most elite group at Grissom and one of the highest rated band programs in the United States. The Grissom Band provides many students with opportunities for college scholarships. College and Universities seek Grissom Band students for their programs every year. Being a member of the Grissom Band family provides friendships that last a lifetime and musical experiences that many other high school students never receive.

Auditions for high school band will be in May during your band class. The audition material is the Alabama All-State Junior high music. Please check with your band director for this material if you do not already have it. Every year we have ninth graders make the top two Symphonic Bands at Grissom their first semester so it is possible. The difficult part is staying there! We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Braggin' Rights!

Congratulations....

Mr. Vernon!

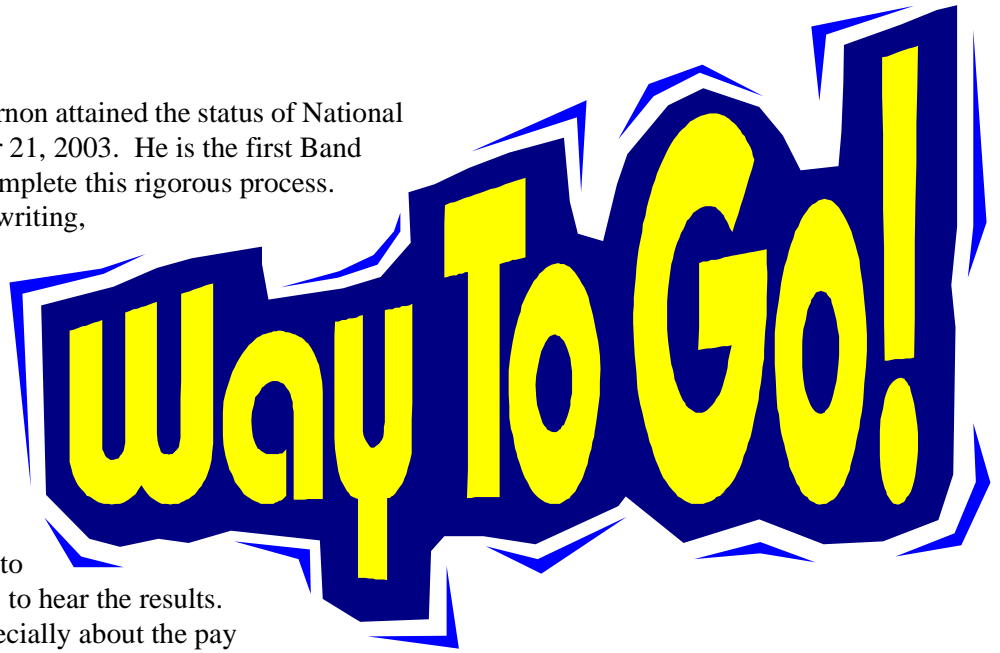
As many of you know by now, Mr. Vernon attained the status of National Board Certified Teacher on November 21, 2003. He is the first Band Director in the State of Alabama to complete this rigorous process.

After hundreds of hours of writing, rewriting, videotaping, editing video, writing, rewriting, studying for a 4 ½ hour timed test, gathering materials of accomplishments over the past 5 years, more writing and editing, practicing composing a piece in 30 minutes, learning about cultures and music of the World, refreshing memory on Music History and lots of lost hours of sleep.....Mr. Vernon had to wait from April 17 until November 21 to hear the results.

Needless to say he is very excited especially about the pay increase.

He is not very excited that the State of Alabama has taken

away the \$5,000 bonus for the band. All 162 teachers that certified this year will not receive this bonus and not sure if it will be retroactive or not. Congratulations to Mr. Vernon!



Congratulations....

Karen, Derek, and Kevin!

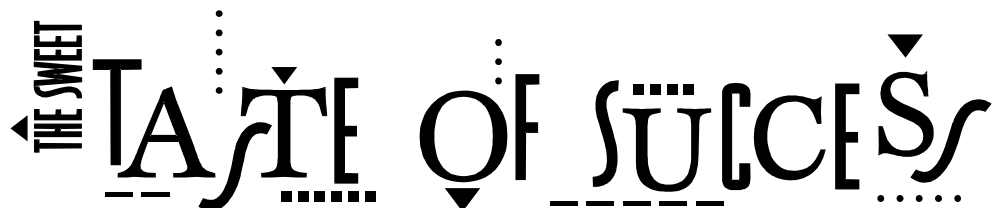
Hats off to Karen Branick and Derek Fenstermacher for their success in the Huntsville Symphony Concerto Competition! Karen placed 3rd and Derek was the winner!! Both of these students performed their solos for Sym. I in class the week before the competition. GREAT JOB!!

Also congrats to Kevin Geis and Derek Fenstermacher for receiving a placement in the 2004 Alabama All-State Jazz Band. Kevin will be the first drummer of two selected and Derek will play 5th Trombone. The All-State Jazz Band will perform at the AMEA Conference at Auburn University January 15-17.

Congratulations....

Kyle, Kevin (AGAIN!), Alex, Josh, Bryan, Brett, and Katie!

At the Percussion Arts Society International Convention/Competitions (PASIC), two GHS students performed as soloists: Kyle Fugit (snare) and Kevin Geis (timpani). Kyle placed 5th internationally and Kevin placed 2nd internationally! Also, our GHS percussionists did a wonderful job performing as an exhibitory small ensemble group. The ensemble consisted of the following talented students: Alex Cartee, Kyle Fugit, Kevin Geis, Josh Hubbard, Bryan Howell, Brett Huffman, and Katie Toth.



Fundraising News

Citrus Sale

We have created a Fruit Sale Committee and also broken down the fruit sale support functions into many small tasks. We are gradually filling the slots with volunteers - our sincere thanks to all of you who have "stepped up" to fill these vacancies! However, we still have several areas where we need reliable volunteers. Examples include:

- Setup/opening for each sale day
- Meeting the truck on Thursday to make sure it gets parked in the right place and locking the trailer.
- Painting new sale signs (we lose an average of at least 2 per sale)
- Administrative tasks

Although we now include other items, most of the money we make during the sales comes directly from citrus fruit. We need to streamline our sales activities and concentrate on selling fruit.

This will simplify setup for each sale as well as reduce associated administrative work. Therefore, beginning with our first January fruit sale, we will discontinue selling honey and nuts. We will also eliminate the "presales" pickup on Thursday nights. Of course, you may still take presales orders, but you'll need to pick them up on either Friday or Saturday during the sale.

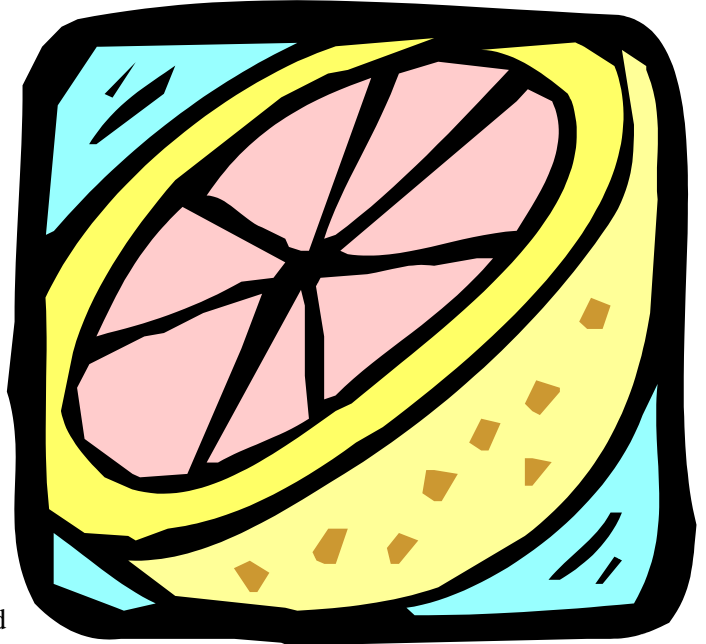
Please remember that you need to be scheduled in advance with Dave Parkhill to receive fair share credit for working at the fruit sales.

SCRIP

Thanks to everyone who supported the band in this way this year! Our orders continue to increase and more families are giving Scrip a try. The rechargeable grocery cards are also doing well - we have over 100 cards in circulation!

Deadline for our next Scrip order is Thursday, January 8. If you have service contracts (lawn chem., termite X, etc) now is a good time to consider using Scrip to pay for your contract renewal (10%).

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

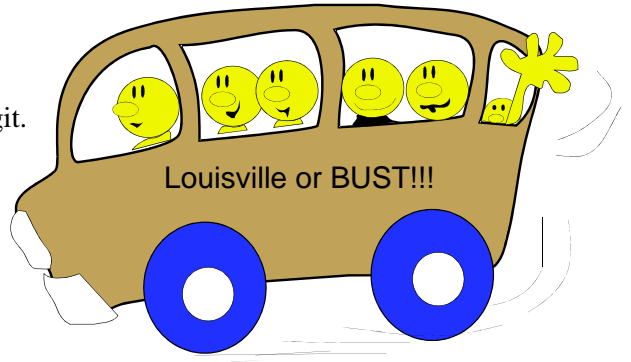


Congratulations!!!

Congrats and many thanks to the Students and Parents who attended this year's Percussion Arts Society International Convention/Competitions (PASIC). We had two students perform as soloists: Kyle Fugit in Snare and Kevin Geis in Timpani. Kyle placed 5th internationally and Kevin placed 2nd internationally. Competitions were strong and tough and included drummers from DCI corps such as the Madison Scouts. The GHS percussionists performed as an exhibitory "small ensemble" group. They did GREAT!! Congrats to these students: Alex Cartee, Kyle Fugit, Kevin Geis, Josh Hubbard, Bryan Howell, Brett Huffman, and Katie Toth. They performed a self-composed piece called "Time" using a variety of instruments and accessories. We had a great time.

Many thanks to the drivers: Monica & Glen Geis, Dan and Kristi Fugit. Most of all many thanks to "Big Momma Cannon" Tiffany Hubbard and the Tan Van "Cannon Mobile" for hauling all the equipment to and from Louisville and ALL OVER those one-way streets to get to the center for our students' performances!! YOU definitely "Rocked the town"! Next year, the convention is in Nashville. It's definitely worth the trip to attend.

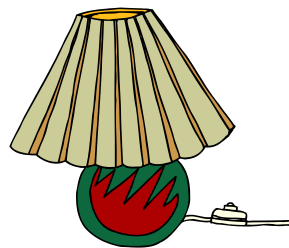
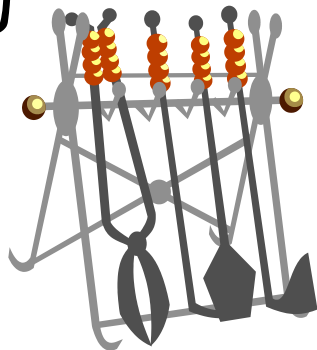
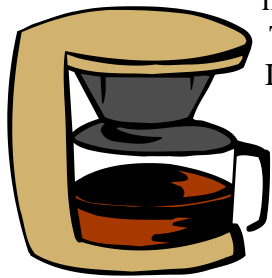
Many heartfelt thanks for your support!!
Colleen Toth
(Unofficial Drum Mom)



Almost Time to Rummage Through Your Closets and Garages

We will be having another Rummage Sale this year. So start setting those tax deductible items aside that you'd like to get rid of for our sale. Last year we had a great sale. We hope to be as lucky this year. The actual date will be announced later, but we're planning for some time in March. THIS IS A FAIR SHARE OPPORTUNITY, so I'm hoping for a lot of support.

Thank you!!
Colleen Toth



**GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL
GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 4335
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35815**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO. 495

**BAND PARENTS
MEETING
MONDAY
January 26
7PM - Auditorium
See you there!**



***GHS Band Parents Association
December Newsletter***



www.grissomband.org