



Grissom Band Parents Association, Inc. Newsletter

October 2004

Editors - Mitzi Crawford & Judy Hardwick

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Wow, what an outstanding job the kids have done on their marching program. I hope you were able to attend one of the marching contests and see our kids in action. They were amazing!! And, I hope you didn't miss our 1st annual Parent/Family night on **Oct. 14**. If you did, then you missed a great time, despite the wind and rain. Our Family/Alumni band was absolutely AWESOME, or, to quote one of the band kids, "They're insane". The tailgate party was a lot of fun (til the rain started), and the football game made us all wish we were young again. The only negative comment I heard from any band parent was "I wish I had played with ya'll." We are hoping to make this an annual event, so, if you didn't feel like your embouchure was in shape this time, you've got a whole year to prepare for next year.

Many of you are wondering "What tailgate party?" Well, one thing I discovered this week is that we have a terrible communication problem. I tried to send an info sheet home with each child, but several of the notices are STILL in the band room, or in your child's locker/instrument case, or who knows where? Another method I tried to notify parents was by email. However, I only have a few parent email addresses, so I sent my message to every parent's address I could find, with a note for them to "Pass it on to other band parents". I'm assuming if I'd have had a few more weeks for the trickle down effect then many of you would have eventually received my message. I also updated the website, but many of you do not regularly access our website. So.....what are we going to do about this communication breakdown??? Well, if you'll log into your email today and send me a quick message, I'll save your email address in my address book. Please be sure to tell me your child's name, instrument and grade. I promise NOT to overload your email account with JUNK email, but I do promise to let you know any information that I feel you have a need or desire to know. Please take a moment to email me and let's see if we can improve communication in the future.

On **November 11**, our students will represent the Grissom Band in the Veteran's Day Parade. Please watch your email (hint, hint) for more information on report times. I know this may be a workday for many of you, but I encourage you to try to attend this parade to show support for our children and for all of our veterans.

Please mark your calendars for the next Band Parent's meeting on Monday, **Oct. 25** at 7PM. I have promised that Band Parent meetings will be informative, fun, and best of all, one hour or less! We've had a great time with the door prize drawings, and, for those of you who were at the last band parent meeting, remember my challenge to bring a band parent with you to the next meeting. It will double your chances to win the door prize!!!! Also, there will be an Informational Hawaii meeting on **November 1** at 7PM in the auditorium. All participating students and one parent/guardian must attend this meeting.

I want to personally thank all of the parents that have helped during the marching season. Without you, this program would not be possible. Although the marching season is winding down, there is still much to do for the remainder of the year. If you've got an hour or two (or thirty) to help, just call me and I'll put you to work. It may be hard work, but it is extremely rewarding to spend time with this wonderful group of kids. Don't forget to send me your email address, and I'll see you on the 25th.

Sincerely,
Cherry Hovik
President 2004/2005

GRISSOM BAND PARENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2004-2005

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Director's Notes

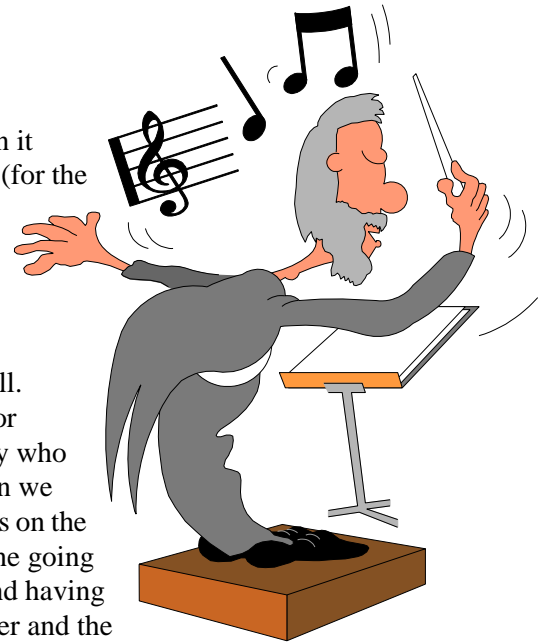
Marching Band Contests

We have successfully completed our marching band season and what a season it was!! Between dodging hurricanes, JV and freshman football games at GHS (for the first time ever) and the multitude of knee/ankle injuries we were able to endure and have a great time! *Stormworks* was a huge challenge to students and directors/instructors alike, but we managed to reach our goals. The band has worked extremely hard this year and the results showed.

Our performance in Columbia netted a 3rd place finish in class and 4th overall. Color guard won 1st in class and 1st overall. Drum majors received a superior rating. In Marietta we faced some of the finest marching bands in the country who

compete on a much more intense level than we ever intend to, due to the time constraints on the students and budget constraints. Imagine going to a minimum of 4 marching contests and having every Saturday during September, October and the first 3 weeks of November involved either in competing in a marching contest or having a weekend mini camp with rehearsals all day Saturday and possibly Sunday afternoon. That was the competition in Marietta and we qualified for the finals competition (one of our major goals). Drum majors finished 1st, color guard 2nd and percussion received a superior rating. In finals the band finished 3rd with their very best performance of the year!

Thanks to all who gave so much of your time and energy to make this marching season a success!! We couldn't have survived without you! Thanks also to all who were in the stands at the football games and the marching contests cheering the band on! We all appreciate this more than could ever be expressed!



Football Games

We will continue to perform at football games for the remainder of the season. Rehearsals will be short and sweet- the day of the ball game from 3:30-4:00. Due to budget constraints (fruit sales- see other info in this newsletter concerning this) we will only take a pep band of 40 people to the Florence game **Friday, October 22**. This band will be comprised of leadership and seniors. The Pelham game that was postponed due to the hurricane will be played **Friday, October 29**. This will be homecoming. The Johnson game originally scheduled to be played **October 29** will be played **Friday, November 5**. Senior recognition will be during this game.

Hawaii Band

We began rehearsals for our Hawaii trip last week. Please refer to the band calendar on the website for rehearsal dates and times. We are preparing for the parade plus the stand-still concerts to be held at the USS Missouri dock and hopefully the USS Arizona Memorial Welcome Center. The music for the parade is to be memorized, but the students may use music in flip folders for the stand-still concerts.

Veterans' Day Parade

The GHS Band will participate in this parade **Thursday, November 11**. **It is a required performance and is listed on the band calendar.** The parade will begin at 11am and should be completed by 1pm at the latest. The band room will be open before and after the parade for students to pick up uniforms and instruments. Details concerning the starting and ending locations TBA.

Jazz Band News

The jazz bands have a few gigs coming up. “A” Jazz Band will play for the Alabama Council of Hospital Auxiliaries on **Monday, October 25** from 7:30-8:30pm at the Hilton Hotel. They will also play for the Alabama Builders Contractors on **Friday, November 5** from 5:30-7:00pm. Both “A” and “B” Jazz Bands will provide Big Band music for a USO celebration at Atria on **Saturday, November 6** from 6-9pm. Dress for all of these performances will be nice clothes, no jeans, ties for guys.

Semester Auditions

Music for the semester auditions (final exam) was given to all students on **October 13** and **14**. This gives the students almost **TWO MONTHS** to prepare the music. This audition determines their semester exam grade and band placement for 2nd semester. The audition consists of **ALL** 12 Major Scales and arpeggios (2 octaves) the chromatic scale from the lowest note to the highest note you can play (ascending and descending), three etudes, and sight reading. The scales will be timed: each student will be given **2 minutes** to perform their Major Scales and arpeggios in 2 octaves. After the 2 minutes is up, they will receive points for the scales passed successfully and no points for the scales not attempted. Please encourage your child to practice this audition music on a regular basis. Percussionists will play all 12 major scales, chromatic scale, three etudes (snare, mallets and timpani), snare rudiments and timpani tuning. They have time before class starts each day to practice on the instruments at school. We also encourage students to take private lessons. If your child is not currently taking lessons from someone, please contact us and we can give you names of qualified teachers. This audition material is also the Alabama High School All-State Material. If any current 9th graders are interested in the Junior High School All-State audition music, please have them contact the directors. This music is different from our audition music.

New Instrument!

If your child is playing on the same instrument you purchased in middle school, it may be time for an upgrade. Christmas is just around the corner! Please contact the band directors or your student’s private teacher for recommendations of quality instruments. There are some good deals in town but there are also very competitive mail order stores. Shop around before investing your hard earned money.

Huntsville City Schools Gives Band Programs \$\$\$

For the first time in at least 25 years, Huntsville City Schools has given each high school band program \$10,000.00 and each middle school band program \$5,000.00. This money is to be used for new instrument purchases only. This is truly a **MAIN EVENT** for the system band programs. If you know any of the board members or administration downtown, please thank them. We have already sent purchase orders for a new bassoon and a new concert xylophone. Just these two high quality instruments totals \$8,500.00. \$10,000.00 does not go very far in a band program but it is very appreciated!

After School Concert Rehearsals

After school rehearsals begin the week of October 18 for Symphonic Bands I & II. These dates have been listed in the calendar since school began.

Symphonic Band II: Mondays 3:30-5:30pm.

Symphonic Band I: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-5:30.

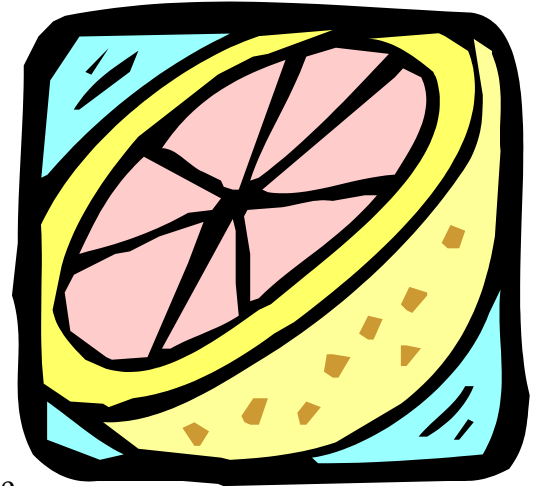
Concert Band will have Wednesdays on November 17 and December 1 from 3:30-5:30.

Fruit Sale Update

In November we will start our annual Citrus Fruit Sales. As you know, this year is very different. Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne have done tremendous damage to the Florida citrus crop this year. Assuming no more weather damage occurs, our supplier has agreed to provide fruit for the following sales this year:

November 19-20 (Fri/Sat before Thanksgiving)
December 17-18 (Fri/Sat before Christmas)

Traditionally, these are our two biggest sales. At this time, sales after Jan 1 are tentative, based on supply. We have a fantastic committee to handle fruit sales – most have agreed to return from last year. These folks take care of everything from the tent, truck reconfiguration, signs, advertising, signups, credits and all the other things that have to be done to run this “business”. Thanks to every one of you and your families for your support!!



Jan Baker has agreed to serve as our scheduling coordinator this year. Signup information will be provided at the next band parent meeting (**October 25**). *We will not accept signups to work sales prior to the meeting.*

When signing up, please keep these things in mind:

1. We will have fewer sales this year and some sales will offer fewer worker credit hours, so please be considerate in signing up for slots. To be fair, we will have limits on credit hours that may be accumulated for these sales.
2. You have the *option to volunteer* your time instead of getting individual credit for your student. This will greatly help the band as all profits that are not directed to individual student credit go directly toward the band’s operating expenses. This helps us keep our band fees from increasing. If you would like to volunteer your time, just indicate it on the sign in/out sheet at the sale.
3. If you have never worked a fruit sale, we will need to give you some training first. This will take about an hour and we don’t provide work credit for this hour.
4. Fridays of the first sales (through December) are very hectic, so please don’t sign up to work on a Friday unless you have worked at least two hours at a previous sale. This will avoid a stressful situation for you and your co-workers. We will schedule some training times on Saturdays. If you have never worked a fruit sale before, please be sure to let Jan know when you sign up so she can also schedule your training slot.

We are changing some policies this year to help us get the most out of our sales. These are being finalized and we will need EVERYONE’S help to make sure we’re consistent in how we interact with all our customers.

For example, a couple of changes are:

- a. Changes to the \$1 discount policy -- please make sure to get the updated information when you come to the first sale you work.
- b. We will need at least 2 adults signed up for each time slot. At least one needs to have experience from prior fruit sales.

Nelson & Karen Parker
Fruit Sales Coordinators

\$ Treasurer's Box \$

Please be aware that the "CASH OR EQUIVALENT CREDIT" portion of your fees (the portion formerly known as *Fair Share*) is due in November.

If your student is **MARCHING**, you will owe **\$200**.

If your student is **CONCERT ONLY**, you will owe **\$200**.

If your student is **GUARD ONLY**, you will owe **\$100**.



Half of this amount is due in November and the other half is due at the end of March 2005.

Many people use credits accumulated from scrip, as well as working events such as the Fruit Sales to pay some or all of these fees. As you make your payment plans, bear in mind that, while we HOPE to be able to hold all of our usual Fruit Sales this year, we are still waiting to determine the effect of the hurricane season on the citrus crop. We have scheduled the first 2 fruit sales and will have to see how the fruit crop holds up. But it is possible that fewer work hours may be available. We remain optimistic, but the quantity and quality of this year's fruit crop is out of our control.

Fall Instrument Rentals are PAST DUE. If your student rents an instrument from the band or is in the pit/percussion section, please be sure that your \$45 has been paid.

"How/Where Do I Pay?"

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.
2. Place fee (or have your reliable student do it) 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)

Feel free to contact us with any questions. We'll do our best to help!

Julie Ashcraft

650-5043

Julie23@ashcraft.net

Kathy Francica

883-7132

KFrancica@bellsouth.net

Stadium Setup Committee

Water: We Need More PLEASE!! So those of you who have been holding off for the second half of the season...the time is right. Please send your water into the band room with your student. After marching season, any water left over goes to the hospitality committee for the SYM camps and any contests, etc. hosted by Grissom High School Band. Rumor has it that we might make playoffs (Yeah Team!). This will mean more water needed if we are Home. Thanks again to those of you who have donated your wheeled coolers.

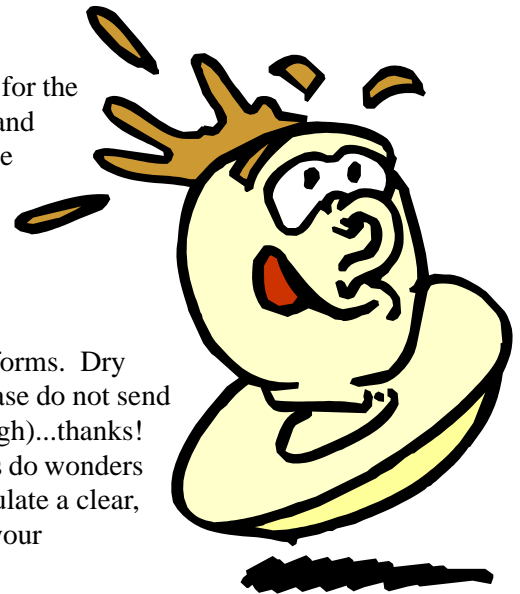
Just as a reminder...we cannot serve hot chocolate as long as we wear the uniforms. Dry cleaning costs are way too high to do the whole group after each wearing. Please do not send it separately for your child to have while in uniform (before/after is Okay though)...thanks! The hand warmer pads that go inside gloves and the thinsulate type glove liners do wonders for keeping hands warm. I'm still waiting for those culinary wonders to formulate a clear, hot, chocolate-flavored drink. They could make a fortune. Thanks again for your cooperation.

Seat covers: Anyone who can help is welcome. Many hands make light work. [A special note of thanks to those of you who helped at the Austin game...only you know how precious that help was to Debbie, Jim and me.]

Go Tigers!

Jennifer Todd (c: 656-3802; w: 876-4458)

Jim & Debbie Krenn (h: 883-7811)



Scrip News



It's not too soon to start planning your holiday SCRIP purchases! Use these gift certificates to pay for your gift purchases (just figure out about how much the item you want will cost and order sufficient gift certificates to cover it) or just give the scrip as gifts. Consider themes like "dinner and a movie" where you give a gift of a combination of a restaurant scrip and either a \$10 movie theater certificate or a \$4 movie rental (one time) gift certificate. We offer a wide range of restaurants and the denomination of the certificates range from \$5 to \$25, depending on the restaurant.

You can also use cellophane to create gift baskets or other holder type items to give the scrip. You might give a CD wallet type holder with some gift certificates inside from stores which sell CDs. Another possibility is to give a coffee mug or other similar small holder with a pack of fast food or ice cream coupons. You might give a college student a gift package a gas card or you could make a gift basket with scrip from various restaurants, grocery stores and maybe movie theaters near their school. We offer scrip for various type merchants ranging from clothing, home supplies/decor, groceries, sporting goods, car supplies -- you name it! The good thing with gift certificates is that one size really does fit all!!! Contact Nelson and Karen Parker to place your orders at parker23@knology.net.

Mark Your Calendar!

Which one? Your new Grissom Band Calendar! The spirit committee is compiling a special calendar that chronicles OUR band life throughout the year. It will include candid and group photos as well as significant dates. These calendars will be available in time for the the holidays and will make great gifts! They will also be a wonderful way to remember the year 2005 in Grissom band in a very special way!

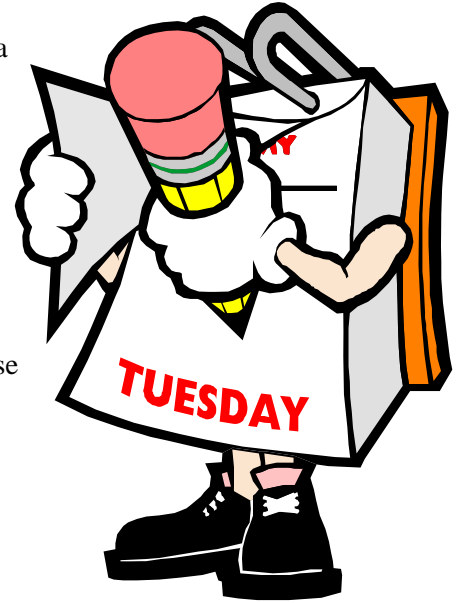
We need volunteers to help us approach local businesses to solicit donations in exchange for "ads" on the calendar pages to offset printing costs. Your company might even be interested in being one of our sponsors! Sponsorship levels are \$50, \$100 and \$150 or more depending on size. If you're interested, please contact Avi Swain.

Watch for more information soon!

Avi Swain

AMadanSwain@peds.uab.edu

swainjad@msn.com



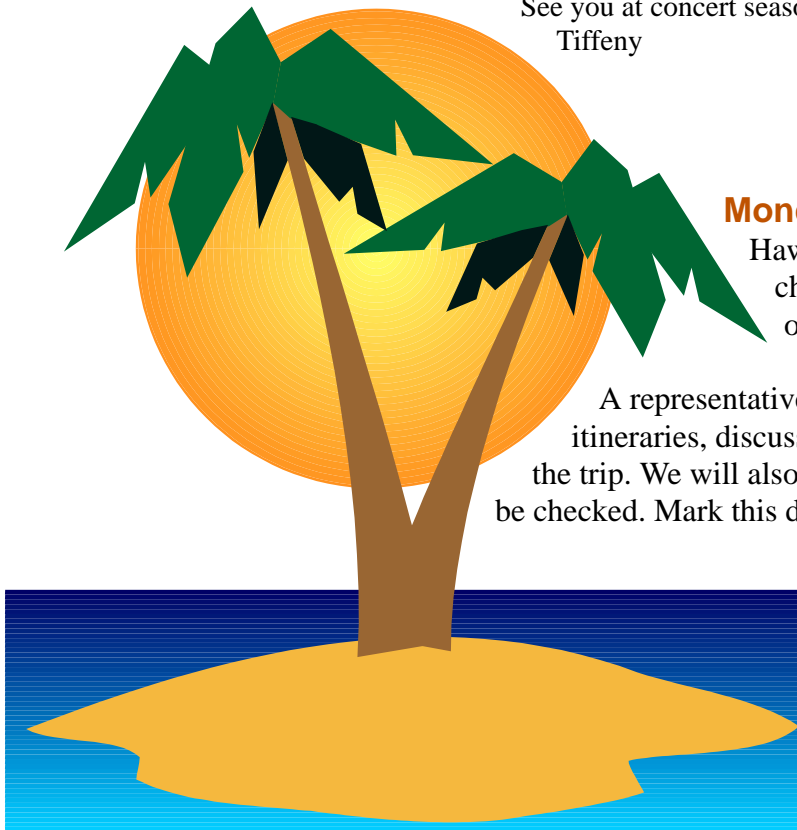
Thank You So Much!!

Thank you to all of the people who helped with uniforms this season. From sewing to hat plumes, Monday morning crew and field trip helpers. Everyone did a great job but I wanted to thank a couple of people who went above the call. Special thanks to Nan Kirk for the new vest and all of your Monday morning work, Joy Stucky for coordinating the plumes, Kristy Fugit for keeping all of my numbers straight and Denise Wingo as glovecart person and right hand lady.

Thanks to every one of you who gave of your time, you were very appreciated.

See you at concert season!

Tiffeny



Required Meeting!

Monday, November 1st, 7PM

Hawaii Pre-Departure Meeting for all participants, chaperones, adults and at least one parent (guardian) of student travelers. This is a required meeting.

A representative from Gateway Tours will be here to hand out itineraries, discuss luggage limits and basic information concerning the trip. We will also discuss how to pack the instruments that have to be checked. Mark this date on your calendars!

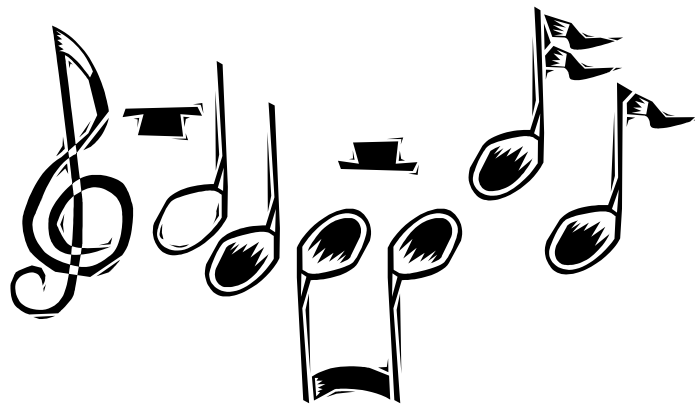
**GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL
GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 4335
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35815**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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**BAND PARENTS
MEETING
MONDAY
October 25
7PM - AUDITORIUM
See you there!**



***GHS Band Parents Association
October Newsletter***



www.grissomband.org