



Grissom Band Parents Association, Inc. Newsletter

November 2004

Editors - Mitzi Crawford & Judy Hardwick

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Thank you, thank you for your support during the marching season!!! A special thanks to all of those who worked so hard at the football games. Without your help, this wonderful program for our students would not be successful.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Holiday season concerts. The concert bands and the Jazz bands will each be involved in various concerts, and each concert will be a delightful addition to your holiday season. Also, the students will be marching in the Christmas Parade on December 4th. Please come out and support them.

Please read carefully the enclosed article concerning the Task Force on Student Health issues for Alabama students. We need your help in fighting this issue. We need to have our voice heard in Montgomery, so please send emails and letters and make phone calls.

Thanks to those of you who have sent me your email addresses. I hope you are finding the information that I have sent you helpful. I plan to do my best to keep parents informed and updated through email. If you haven't sent your address to me, please take the time to drop me a quick email.

Don't forget to purchase your Scrip. With the rush of the holiday season upon us you'll be sure to find yourself eating out now and then. Scrip is a certificate/card that you purchase for stores and restaurants. Instead of using your cash to pay your bill, you use Scrip. The band as well as your student's account earn a percentage of what you spend. Scrip certificates/cards are also a great holiday gift. If you need holiday ideas, just call or email Karen Parker and she'll give you plenty of great Christmas gift ideas.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally wish each and every family a safe and joyful Thanksgiving holiday. See you at the holiday concerts!

Sincerely,
Cherry Hovik
President 2004/2005

GRISSOM BAND PARENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2004-2005

Cherry Hovik, President
882-6190; cjhovik@comcast.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; julie23@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: 883-5643; LBF8887@hotmail.com

Scrip

Nelson and Karen Parker: parker23@knology.net

Hospitality

Lynn Dowling: 881-5058; lynnddowling@yahoo.com
Rachel Rawls: 881-3263; brawls@hiwaay.net

Concerts

Monica Geiss: 881-4314; MGeis@juno.com
Colleen Toth: Drummom13@aol.com

Fruit Sales Scheduling

Jan Baker: 650-0915; janqueenbee1@knology.net

Newsletter

Mitzi Crawford: 882-2115; mcrawford1@knology.net
Judy Hardwick: Judhrdwk@knology.net
*Please send email corrections to us!

Webmaster

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

Hawaii Coordinator

Jim and Sheila Kirsch: jckirsch@knology.net

Publicity

Kristi Fugit: 881-1072; kristi.fugit@ngc.com

Stadium Setup

Jennifer Todd: 656-3802; jendav5@yahoo.com
Jim and Debbie Krenn: 883-7811

Transportation

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

Trucks

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

Uniforms

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

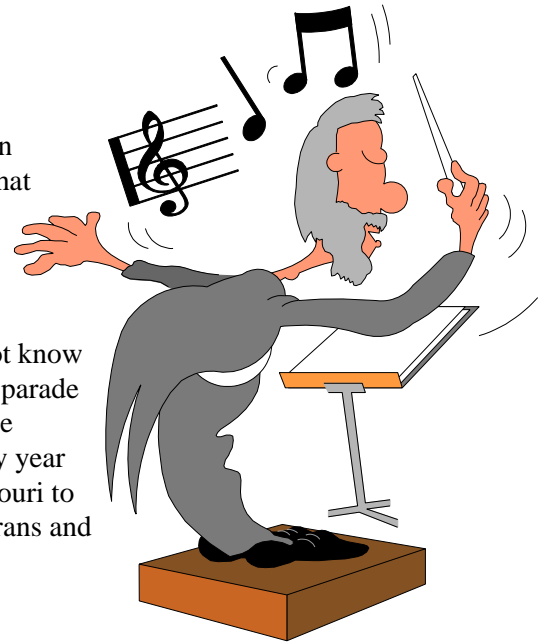
Historian

Susan Fields: fielddocs@knology.net

Director's Notes

Veteran's Day Parade

We hope that the decision to not march in the Veterans' Day Parade was not an inconvenience to anyone. We understand there may be some folks unhappy that we did not participate for one reason or another. Since our photographer cancelled due to chances of more rain and the high winds, we decided to not march. We just could not afford, literally, to take a chance on getting the uniforms, instruments, equipment and students wet before we had to travel to Birmingham for the playoff game the next day. Please help those that may not know the circumstances understand our decision. Yes it was not raining during the parade but who could predict that at 8:30am? The weather guys were all saying three different things. You may also remind folks that we honor our Veterans every year with the 9/11 concert and are traveling to Hawaii to perform at the USS Missouri to honor our Veterans. Grissom High School Band does a lot to honor our Veterans and is proud to do so.



Hawaii Preview Performance

On **Thursday, November 18** at 4:45pm, those students traveling to Hawaii will present a preview performance. They will perform their parade music and some of their concert music for the USS Missouri performance. We are inviting all parents, family, friends, and Veterans to come watch and listen to what we have been preparing for this opportunity.

Hawaii Student Traveler Meeting

On **Monday, November 22** immediately after school, we need to meet with all the students that are flying with the band to go over new rules for the flight concerning luggage requirements, instrument case security, in-flight meals, packing, etc. We should be done by 4:00pm at the latest.

Upcoming Concerts

The annual Band Christmas Concert will be **Friday, December 3** at 7:30pm. All three concert bands will perform and the performance is required. The annual Christmas Parade is **Saturday, December 4**. Times TBA. If you would like to take your marching uniform/hat after the concert you may do so. The nineteenth annual Hilaritas will be **Friday, December 10** and **Saturday, December 11** at 7:30pm. This concert involves the "A" Jazz Band and Concert Choir. On **Sunday, December 12** at 2:00pm, the music department will present Potpourri -- a concert of small instrumental and vocal ensembles.

Marching Band DVD!

Cutting Edge Productions is once again creating a marching band video for the 2004 season. These will be DVDs this year! The cost is \$20.00 each. The deadline to order is **Friday, December 10**. We cannot accept cash so make checks out to Grissom Band and put DVD on the check. We will have order forms available in the band room.

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 second 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. After the 2 minutes are 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. All percussionists will play all 12 major scales, chromatic scale,

three etudes (snare, mallets and timpani), snare rudiments and timpani tuning. Percussionists 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 ninth 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 for Christmas?

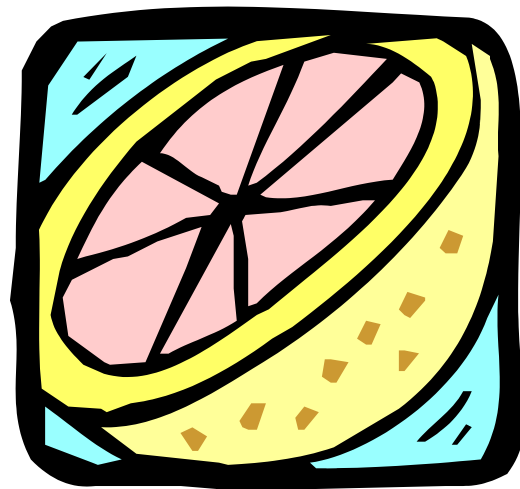
If your son or daughter is playing on the same instrument they played in middle school, it may be time to get a new one. Please do not rush this process and contact the band directors for recommendations of make, model and vendor.

All-State/Honor Band Pre-Registration Deadline DECEMBER 6th

If you are planning on auditioning for All-State and/or the District I Honor Band, the pre-registration deadline is **December 6**. We cannot accept cash. Registration is \$5.00 for All-State, and \$5.00 for Honor Band (\$10.00 for both events). Please make checks out to Grissom Band. Auditions will be held at Sparkman High School for Senior High Students on **Friday, January 28** and on **Saturday, January 29** for Junior High Students. Please be aware that only ninth graders can audition for the Junior High bands and the audition music is different than the High School music, which is the same as Grissom's semester audition music. Ask the directors for the junior high music if you plan to audition. Honor Band will be at Decatur High School this year on **February 25 & 26**. All-State Festival will be at Auburn University on **April 14-16**.

Fruit Sale Update

By the time you read this, our first sale of this season will be finished. Our Fruit Sale committee has been working diligently behind the scenes getting things ready – updating the customer database, getting the postcards ready, updating forms, coordinating with the grower, painting and deploying the signs, setting up publicity and getting posters out in the community, getting the tent and equipment ready – the list goes on! Thanks to all of our team for doing a fantastic job! Have you seen our new “big” signs? Very special thanks go to Kim Mills for stripping and repainting these wooden signs. They look absolutely wonderful and will sure help us spread the word that our fruit sales are back for another season in spite of Charlie, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne!!!!



This year, our prices had to go up slightly. The fruit crop was reduced by the hurricanes, fuel costs are up and labor costs are also up. Another change this year is that we will not be able to offer the \$1 off discounts so that we can hold down the costs.

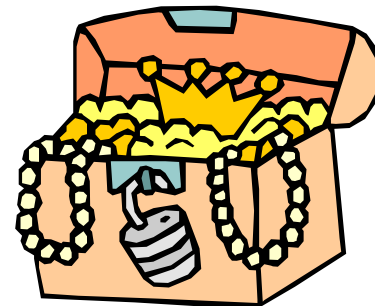
We have simplified our forms and have made some other changes, based on suggestions from workers during the sales last year. Hopefully these will help streamline the process.

The second sale will be December 17-18 at Advance Auto. We plan to sell navel oranges, pink seedless grapefruit and Orlando tangelos. We will also be selling natural pecan halves, walnuts and pistachios. We still need workers to staff the sale. To sign up, just contact Jan Baker (janqueenbee1@knology.net).

To all who support the fruit sale fundraiser – thank you!!!!

Nelson & Karen Parker
Fruit Sales Coordinators
parker23@knology.net

\$ Treasurer's Box \$



CASH or CREDITS PORTION OF BAND FEES DUE NOW!!!

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 *now* and the other half is due at the end of March 2005.

**** We are pleased (and relieved) to announce that we have received full payment from The Vipers for all those who worked at Vipers' games this summer and earned credits. When you receive your next statement, you will find that your account has been credited. Thank you for your patience!**

You have no doubt read and heard from a variety of sources (Band Parent Meetings, newsletter, website) that we have only been able to schedule two fruit sales so far (Nov.19-20; Dec. 17-18) due to the disastrous weather in Florida this fall. While we HOPE the grower will be able to provide us with additional fruit later in the season, we can't count on it. This reality will undoubtedly affect many folks' plans to earn credits to pay the *Cash or Credits* portion of their fees. Please make your plans accordingly. **Using SCRIPT, especially Kroger rechargeable cards to pay for your groceries, is an incredibly fast and easy way to earn BIG bucks in your account.** If you get family members or friends using these easy-to-use cards, you can easily earn enough to pay **all your fees**, and more! If you haven't yet looked into it, now would be a **great** time to start!

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)

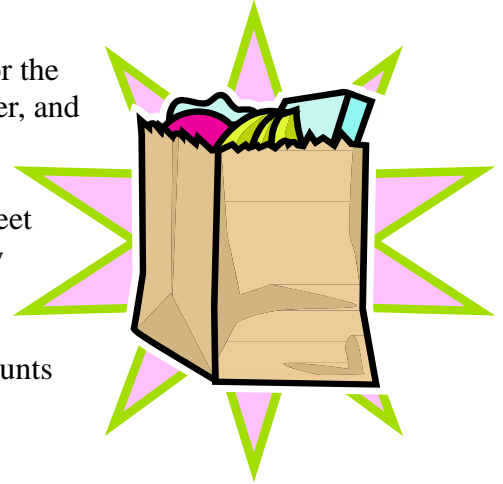
Let us know what we can do to help you!

Julie Ashcraft
650-5043
Julie23@ashcraft.net

Kathy Francica
883-7132
KFrancica@bellsouth.net

Scrip - Grocery Gift Card Promotion

Thanks to all of you who participated in the special holiday promotion for the Grocery Gift Certificates. We had just a few days to get the order together, and unfortunately it did not happen to come in time for a newsletter or band parent meeting to help us spread the word. We did the best we could to notify as many as possible by email and phone calls. Not only did we meet the minimum order of \$5,000 – we set a new record. We ordered slightly over \$13,500 worth of gift cards, so that means the band made about \$1350 from that single order! The usual 40/60 split will be applied to this amount and the credits will be applied to the designated student accounts



Scrip - Holiday Update

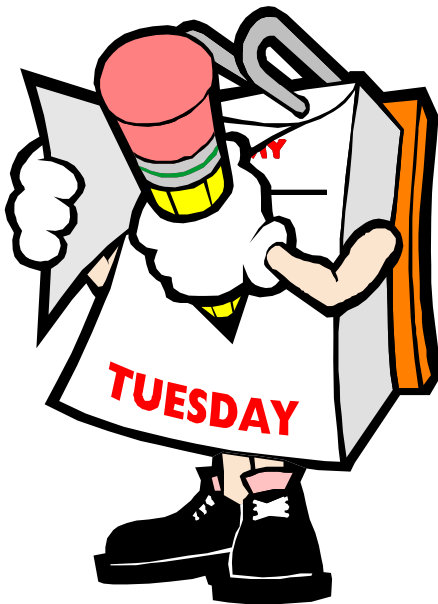
Thank you Alice and Don Searcy, who graciously opened their home to host our first ever Scrip Party. We had good attendance and a good time and we exchanged some ideas about how to give scrip in creative ways.

We have had several families place their holiday orders already! Please continue to think about scrip as you make your holiday shopping plans! Order deadlines will be posted on the website and we will be selling scrip at the Holiday Concert. To place an order, just let us know!

Nelson & Karen Parker
Scrip Coordinators
parker23@Knology.net

Grissom Band Calendar

Don't forget to order your Grissom Band calendar (\$10). We also are selling ads to businesses, parents or whoever would like to purchase one at \$50 (approximately business card size), \$100 (double the \$50 size) or \$150 (triple the \$50 size). You may want to "purchase" a special day to place a short message on the calendar for that day for \$5. For instance, you might want to wish someone a special "Happy Birthday". If you're interested, please contact Avi Swain.



Avi Swain
AMadanSwain@peds.uab.edu
swainjad@msn.com

VERY IMPORTANT LEGISLATION THAT CAN AFFECT ALL OF US BAND FOLKS

There is a large group of physical education teachers trying to mandate 4 years of P.E. at the high school level and not allow waivers for any other subject or activity. We are certain this would have an adverse effect on the bands in many school systems.

In order to stop this, we must make our voices heard -- and even more importantly, our band parents must make their voices heard. We encourage you to send a letter to the list of task force members for the state of Alabama that are included here. If the Task Force on Student Health Issues is successful, all students in high school will be required to take four years of PE - - and neither band, ROTC, nor varsity athletics (!) will be allowed to count so that students can waive the PE requirement. This is one of the most ridiculous ideas we have ever heard. We believe that band students are more physically fit than most students in the general PE population. We also believe students will suffer because of the courses that they will no longer be able to fit into their schedule. Some will choose to drop band, others will drop other electives so that they can continue in band-- but in many cases those other electives are very beneficial. Please help by contacting others who care about bands. And even more importantly, contact the names listed below. The task force will make a recommendation, but the State Superintendent and the State School Board must ask in order to change current graduation requirements. Final Task Force Meetings are November 22 and 29 so we must get busy **ASAP!!!**

Thanks for your help!

Contact information:

Dr. Joseph Morton, State Supt. of Ed. PO Box 302101 Montgomery, Al 36130 (334) 242-9700 Fax (334) 242-9708 jmorton@alsde.edu Gov. Bob Riley State Capitol Room N- 104 600 Dexter Ave. Montgomery, Al 36130 governorbobriley@governor.state.al.us	State Board of Education Members:	
	Randy McKinney PO Box 2999 Gulf Shores, Al 36547 randym@gulftel.com Betty Peters 3507 Huntington Place Dothan, Al 36303 bettyp@ala.net Stephanie Bell 3218 Lancaster Lane Montgomery, Al 36106 bell3218@earthlink.net Dr. Ethel Hall 7125 Westmoreland Drive Fairfield, Al 35064 ehallsde@mindspring.com	Ella Bell 2634 Airwood Dr. Montgomery, Al 36108 ebell@alasu.edu David Byers Two Metroplex Dr. Suite 111 Birmingham, Al 35209 dbyers@highland.com Sandra Ray 2008 University Boulevard Tuscaloosa, Al 35401 sray@dbtech.net Dr. Mary Jane Caylor PO Box 18903 Huntsville, Al 35804 caylor@hiwaay.net

The Alabama Music Educators Association and the Alabama Band Masters need our help!!

They are asking that all AMEA members, booster groups, and concerned citizens write letters to the Governor, your State Legislator, State Superintendent, State Board of Education Members, and members of the Task Force to voice your opposition to the idea of the elimination of PE waivers or the idea of removing that option from the local school boards and local superintendents. Names & contact information can be found at the State Department of Education web site and the Alabama State Legislature web site. Please include in your letters the following points:

1. Currently, waivers are applied for by local boards. The decision to apply for these waivers should be kept at the local level.
2. Students enrolled in marching band/ show choir are receiving physical education. These students are physically active and should not be required to take P.E. if waivers are granted through the local school.
3. Study upon study show that the exercise from these activities is aerobic and contributes to the wellness of the participants.
4. Doing away with waivers will create scheduling problems for music students and music teachers. This could destroy some music programs in smaller schools.
5. Doing away with waivers would also effect JROTC programs which also have physical training in their classes.
6. This change could decrease a student's chances of receiving a band scholarship when they go to college. Band scholarships are not given to students who are unable to schedule band every year of high school!

Everyone go to the AMEA web site at <http://www.alabamamea.org/> and click on the Legislative link. That will provide a copy of the remarks that the AMEA president made to the Task Force in September. In that document you will find valuable information including research that can help state our case. The final two meetings are November 22 and November 29. Letters should begin pouring in no later than November 17. Please have everyone get on this quickly.

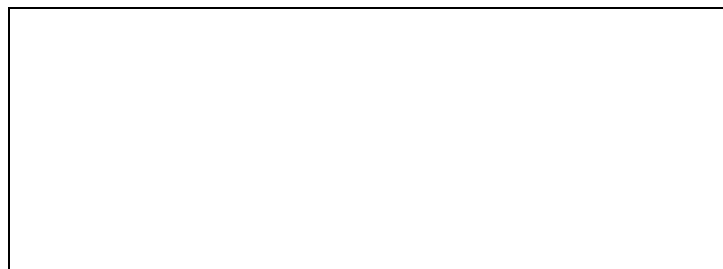
Thank you for your help and voice in this matter!

Bill Connell/Theo Vernon

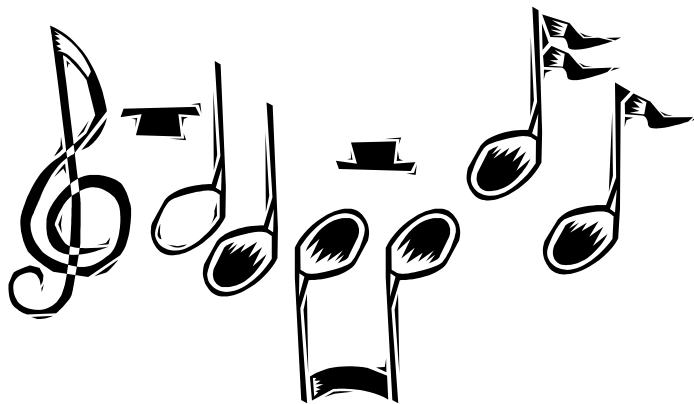
**GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL
GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 4335
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35815**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HUNTSVILLE, AL
PERMIT NO. 495**

**BAND PARENTS
MEETING
MONDAY
January 24
7PM - Bandroom
See you there!**



***GHS Band Parents Association
November Newsletter***



www.grissomband.org