



GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

November 2006

Editors: Judy Hardwick and Penny Irelan
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(Send addresses corrections to us!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone,

It's hard to believe that as I write this we are almost done with marching season. Two parades and for all practical intents and purposes marching is over. The kids have done a wonderful job this year with both the performances at the football games and their two outstanding performances in competition. If you weren't able to attend one of the competitions you missed something truly special. They all deserve a hearty congratulations on the hard work and effort they put into this part of the year.

I would also like to thank all the parents that have helped out with uniforms, trucks, chaperoning etc... Without your help making it through the last couple of months would have been all but impossible.

Now it's time to move forward into concert season. Your opportunities to help out and assist with concerts, district competition, trips, the VBC opportunity, the cancer pillow fund raiser and anything else we come up with are still necessary and much needed. This is especially true of the VBC opportunity, this is an excellent chance for everyone to work off a few dollars of those band fees and upcoming trip fees that are (or will be) outstanding.

Don't forget we have a band parents meeting November the 27th, the Jazz Band clinics at UAB the 21st, and the Christmas Concert all coming up in the next few weeks. I'm looking forward to seeing you all the 27th.

As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to email or call me.

Jay Simcox
883-9078
cjsimcox@comcast.net

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Newsletter: Judy Hardwick judhrdwk@knology.net;
and Penny Irelan wmsghsaumom@comcast.net

Directors:

Bill Connell and Theo Vernon
881-1075 (band room)

Director's News November 2006

Band Calendar:

Please check on Charms periodically for all band events. As events arise we will add them ASAP. 99% of our events are already posted. The band's website will have a bird's eye look at each month but Charms will have more details. Please remember the rehearsal schedule for the bands during concert season.

Symphonic Band I – Tues and Thurs 3:30-5:30pm

Symphonic Band II – Monday 3:30-5:30pm and Thursday 6:30-8:30pm (begins 2nd semester)

Concert Band – Wednesday 3:30-5:30pm

These rehearsals are an extension of the school day and are required as part of the students grade. Refer to the excused/unexcused rehearsal absences policies in the band handbook. Excused absences can be made up with-in one week and unexcused absences are not allowed to be made up. Missed rehearsals deduct 5 points from the 9 weeks grade each.

Marching Season Wrap-up:

We had a very successful marching season this fall thanks to the hard work of all the students involved. We hope this "new" experience for all you 9th grade students and parents has been a positive one. We will be making some changes with the way we handle contest band auditions in the future. We are looking at doing them for the upperclassmen before school is out in May or during Rookie Camp. A contract will be signed by both student and parent stating they understand their commitment to the contest band if they audition and make it. We had a couple of students this year that thought they could decide to not participate right before we started Pre-Camp in July. The show was already written for a specific number of students so they had to comply with their signed contract which is the right thing to do. We cannot have "holes" in the contest show. That is the whole reason for the contracts and show design. We do hope that all of you Football Band members will audition for the contest band for next year. You have an idea now of what it is all about by going to the contests and seeing how exciting it can be and what level we are able to perform in comparison to other bands that rehearse many more hours than we do. There are still bands that are going to contest at this late date in November. Can you imagine?

THANK YOU!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parent volunteers who have spent time helping the band program up to this point this fall. The marching program takes up a lot of time and we need many volunteers and many of you always come through for us. From chaperoning, helping with uniforms, seat covers at the games, half time performance crews, truck driving, fundraising, and others that we have left out; we THANK YOU! The band program cannot function with all of your wonderful volunteer help. You are appreciated!

2007 EXPO:

We were disappointed that our EXPO did not happen this year due to not enough bands signed up to make it worth all our time and effort. We are making some concept changes that we hope will be more beneficial to the participating bands and their directors. We will hold our EXPO sometime in September. All the ground work will begin in the Spring so be ready!

Spring Festival Information:

The two Symphonic Bands and Concert band will participate in the Dixie Classic National Adjudicators Invitational Concert Band Festival in Chattanooga, TN on Saturday, April 28. The bands have been invited again this year due to their superior performances at District and State Festivals. This will be a one day trip and will cost approx. \$50.00 per student which includes festival entry fees and transportation on charter buses. You may begin making payments on this as soon as you want to. Final cost will be

announced in February. Be sure to write your child(ren)'s name on the check and what it is for. Please mark this date on your calendars. We will need every individual to participate to perform at our very best!

Go check out their website for more information: <http://www.dixieclassic.com/>

Senior Trip Information:

This is our year to take the senior band members on a trip. They all decided upon three destinations; New York, Chicago or Orlando. We have a travel company working up price and itinerary quotes for us so we can see what you can afford. Our target price for the trip is approximately \$600, which would include most meals but not all of them. We want to make it as feasible as possible so all of our seniors can make this trip. As soon as we get more information and a final destination we will let you know. Payments for this trip will probably begin VERY SOON so please save your pennies. We will travel during March 15th - 20th. (Probably not that many days but during that time frame.) This is the best time for us to travel, as they will not miss much school. A deposit of \$150.00 is due by December 4th in order to reserve a spot and to determine exact costs. Final costs are based upon how many students participate. Remember to also check with Cherry Hovik about working at the VBC to earn credits for band fees and this trip. REMEMBER ALL BAND DEBTS MUST BE PAID BEFORE ANY STUDENT TRAVELS WITH THE BAND OR ATTENDS THE BAND BANQUET IN THE SPRING.

Upcoming Performances:

- This holiday season will be a busy time for our band!! We have several performances scheduled. In particular, our annual *Christmas Concert* on December 1 will be a very special event. The GHS Band will again team up with Children's Hospital in Birmingham to make this a benefit concert for the Oncology and Hematology centers of the hospital!!! We will have *Greg Screws* (former Channel 31 news and sports anchor) as our Master of Ceremonies. There will also be special guests from Children's Hospital, both adults and cancer 'survivors' (their term). This is also a fund raiser for the band, so we are offering aid to a very needy cause and helping the band too. The Christmas Concert will begin at 7:30. Many thanks to GHS band parent AVI SWAIN for making this dream become a reality!!
- As part of the cooperative effort with Children's Hospital in Birmingham, the band leadership and a few select students will travel by bus to the Children's Hospital Wednesday, November 15 to tour the Oncology Wards and play a concert in the hospital lobby. We will depart at 10am by school bus, returning to GHS by approximately 4pm. The Hospital will provide lunch for the students.
- Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 2nd in downtown Huntsville. Times will be announced as soon as we have them. Usually begins at 12:00 noon and is done by 2:00pm or so.
- The annual Potpourri Concert will Monday, December 4th at 7pm. 'B' Jazz Band and the percussion ensembles will be performing as well as many different instrumental and choral ensembles. This too is truly a treat that you will regret if you don't attend!!
- The 21st anniversary of Hilaritas, the 'A' Jazz and Concert Choir spectacular!! If you have never seen this show, you must make arrangements to do so. The performances are Thursday and Friday evening December 7 & 8 at 7:30. 'A' Jazz and Concert Choir will also perform selections of the season separately. Mark your calendar. This is a performance you don't want to miss!

****NEW INSTRUMENTS****

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! Not only would a better quality instrument help your son/daughter play better, it certainly helps the band too. Most instruments will APPRECIATE in value if taken care of. 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.

Audition Requirements for 2nd semester band placement AND final exam grade:
Semester audition material was handed out in October giving the students 2 months to prepare. This material is the same used for the Alabama All-State/District I Honor Band auditions. Students will be required to play the chromatic scale (lowest to highest note on instrument) and ALL 12 major scales with arpeggios MEMORIZED in a minute and a half or 2 minutes for those playing them 2 octaves. *If a student does not meet this minimum requirement they will not be a member of the Symphonic Band I or II next semester.* These two bands play grade 5 and 6 literature and must be able to play comfortably music passages in all keys. 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 and been told more than once to use this time wisely. There are many students right now in both the Symphonic Bands that cannot play all of these scales. We cannot stress enough how important the basics of music, 12 major scales, are to the success of our band program. *Please encourage your child(ren) to practice these scales and their audition etudes to continue the quality of the Grissom Band Program.* Individual practice is the only way this band program can sustain the level it is now and grow. 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.

**If any current 9th graders are interested in auditioning for the All-State Junior High Band, they will need the Junior High School All-State audition music. Please have them contact the directors. This music is different from the Grissom Band audition music.

Marching Band DVD:

Cutting Edge Productions has produced a DVD of the 2006 marching band. The DVD will include a rehearsal montage, Gadsden Contest and possibly the Vanderbilt performance. These DVDs are \$20.00 each. Deadline to order is December 1st.

All-State District Honor Band Audition Information:

We encourage as many students as possible to participate in the Alabama All-State and District 1 Honor Bands. Registration deadline is Tuesday, December 5th the fee is \$5 for each event. Make checks out to Grissom Band and we will write one check to ABA for all entries. Auditions are January 26 (High School) and 27 (Junior High) at Sparkman High School. District Honor Band is February 23-24 (Austin High School) and All-State Band is April 19-21. PROM and All-State Band conflict again, so DO NOT TRYOUT FOR ALL-STATE BAND IF YOU INTEND TO GO TO PROM!!! We have had students do All-State and Prom. We return to Huntsville at apx. 8pm and some have gone to prom then. It just depends upon how much they want to do both events. However, you certainly may tryout for District Honor Band. ALSO, DO NOT TRYOUT FOR DISTRICT OR ALL-STATE BAND IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO GO FOR ANY REASON. IF YOU MAKE ONE OF THE BANDS AND DO NOT ATTEND THE CLINIC, YOUR BAND GRADE WILL LOWERED!!

Treasurers' Report:

The next \$100 of fees are due now. Also, fall rental payments are due. Checks may be mailed to the P.O. Box or dropped in the Treasurer's box in the band room. The VBC concessions and fruit sales are 2 ways to work off these fees. All student fees/payments information is on Charms. If you can't access Charms, email the directors for password help. Also, it takes a while for VBC credits to be posted because we have to wait until we receive payment from the VBC for all activities for the month. ~ Julie

Concert Ticket Distribution

By now most parents probably know that each family that is up to date on all band fee payments is entitled to 8 tickets per student per year. These tickets may be used at the Fall, Christmas, and Spring Band Concerts. In the past these tickets have been available for pickup at band parent meetings or concerts. In order to eliminate any confusion surrounding ticket distribution and/or account status, effective immediately, the band parent board has decided that these concert tickets will only be handed out at band parent meetings. That way if there is any question regarding the status of your account it can be addressed at that time with the treasurers.

FRUIT SALE NEWS

It's here! The new fruit order website is online! Just follow this link <http://www.fruitorder.com/orderFundraising.asp?orgId=338427> and you will see what we have to offer. Our new fruit supplier, Florida Indian River Citrus, put this website together for us to allow you and your neighbors, co-workers, and friends to pre-order online and pay with a credit or debit card. You will still pick up the fruit the Friday and Saturday of the sale and yes, we will have fruit you can buy onsite just like always.

We are really encouraging the website presales, though, because it reduces the risk of the band being stuck with unsold fruit. The prices on the website are the same as last year but prices off the truck will be higher. You will also notice a place on the website to credit an individual band member with the sale. We will be offering a \$1 credit on your band account for every full case credited to you. The names have not been loaded into the site yet but will be in the near future.

Our first sale will be Nov 17-18 and we will be signing up people to work that sale at our next band parents' meeting. We are also looking for someone to coordinate the volunteer signup for us this year. Please contact us if you can help in this manner. A Scheduler is still needed to help the fruit sales go smoothly. If you're interested, please contact Jim Kirsch.

Rechargeable Grocery Cards

Be sure to use your rechargeable grocery cards through the holidays! Here are a few ways you can help the band and yourself:

1. Keep recharging the card and use it to buy groceries for regular and special holiday meals and parties
2. Did you know you can buy stamps at the K. store with your card?
3. The store sells some gift cards that we cannot get from our supplier – you can buy these using your rechargeable card.
4. Use the rechargeable card to buy pharmacy items.
5. If your church or work group wants to sponsor a family and provide a gift card for groceries – get a K. card and load it before you give it to the family.
6. Give a loaded rechargeable card to your parents if they have a Kroger nearby. You can load it for whatever amount you choose – usually up to \$500.
7. Ask family and friends to use the rechargeable card and just designate your student's account when you buy the card for them. The original card only has \$5 value, so you can mail it without much worry and let them recharge it before they begin to use it. Remember you must buy the gift card from the band to get credit as it is reloaded and tell us which student account to assign credit to for each card. If someone buys a K. rechargeable card from the store it won't give any credit although it looks exactly like ours.

If you need to buy a card, let us know at parker23@knology.net. Happy holidays!

Scrip Holiday Ideas

or the Twelve Ways of (using scrip for) Christmas

The holidays are coming, so now is the time to make plans to help the band and earn credits for your student account. The basic idea is to use Scrip for things you'll be buying anyway. As you know, we keep a limited selection of scrip "on hand" but check the band website at www.grissomband.org to see the full list of scrip merchants that we can order from. The next order date will continue to be posted on the band website. To order, contact the Parkers at parker23@knology.net.

Here are a few ideas for how to use scrip for your holiday gifts:

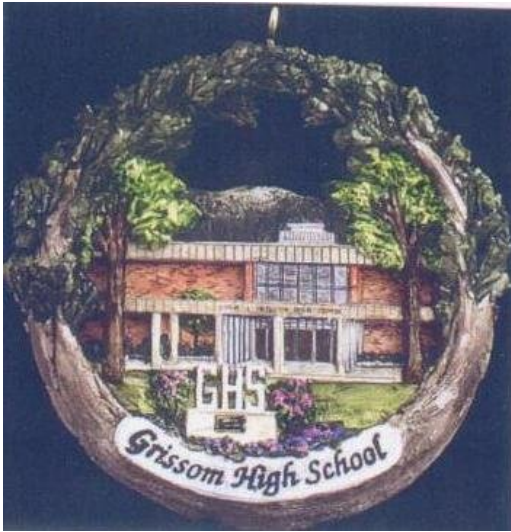
1. Give scrip as gifts – they are always the right size and color. Put the scrip in an envelope with a nice card or "dress it up" with other inexpensive items (see items below). Scrip is ideal if you need to travel out of town – it packs very compactly.
2. Use Scrip to buy holiday gifts (order enough to cover the entire amount)
3. Scrip makes a great stocking stuffer – movies, bookstores, ice cream, pizza.....
4. Use scrip for online orders – your favorite bookstores, outdoor clothing, and department stores, specialty stores, kitchen stores, you name it – we probably can get it!
5. For holiday occasions like wedding or baby showers, house warming parties, etc consider throwing a "scrip party" where the guests check the listing of available merchants and order scrip in advance for the honoree and present it at the party.
6. If your company has a Holiday party and if they give door prizes, see if you can order scrip for them – it saves someone the trouble of running all over town to buy it and you can help the band and your account!
7. Holiday travel planning – use Scrip to pay for hotels, gasoline, restaurants as you travel during the holidays
8. If your extended family plans to dine at a restaurant to celebrate the holiday meal, offer to order scrip – this could really add up! Take orders ahead of time, collect the money from family members, then place your order!
9. Use scrip to buy ham, turkey and the fixins (if you buy from a well known store) or if you happen to have a meal catered, see if you can use scrip to cover the costs.
10. Order scrip to be ready for the Day After Thanksgiving Big Sales
11. Use theme gifts for teachers, acquaintances, employees or co-workers
 - Put bookstore scrip in a coffee mug with a pack or two of tea, coffee samples or hot cocoa mix and place in a gift bag or holiday cellophane gift bag.
 - Wrap movie rental scrip and some packages of microwave popcorn in a bowl
 - Dinner and a movie theme – restaurant scrip plus movie theater scrip
 - Bath & more – Wrap bath/body care scrip with a nice set of towels
12. If you pre-pay for annual lawn service/chemical treatments or maid service from a well-known provider, buy scrip for the year renewal – it's 10%

From a parent who bought Staples scrip: Scrip is convenient and fast. I made \$ 48 for the band automatically---and \$32.00 towards my son's band dues--just by filling out one form and giving it to Karen Parker. I often thought I couldn't use scrip conveniently because I shop at Publix and don't use the Kroger scrip card. But I now use scrip for my big purchases and I'm amazed at the money I make without lifting a finger. When searching for a good price on a laptop, I found the best deal at Staples. I filled out a form for \$1,000 worth of Staples scrip from the Grissom Band Parents and I had the laptop within a week! Using the scrip was so convenient, with very little effort on my part---Karen had the scrip within days of my order and delivered it to me personally! Buying my laptop could not have been faster--and I made money too! --A Grissom Band parent

Grissom High School Ornament

Hand Painted, Limited Edition, Commissioned Pieces

Only about 30 left – Get yours before they are all sold!!!!



As part of its Huntsville Landmark series, Argosy Gifts and Collectibles (which is no longer in business) commissioned an exclusive hand-painted, resin, 3-dimensional keepsake ornament of GHS to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the school. This limited edition collectible is 4” in diameter and comes in its own gift box with a small display base (that blends perfectly with the landscaping on the ornament) for year-round display for \$25.

This is a unique and very special reminder of all the wonderful memories of Grissom High – a wonderful gift for graduation, birthday or Christmas or as a special memento for alumni and faculty of GHS.

Grissom Band has made special arrangements to sell these ornaments *while supplies last*. Be sure to get yours before we sell out and they are gone forever!

To buy an ornament, contact Karen Parker at parker23@knology.net or call 883-4622.

Chaperones--- Thank you for all your hard work and dedication during the marching season.
Percussion parents--- Thank you for contributing all the food and letting your students participate in the tailgating experience. I have enjoyed getting to know them! It has been loads of fun! I'm going to miss you all! Thank again, Debbie Krenn

VBC Workers Needed:

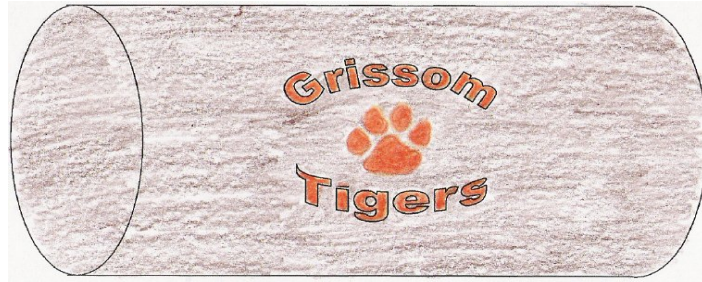
The VBC fundraiser is still ongoing and we need more adult and student workers. Please contact me if you think you can spare one evening a month to help this fundraiser. Your band fees will be credited \$5 per hour for each hour that you work.

Cherry Hovik 337-4848 (cell) cjhovik@comcast.net

Get rid of your old cell phones and ink cartridges-- raise money for the band!

Place them in a box in the band room throughout the year. We can get money back on every donation.

Help raise over \$ 1,000 for our band!



Grissom Tiger Pillows

The Grissom High School band is selling Grissom Tiger pillows for \$15 each as a fundraiser. The design will be brown all over with “Grissom Tigers” and a paw print printed in orange. They are made of a special micro bead product that is similar to the Moshi Pillows, but these pillows are hypoallergenic, washer & dryer safe, and sturdy. This is a fantastic gift for any Tiger fan. It is perfectly sized to use on car/bus rides (10”x 5”). We are pre-selling these pillows now until December 8th, 2006. The pillows will be delivered approximately 8 weeks later (mid February).

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each pillow will go to the Cathy Swimelar Foundation, benefiting families of cancer patients. Cathy Swimelar was Grissom junior Matthew Palmier’s aunt, who died last year from brain cancer. Learn more at www.CathySwimelarFoundation.org You may also view other pillows made for her foundation at www.cancerpillow.org by Snooztime, Inc. This is the same company that will make our Grissom Tiger pillows.

You may place your order by filling out the form below or downloading an order form from the Grissom Band Website (www.grissomband.org). Checks should be made payable to Grissom Band. Mail your order form and check to Grissom Band Parents Association, P.O. Box 4335, Huntsville, AL 35815. If you have any questions, please contact Vanessa Poole @ 880-6453. nessapoole@gmail.com

Any Band student can earn a free pillow with every 15 pre-orders they collect. Remember that the deadline is December 8th. Get those orders in! Thanks you for your support.

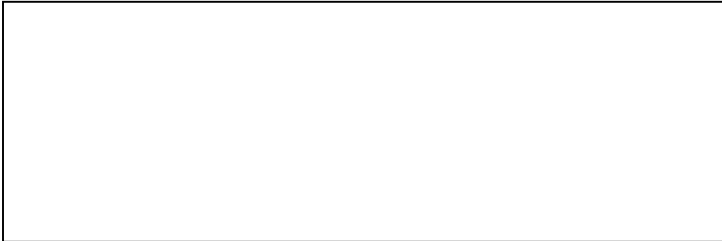
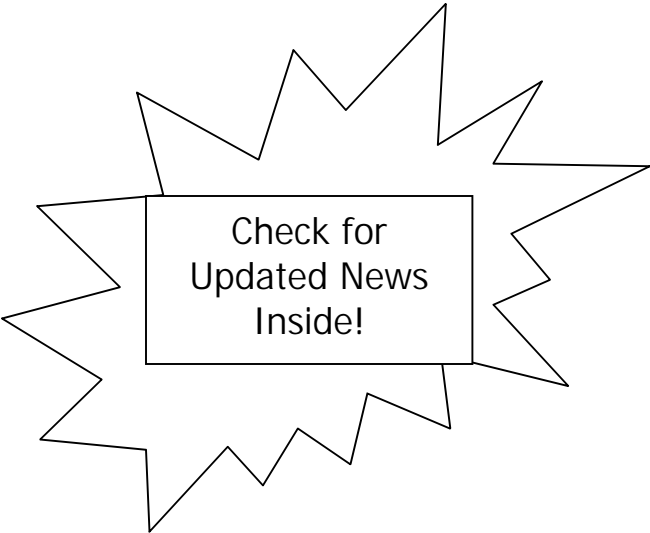
Name	_____	Address	_____
	_____	Phone	_____
Email	_____	How many?	_____
Check	Cash (circle one)	Picked up by	_____
(This will be signed when you pick up your pillow)			

INDOOR DRUM-LINE

If you are interested in participating in indoor drum-line, please read below. Any of the middle school kids are welcome to participate, too. The more the merrier! Bryan Barley, in conjunction with Grissom Band, is organizing the Grissom Indoor Drumline. We’re planning to have tryouts and a camp over the Thanksgiving weekend (hours and location are TBD -- most likely Grissom). Anyone from Grissom band is welcome to participate, and middle school kids are welcome to participate, too. You don’t have to be a percussionist – there will be other openings, also. We will be part of the Southern Color Guard Circuit (SCGC), and if you’re not familiar with Indoor Drum line, you can find additional information at www.scgconline.org. The parent organization for SGCG is Winter Guard International (WGI), and there is a lot of good information at www.wgi.org. If your child is interested, or you’d like more information, contact Debbie Krenn at jdkrenn@comcast or Laura Hardy at lhardy@knology.net.

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