



# GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

January 2007

Editors: Judy Hardwick and Penny Ireland

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(Send addresses corrections to us!)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone,

I hope you have all had a safe and happy holiday and are ready to get back to the business of watching our children mature, grow and excel. While the excitement of the marching season has past us that doesn't mean we are slowing down in the least. There are district and state competitions, the Dixie Classic, and Symphonic Camp just to name a few. These events and our upcoming fund raisers will require a great deal of coordination and cooperation and any help you can provide is greatly appreciated by all of us.

Just to hit a couple of the high spots we have 2 fruit sales left, the first of which is the week of Jan 19-20. We have done extremely well with fruit sales to date and if at all possible we would like to keep that going and finish out the season strong. If anyone would like a flyer to print out and post at work please let me know and I will email you what I have as quickly as possible.

Pillows for the pillow fund raiser have been ordered and we anticipate them being delivered sometime in March. This fund raiser not only benefits the band but a portion of the proceeds will go to the Cathy Swimelar Foundation benefiting the families of cancer patients. This is a wonderful opportunity for all us to give something back.

In addition the VBC opportunity remains and fantastic way to work off your outstanding, and upcoming, band fees. With the Dixie Classic in the near future and next years band trip somewhere down the road now is the time to get ahead of the curve if you can.

My thanks to you all for your continued support and assistance. I hope to see you at the January Band Parents Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. As always please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Jay Simcox  
GBPA President 2006/07

## Executive Board: 2006-07

**Pres** Jay Simcox [cjsimcox@comcast.net](mailto:cjsimcox@comcast.net)  
**1st VP** Jim Gatherer [hsvjim@yahoo.com](mailto:hsvjim@yahoo.com)  
**2nd VP** Becky Lash [beckylash@epictrends.com](mailto:beckylash@epictrends.com)  
**Secretary:** Mary Setzer  
[mary.setzer@comcast.net](mailto:mary.setzer@comcast.net)  
**Treasurers:** Julie Ashcraft [julie12@ashcraft.net](mailto:julie12@ashcraft.net)  
Tonya Hayes [tonya.hayes@knology.net](mailto:tonya.hayes@knology.net)

## Committees:

**Marching Exposition:** Jeff Brewer  
[jjgbrew@knology.net](mailto:jjgbrew@knology.net)  
**Chaperones:** Debbie Krenn [dlkrenn@comcast.net](mailto:dlkrenn@comcast.net)  
**Publicity:** Kristi Fugit [kristi.fugit@ngc.com](mailto:kristi.fugit@ngc.com)  
**Color Guard:** Alice Searcy [searcy@hiwaay.net](mailto:searcy@hiwaay.net) and  
Margaret Haack [Haack05@comcast.net](mailto:Haack05@comcast.net)  
**Stadium Setup:** Jim Krenn [jdkrenn@comcast.net](mailto:jdkrenn@comcast.net).  
**Spirit:** Avi Swain [AMadanSwain@peds.uab.edu](mailto:AMadanSwain@peds.uab.edu)  
**Concerts:** Sharon Keffer: [sharonkeffer@knology.net](mailto:sharonkeffer@knology.net),  
Laura Hardy: [lhardy@knology.net](mailto:lhardy@knology.net), Karen Allison  
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**Transportation:** Paula Dickerhoff and Valerie  
Anderson [dickerhoff@knology.net](mailto:dickerhoff@knology.net)  
**Fruit Sales:** Jim and Sheila Kirsch  
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**Script:** Nelson and Karen Parker  
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**Vipers:** Cherry Hovik [cjhovik@comcast.net](mailto:cjhovik@comcast.net)  
Jerry and Liz Potter [jwpotter@knology.net](mailto:jwpotter@knology.net)  
**Uniforms:** Tiffeny Hubbard, 880-3669;  
Patti Preston, [ppreston@knology.net](mailto:ppreston@knology.net)  
**Historian:** Dave Montgomery, [jdmont@hiwaay.net](mailto:jdmont@hiwaay.net)  
**Ways and Means:** Karen Parker  
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**Hospitality:**  
**Webmaster:** Rex Simmons  
[webmaster@grissomband.org](mailto:webmaster@grissomband.org)  
**Newsletter:** Judy Hardwick [judhrdwk@knology.net](mailto:judhrdwk@knology.net);  
and Penny Ireland [wmsghsaumom@comcast.net](mailto:wmsghsaumom@comcast.net)

## Directors:

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

## Director's News January 2007

### Band Calendar:

Please check on Charms periodically for all band events. As events arise we will add them ASAP. 99% of our events have been posted since June 2006. 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**

**Concert Band – Wednesday 3:30-5:30pm**

*Symphonic Band II will not rehearse on the following days/evenings due to other conflicts at school or holidays:*

*Monday, January 15 - Holiday*

*Thursday, January 18 – All-State Jazz Band*

*Thursday, February 16 – District Assessment*

*Monday, February 19 – Teacher in-service*

These rehearsal 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.

### Concert Uniform Fittings for Symphonic Band I & II:

Symphonic Band I – **Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** after rehearsal-5:30-finished. You must stay to get fitted for your tuxedo/dresses this day since we have parent volunteers signed up.

Symphonic Band II – **Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** afterschool-3:30-finished. You must stay to get fitted for your tuxedo/dresses this day since we have parent volunteers signed up.

### 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. A payment schedule is below. 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/>

### Dixie Classic Payment Schedule:

January 29<sup>th</sup> - \$25.00

February 26<sup>th</sup> - \$25.00 or balance

Make checks out to Grissom Band Parents or GPBA. Please pay on time since we have to pay Dixie Classic on time. Thank you!

### Senior Trip Information: Chicago!

Trip payment schedule is listed here. Please make these payments on time. We have to pay our bill on time to the travel company so we expect you to make your payments on time too.

December 4<sup>th</sup> - \$150.00 **ALREADY PAID**  
January 16<sup>th</sup> - \$150.00

February 12<sup>th</sup> - \$150.00  
March 1<sup>st</sup> – Final Balance

**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.**

### Fundraising Opportunity for all band students and parents:

**FOR ALL THOSE INTERESTED** we are offering a fund raiser for your band account. All proceeds can be applied to band fees/debts/trips or other band associated expenses. This is an opportunity for you to earn money by selling the 2007 Smart Savings Card that is good from January 2007 to January 2008. Each card costs \$12.00 and you will receive **100% PROFIT for your band account.** This company is offering this to us **this year only** as an introduction to this product. If we continue in years to come, we will receive a percentage of the profits but not 100%. **This is the only year they and Grissom Band is offering 100% PROFIT!** If it goes over well we will offer it again next spring. We will be signing out cards (10 maximum at first) to those students that wish to sell and earn the full \$12.00 for each card they sell. No credits will be applied until monies are turned in.

### Several band debts that are upcoming:

Spring Instrument Rental  
\$100.00 Spring Band fee  
Winter Guard

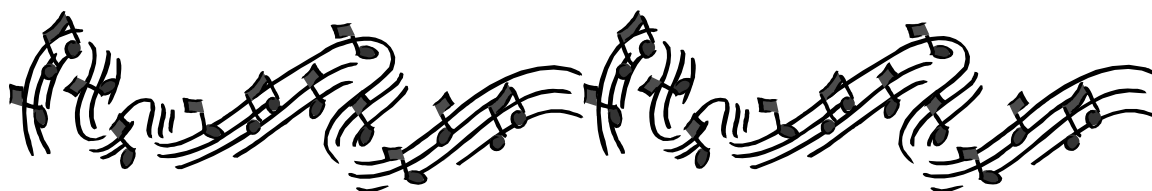
Indoor Percussion  
Senior Trip to Chicago  
Dixie Classic Festival in Chattanooga

2007-2008 Band Trip – Hopefully Hollywood Christmas Parade in November 2007

Remember that we will be taking a trip next year with the entire band, hopefully Hollywood! So this is an opportunity to earn funds to go towards your band trip next school year. Remember all band debts must be paid before any funds are applied towards trips or other band related expenses.

### 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. 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. **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!!**



## **Upcoming Performances:**

February 1 – 3 ~ Symphonic/Concert Band Camp

A detailed schedule will be posted on Charms. Basic schedule will be:

Thursday, February 1 – 3:30-8:30pm

Rehearsals with clinicians

Dinner catered in for students and staff

Friday, February 2 – All day during school hours and 3:30-9:30pm

Rehearsals with clinicians

5:30 -7:00 - Pot Luck Dinner for all Grissom Band families and camp staff in Lunchroom  
(details forthcoming)

Saturday, February 3 – 8:30am-4:00pm

Rehearsals with clinicians

Parent's Q & A with guest conductors

Concert 2:00pm

## **Pre-District Concerts: 6pm-9pm**

February 5<sup>th</sup> – Symphonic Band I, Challenger Middle School, Whitesburg Middle School

February 6<sup>th</sup> – Symphonic Band II, Concert Band, Mountain Gap Middle School

## **District Assessment at Grissom:**

February 14-16. Time TBA. We will need lots of parent volunteers to help in the lobby with registration and director hospitality room and adjudicator meals. We will also use student help during the day on stage and as hosts/hostesses for the bands.

## **Information for current 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students**

Time is flying by for all you 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Seems like just yesterday that you were beginning to make some "sounds" on your instruments in band class your 6<sup>th</sup> grade year. Well time is approaching for you to join the Grissom High School Band and we look forward to having you become a member of the largest family at Grissom. We will be sending you these newsletters this spring so you can keep up with what is going on at Grissom and to get you excited about joining us next year. We welcome all of you to any of our general band parent meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7 pm with the exception of May, June and July.

## **2007-2008 Band Travel Plans**

If you haven't heard by now the Grissom Band Directors applied for the marching band to march in the **Hollywood Christmas Parade** in November of this year ~ 2007. We should know if we have been accepted very soon. If accepted we will take all of the 2007-2008 marching band on this trip and that will be our big trip for next year. We are alternating taking a full band trip each year now to help with finances. This trip will be our 2007-2008 band trip for the full band and we expect all band members to travel with us. If we are not accepted we will take a trip in the spring with location TBD. Yes this will be an expensive endeavor (estimated at \$1,200.00) and we try to offer a few opportunities for you to earn funds for your band fees and other band expenses such as trips. Please be sure to check our website [www.grissomband.org](http://www.grissomband.org) and these newsletters often for information concerning the Hollywood Christmas Parade and fundraising opportunities.

## Spring Auditions

Your audition material for the Grissom Band is posted on our website

<http://www.grissomband.org/freshman.html>

You can download the music as a pdf file and also a sound clip so you can hear the etudes too! There is also a link to a [General Audition Information Sheet](#) which will give you all the information you need concerning auditioning for the Grissom Band. These auditions will occur during your band class in late April or early May. Your director will let you know when the Grissom directors will be there to hear you play. Go ahead and get a head start on this music so you will not have to “cram” at the last minute. Each person has 2 etudes they will need to play plus all of your major scales and arpeggios. Percussionist must play the mallet, timpani and snare music plus scales on mallets. Everyone will also have a short sight reading piece. Once we have listened to all the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and all the current Grissom students we will place each of you in a class appropriate for your level of playing/preparation at audition. Audition results will be posted on the band website in late May.

## Jazz Bands

If you play saxophone, trumpet or trombone you can also sign up for jazz band but you must be signed up in marching band too. You will have 2 band classes on your schedule if you are in jazz band too. Many freshmen and upperclassmen do jazz band and band every year with out too many schedule problems. If you want to play jazz then join! All drums, piano, guitar and bass players MUST make an audition CD. All the audition music is posted here

<http://www.grissomband.org/JazzBands/JazzAudition/JazzAuditionMS.html>

Music and sound files are posted for you to download and practice with. Please read all instructions very carefully as you prepare your CD. There is a password to access this material. Please email Mr. Vernon for access. [jtvjazz@knology.net](mailto:jtvjazz@knology.net)

## Grissom Band Calendar

The Grissom Band calendar of events is posted on the Charms website. You can access this by going to [www.charmsmusic.com](http://www.charmsmusic.com) enter grissomhsb in the parent/student login area. The first date you will all need to remember is Rookie Camp May 29-June 1 at Grissom from 8am-12pm. This is a **REQUIRED CAMP** for all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. All 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be in the football marching band and we will have auditions for a contest band. We started this last year and it seemed to work very well. More details to follow.

Please do not hesitate to ask the directors or any current Grissom band student or parent about the Grissom Band Program. We know you will have lots so please email or call us. All this information is included on our website.

Bill Connell [lennoc1@aol.com](mailto:lennoc1@aol.com)

Theo Vernon [jtvjazz@knology.net](mailto:jtvjazz@knology.net)

Band Room 881-1075

We look forward to meeting all of you and having you become a member of the Grissom Band Family!

~~ The Directors

## Summer work opportunity at Busch Gardens for young musicians and dancers

Note: Shelby Gillroy, Becky Lash's daughter and a Grissom graduate, shared this work opportunity with our church youth during Christmas vacation. I thought our band students might be interested as well.

Busch Gardens of Williamsburg, Virginia accepts video auditions from dancers and musicians for their summer-fall show schedules. If you are accepted, you receive pay and housing. It's a great opportunity to work with young people from all over the world and put your musical or dance talents to work. You can find out more about this opportunity at: <http://www.talentsearchbgw.com/> If you would like to ask more questions from someone who worked there this year, please contact Becky Lash at [beckylash@epictrends.com](mailto:beckylash@epictrends.com). She can give you Shelby's phone number or email. Shelby worked at the theme park all summer and fall, while attending college and living with her Dad---and ended up having a great experience working the concessions and rides.

GRISSOM PILLOWS!! ~ ~ ~ We are expecting the Grissom pillows to be here in March. Those who pre-paid will get theirs first then we will begin selling them to the public. They are \$15 and checks can be made out to the band. We are also able to accept credit cards. Contact Vanessa Poole for more information 880-6453 or email [nessapoole@gmail.com](mailto:nessapoole@gmail.com). Thanks --Vanessa Poole

### Help Needed with Fitting Concert Attire

Tuesday, **January 16th** at **5:30 p.m.** Tiffany and I will be fitting **Symphonic I** and Thursday, **January 18th** at **3:30 p.m.** we will be fitting **Symphonic II** with their concert attire.

Please **email** or **call Patti** at [ppreston@knology.net](mailto:ppreston@knology.net) or 883-2425 and let us know if you can help, ...We have a short turn around time to be ready for District. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SEW TO BE ABLE TO HELP.** We need all of those who are available.

Also, if you collected Cool Whip lids over the winter break or have some on hand that you would be willing to donate there will be a box in the band room to collect them - just send them in. I will let you know when I am no longer collecting the lids so keep sending them in. Thank you for your help.

Patti Preston  
883-2425

## Got a new Cell Phone??



## Recycle the Old & Benefit the Grissom Band Drop-off box in the Band Room

We recycle print cartridges  
also!!

## Grissom Vivace' Winter Guard Program

The **Grissom Vivace' Winter Guard Program** has begun its 2007 season by moving management of the program completely under the Grissom Band Program. The Artistic Director for the program is Stan Gillispie, assisted by Courtney Doering as the Technical Instructor. The program is experiencing immediate growth with the formation of two units instead of just one. Several rounds of auditions were held, culminating with the selection of 25 very talented cast members. The **Grissom Vivace' Independent** unit will compete in the Independent A classification and has 14 talented members, including nine members returning from last year's non-school affiliated Vivace' Winter Guard. Their show is based on pieces taken from Bobby McFerrin's *Beyond Words* album and is entitled "**On the Fast Track to Serenity**". As usual, Stan has designed a very energetic use of rifles, sabers, and flags. Our newly formed **Grissom Vivace' B** unit will compete in the Scholastic B classification of the SCGC. This 11 member unit includes several first year members of our current color guard as well as eighth graders from our three feeder middle schools. Stan has designed a very moving show for this group, entitled "**The Ultimate Passion**", based on the Bryan Adams song, "*Everything I Do, I Do It for You*". The result is a combination of dance, flags, and rifles that will keep you enthralled. Both units have completed an intensive 3-day mini-camp during their Christmas break and continue to work hard with twice-a-week practices. The units will be performing at several competitions sponsored by the Southeastern Color Guard Circuit culminating with the SCGC Championship in Chattanooga, TN. Their performance schedule and locations are listed below. Please encourage these members when you see them and come out to support them if you can. For more information, contact Margaret Haack, [haack05@comcast.net](mailto:haack05@comcast.net).

### Introducing our 2007 Grissom Vivace' Winter Guard Program Cast Members:

#### **Grissom Vivace' Independent:**

Heather Avery, Kati Fugit, Brittany Marcus, Laura Searcy, Jessica Haack, Lauren Lemieux, Meagan Eversmeyer, Liz Klar, Dustin Adair, Diana Dowling, Jordan Matthews, Jennifer Ireland, Beth Anne Ashcraft, and Rachel Dedman.

#### **Grissom Vivace' B:**

Monica Kruse, Amanda Myers, Amanda Smith, Rachel Leigh Spencer, Melody Adair, Kelly Brewer, Amanda Coker, Ashley Hill, Morgan Houston, Jessica McCrackin, and Shannon Morris.

#### **Grissom Vivace' Winter Guard Performance Schedule:**

27-28 Jan, 2007: Centennial High School, Franklin, TN

17-18 Feb, 2007: Clarksville High School, Clarksville, TN

10-11 Mar, 2007: Hoover High School, Hoover, AL

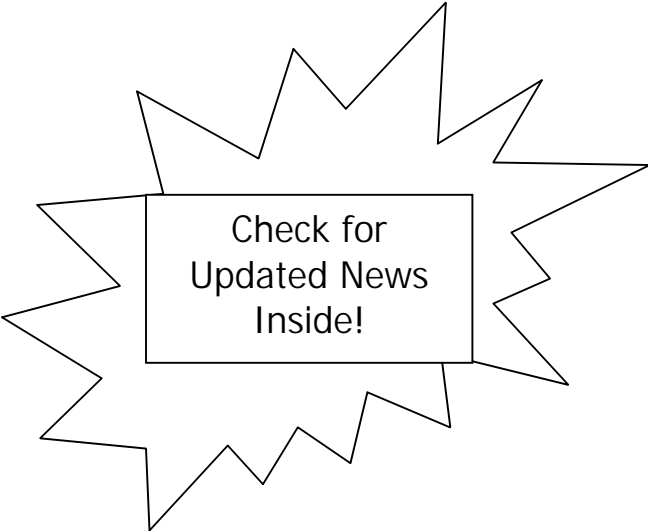
30-31 Mar, 2007: SCGC Championship, Chattanooga, TN

## PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Remember the upcoming Pancake Breakfasts at Applebee's. The dates are February 10 and March 31 from 6:30 - 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids 10 and under. I will be selling tickets at the band parent meetings. Tickets will also be available at the door. – Call Jennifer Sherman at 882-0831 if anyone has any questions.

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