



JRHS BUGLE

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2008



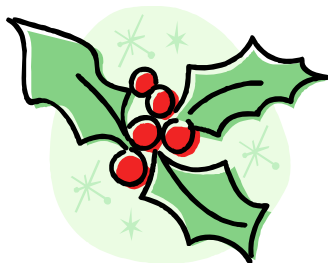
In December

DECEMBER 10
Concert
7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 11
Concert
7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 13
All District Auditions
Midlothian HS
7:30 a.m. registration

DECEMBER 16
Booster Meeting
Executive Board 6:15 PM
General Membership
7:30 p.m.
JRHS Library



A Message from the Director:

Greetings From the Band Room!!

I recently attended the Virginia Music Educators Association Conference in Hot Springs, VA. It was a very restful and needed break. During this time, I received many compliments on the success our band program has had during the 2008 marching season and being able to accomplish all of this during a time of transition.

While at the conference, I also had the privilege of listening to many outstanding ensembles, one of which was the All-Virginia Jazz Band. I am proud to say that James River High School was represented by two of its members, Aaron Williams on Tenor Saxophone and John Weisiger on Piano. These students did an amazing job. The band sounded incredible. If you have a chance, congratulate these students on this fantastic accomplishment.

As we make the switch to concert season, we are busy at work preparing for our Christmas Concert. Our Christmas Concert is scheduled for December 10th and 11th at 7:00pm. Students will need to arrive no later than 5:30pm. This concert will represent the entire music and drama department at JRHS.

In preparation for the concert, please encourage your child to practice at home. There are many students who are relying solely on class time to prepare their music. If they would just take a little bit of time outside of class to work out the sections they are having difficulty with, they would find that rehearsals would run much smoother and that they would enjoy their time in band so much more. I am more than willing to help out any student who is having difficulty. All they need to do is ask! Your help, as parents, with this would be greatly appreciated.

From the President **Marching Forward...**



What are you doing on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.? Let's you and I make a date!

With the exception of January, the JRHS Band Boosters meets in the school library every third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Why don't you join me? Attending these meetings is the best way to know exactly what is going on in all of the music programs that we support, not just marching band. Our Director of Bands, Keith Cottrill, attends and always addresses the group to let them know what is going on in concert and symphonic band classes as well as our auxiliary programs such as Winter Guard, Jazz Band and Rapid Fire.

Band Boosters meetings are also the forum in which you can learn about the booster organization's budget and activities. For instance, if you attended the November meeting you learned that the reason you haven't heard about the destination for the spring trip is because we are still trying to finalize a reasonably priced trip that includes a competition. Transportation costs have increased over the past years and we understand that everyone's budget is tight and we are trying to keep costs down. In addition, those in attendance learned that we are

considering ways that students can earn money to pay for part the trip. Also discussed at the meeting was the issue of the budget and the fact that our revenue has not met expectations this year.

Sadly, Tag Day, concessions, basket sales, and poinsettia sales were down considerably this year and this means we have to either find another way to raise money, or cut expenses. The budget committee will be meeting in January to determine how we are going to manage our budget for the remainder of the year. The band program at James River High School has always been extremely strong and that is in large part to our ability to raise money to fund the many activities of the program. For instance, all of the auxiliary programs such as Jazz Band, Rapid Fire and Winter Guard require outside instructors who must be paid.

In addition, each year we are required to replenish bits and pieces of concert attire. Also, instruments need to be repaired – this year one of our school-owned trombones was hit by a flag during a marching band program making it inoperable. The dent was the size of a dime, but it cost the band boosters \$135.00 to repair it. It is our hope that we can continue to support the program in this manner.

Make sure to mark your calendars for our two winter concerts on December 10 and 11. Your student should be bringing information home from Mr. Cottrill explaining the process of getting tickets. It is the first time that the entire music department at James River has presented a joint concert, and it promises to be a wonderful evening.

I hope that you and your family have a wonderful holiday season filled with laughter, joy and, of course, music. As we approach the New Year, please make a commitment to become an active member of the James River Band Boosters, and start by attending our monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of the month. I'll see you there!

Robin Hegner
JRHS Band Booster President



Director—continued from page 1

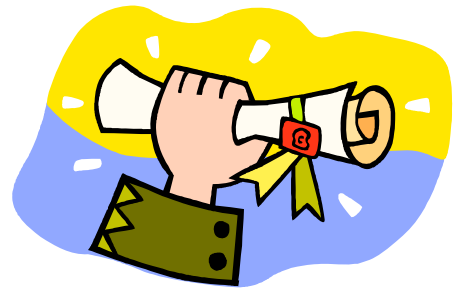
On a final note, All District Band Auditions will be held on December 13th at Midlothian HS. Registration begins at 7:30am and ends at 10:00am. Auditions will begin at 9:15am. If your child would like extra help to prepare for auditions, I will be running a session during lunch on Dec. 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, and 12. They are more than welcome to bring their lunch in and eat while they learn.

The theme this year seems to be coping with change. It is something the students, the parents, and I are having to deal with. I assure you that my intent is for nothing but the best for our students and for this program. My approach may be different than what everyone was used to but the goals are still the same. If at anytime you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school (804) 378-4448, email keith_cottrill@ccpsnet.net or stop by. I hope everyone is doing well and had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!

With Regiment Pride!!
Keith Cottrill

Attention Seniors and Senior Parents

You may only be thinking about Christmas Break right now, but your Band Boosters are busy planning for your child's graduation. The Scholarship Committee will begin the process of awarding Scholarships in the spring. To be eligible, all applicants and their parents must be members of the 2008 - 09 James River High School Band Boosters by the 12th of December.



ALL REGIMENT MEMBERS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS OF THE BAND BOOSTERS THROUGH THEIR BAND FEES PAID IN THE SPRING OF 2008.

Senior Concert Band Members are also members of the Band Boosters; however, their parents must join the Band Boosters by the December 12th deadline in order for their child's application to be considered for a scholarship award. The \$25 fee must be put in a sealed envelope with "Concert Band Member", your child's name and your name clearly marked on the outside. Envelopes are to be placed in the locked wooden box in Mr. Cottrill's office before the end of the school day on December 12th.

If you have any questions, please contact Ginger James at 379-9821.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

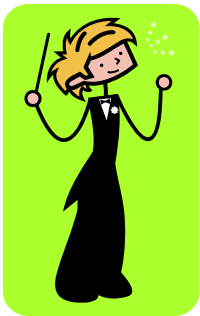
The students and the band families sold 376 plants this year. Although in years past the Band has sold as many as 700 plants, the Boosters are pleased and consider this fundraising effort a success. The highest selling students were Connor Pugh who sold 16 plants, and Liam Lawless and Casey Blackburn who sold 15 plants each. These three students have won cash prizes for their efforts. All students who sold at least 5 plants had their names placed in a drawing to win three cash prizes of \$25 each. Those winners were: Ashley Oldani, Joshua Blanton and Courtney Radford.



Thank you to all families who opted out but already sent in their \$60 opt out payment. You will be receiving a receipt for your tax deductible contribution to the Boosters. Those who have not yet paid the opt out fee; please send your payment to the Band Room before the Winter Break. It appears at this point that this project has netted for the Boosters approximately \$2,600.00 that is much needed to support this year's budget.

Poinsettias will be delivered December 3 in the open commons between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Please let Sandy Bowen know if you expect to have a problem picking up your order on time. Cell 370-7877 or be e mail at adbowen@msn.com.

Help with Concert Attire



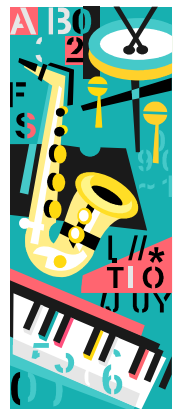
We need volunteers to help the band members with their concert attire before and after the Christmas concerts on December 10th and 11th.

If you are able to assist, please contact Vicki Dullaghan at vdullaghan@comcast.net.

Concession Stand Clean-Up

Volunteers are needed to help clean the concession stand and take equipment to the school for storage on Saturday morning, Dec. 6. If you are available to help, please contact Barbara Bly at Barbara_Bly@ccpsnet.net. The work will get underway at the concession stand starting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

**Congratulations to
Aaron Williams and
John Weisiger on
qualifying for the All-
Virginia Jazz
Ensemble!**



Inaugural Parade Application

*The Regiment has submitted an application to be selected to march in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in January. Although few bands are chosen from many applicants, we feel that the Regiment is a strong contender. The following description of the Regiment was submitted as part of the application. Many thanks to **Anne Buckley Kurz** for her assistance in editing this piece.*

Located on the banks of America's founding river, James River High School, a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, and its award-winning marching band, The Regiment, reflect our country's ethnic and economic diversity. The student body is a melting pot of nationalities and students from the lowest to the highest socio-economic groups in Virginia's Chesterfield County. The Regiment's 130 members proudly represent this school of approximately 2,050 in Midlothian and would bring a loud, proud and visual flair of distinction to the Inaugural Parade for the country's first African American president.

The James River Regiment is one of only two high school bands in Virginia that have been awarded Virginia Honor Band status. The Regiment has achieved this honor in each of the school's 14 years of existence and is halfway to completing the requirements to be named an Honor Band for a 15th year. To achieve the distinction, the marching band must receive a superior rating at the Virginia Band and Orchestra Director's Association state marching festi-

val, and the symphonic band must receive a superior rating at the organization's spring concert festival. This year at the state marching festival, the Regiment received a superior rating based on unanimous ratings of superior from all five judges.

In addition, the Regiment received a rating of superior at every event in which it competed this year, including the Hermitage Classic, the Charlottesville High School Cavalcade and the Hanover Hawk Marching Invitational. Awards at these events included first place percussion, first place auxiliary, first place band, highest music score, highest marching score and highest general effect score in their class. These results are indicative of the scores and awards the Regiment has received at competitions throughout its history.



Musically, what makes this group unique is that the students possess a variety of personalities, skills and work ethics, but through hard work, team work and perseverance, they have come together to think and perform as one large unit with a tremendous sound. The awards the Regiment has received are a testament to the musical talent and attention to detail of our members and director.

Wherever it performs, the Regiment incites toe taps, hand claps and excited smiles among spec-

tators, and the band is confident the same would hold true among those lining the parade route on Jan. 20, 2009.

The Regiment's uniforms stand out among marching bands, with members topping white pants and shoes with royal purple jackets that feature teal-colored and white-capped waves that mimic the James River rapids. Cuffs are covered in white gauntlets with teal and silver stripes. Members wear white helmets with white plumes accented with shimmering silver. Our guard unit wears black leotards, black pants and black sequined jackets.

As the Regiment passes the presidential reviewing stand, it will perform "Call to Victory" by Karl King, a fitting tribute from a state that is a mother of eight presidents and is considered the birthplace of our country.

This year has seen a change in leadership for our country as well as for the Regiment. The band is under the direction of a new director following the 11-year tenure of his predecessor. Many believed the change would present an initial setback to the Regiment. When the students returned last August for two and a half weeks of grueling band camp, they sounded tentative at first. But true to form, each of our members, staff and parent volunteers responded, pitched in, worked harder and looked after each other. The transition at times was difficult, but, to paraphrase our president-elect on election night, out of many different views, we became one.

The James River Regiment would be honored to represent Virginia and our nation in the 2009 Inaugural Parade.

SPRING TRIP NEWS!!!!



Mr. Cottrill has put a lot of effort into researching trip destinations that offer the students a concert as well as marching competition on the dates that we have been assigned for our Spring Trip. A fun destination is of course a very important consideration. Canada as a destination has been ruled out because of the uncertainty of the exchange rate for the American dollar and the impact that will have on the final cost of the trip to the students.

Make sure your student stays alert for the final destination announcement as it will be made first in class and then posted to the web site. Anyone who wishes to make a \$100 deposit may do so by sending a check to the band room with your student's name and spring trip deposit marked on the memo line. We expect to have a final destination identified soon and intend that the cost be



2008 Marching Band Season a Success

On Saturday, October 18, the JRHS Regiment earned a superior rating at the VA Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA) state marching festival. This completed half of the requirement for the James River to continue as a superior band for fifteen consecutive years. The Regiment then made their final appearances under the direction of Mr. Keith Cottrill at the home game versus Manchester and the senior night versus Midlothian. The entire season was a success.

There are also winter concerts coming up on December tenth and eleventh. It is sure to be a holiday treat!

Ashley Carpenter (Regiment Public Relations)

Contact/E-mail Updates:

Send changes to your mailing address/e-mail to:
jrhsboosters@yahoo.com

Bugle Articles:

Articles are due the 24th of each month. E-mail them to our mailbox at:
jrhsboosters@yahoo.com

JRHS Band Boosters Board of Directors

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Percussion Representative:	Ann Powell
Past President:	David Harpe
Band Director:	Keith Cottrill, 378-4448

You can reach any member of the Board members at jrhsboosters@yahoo.com

James River High School Band Boosters
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Midlothian, VA 23113