



MCLEAN HIGHLANDER BAND NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Director's Letter

Dear Band Members and Parents:

The year is off to great start and I am very proud of everything our students have accomplished in such a short time already. Symphonic and Concert Band classes are going great. Please come out to our Fall Symphonic Band Concert on Oct. 29. Percussion techniques is also going very well as those students are refining their drumline music for marching band.

Our program's primary focus for the beginning of the year has, of course, been our Highlander Marching Band. The Band had a very successful away camp and rehearsals have been going very well since we have returned to school. If you saw the Parent Preview show and have seen any performance since, you will have hopefully noticed how different things are now. The students have made a tremendous amount of improvement and the show has evolved quite a bit. Our competitive season is off to a great start with a big win at USSBA Herndon. We won 1st place in our class, best guard, best music, and best overall general effect. We were also given the high score for the day. Please come out and support us in our next competitions in Manassas on October 3rd and Ellicott City on October 10th. Our final competition will be BOA West Chester on October 24 and that will be an overnight trip.

Thank you very much to all of the students and parents who worked on our annual Tag Day. This is, in many ways, the biggest and most important fundraiser of the year and we raised over a third of this year's budget in one day!

Please keep a frequent eye on our website, www.mcleanband.org for announcements in regard to upcoming events, schedule changes (if any), and other important information.

Very much looking forward to another successful year at McLean!

Musically Yours,
Chris Weise

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President's Message

Welcome to an exciting new year with the McLean Band Parents Association (MBPA). As parents of a band student, you are automatically a member of this dynamic group and the board members look forward to working with you to make your family's experience the best it can be. Although our main purpose is to provide financial support to enhance the FCPS program, there are many other volunteer opportunities that do not involve fundraising. Our Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Career Center. All band parents are invited to attend. Our next General Membership meeting will be held in the band room at 7:30 PM on January 14, 2010.

I'd like to congratulate the students and parents for their fine effort on Tag Day, September 12. Special thanks go to Will and Marie Moser for organizing the event and the many parents who spent the entire day driving, and counting money until the bitter end. We had great success canvassing neighborhoods and shopping centers for a record amount of donations – over \$32,000 raised in one day. Our next band fundraiser will be the Fruit Sale on December 12 chaired by Maureen and Dave Scholz. I know they would appreciate hearing from any parents who would be willing to help out. On January 23 we will feature our Jazz Band who will entertain us for an evening of dinner and a silent auction headed up by Beth Wright. If you have any donations, she would love to hear from you. Marie Moser will also be looking for volunteers to help set up for this great night. Our final fundraising event will be the Raffle Sale in the spring chaired by Ron Hutchinson.

Throughout the Marching Band season, students will enter competitions in Herndon, Manassas, Elkton, MD and West Chester, PA. Chaperones and Equipment Crew Members, (Roadies), will be needed. Contact Frank Key or Ron Hutchinson to volunteer for Equipment and Lisa Hymes to volunteer to be a chaperone. Other band events include the All District Band auditions held at McLean HS on January 9, 2010. Mark Clark and Cecelia Kalish will be organizing this event for the approximately 1000 students who participate from all around our district. The MBPA also runs a concession stand on this day. Contact Kathy Key if you would like to get involved with that.

Need more grocery scrip? Contact Mary Beth Arnold or Betsy Sigman to purchase grocery cards that can earn money in your band account used to offset the cost of trips. Everybody can use this because all band students will travel to Myrtle Beach, SC April 14-17 for the spring competition trip.

Our calendar always ends with an awards banquet. This year it will be held on Friday, June 4 at 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria. The event is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the hard work of students and parents and the great accomplishments made by our band throughout the year.

See – I told you it would be exciting! Don't miss out on the fun and a great opportunity to support our students. Contact a Board member today by checking out our impressive web site designed by Mark Clark. (Mcleanband.org)

Katherine Key



Parent Preview Dinner

September 3, 2009, it was a beautiful summer evening and the marching band students and parents gathered to celebrate the hard work and effort of the band students. We started out the night enjoying wonderful Mexican food and catching up with everyone. The challenge of organizing the food event outside proved no hurdle for Cookie Baehr and her team, who amazed us by putting out a wonderful spread and ensuring no one left hungry. Jenny Ruley took a large group photo of the marching band at Westtown that she framed and displayed for everyone to enjoy (if you missed viewing this great photo it can be found in the band room). Then it was off to the bleachers in anticipation of seeing our students in their new uniforms and performing what they have been practicing for weeks. It was amazing to see the transformation of the students from the start of summer practice to the preview event! This year's performance is based on the Washington monuments and our past presidents. The students were surrounded by large props that had memorials on them--a big thank you to Ron Hutchinson, Frank Key, and Larry Quinn for building these. The band students performed "Shaw Shank Redemption", "JFK", "Sing, Sing, Sing", and "Hail to the Chief" as they marched and told the story of our country. It was very patriotic and moving. They couldn't have done this without the support of the Band Director, his team, and the parents!

McLean Community Makes History

The McLean community has done it again! Our friends/neighbors/supporters opened their doors/hearts/wallets on Saturday September 12 during our annual "Tag Day" fundraiser and we collected over \$32,000 in one day with additional donations being mailed in! It was THE most successful Tag Day in 25 years!

We are so very grateful to the band students who went from door to door collecting donations all day. Their hard work and dedication has paid off. We are so very grateful to the scores of parent volunteers who coordinated and administered the fundraiser, drove and chaperoned the kids, catered the breakfast and those who stuffed envelopes. We are so very grateful to Mr. Chris Wiese, the McLean Band Director and last but certainly not least, we are so very grateful to the McLean Community for their outstanding support. Proceeds of the fundraiser will be used for additional music instruction for the students, to replace aging instruments and equipment and to offset the costs of transportation to music competitions throughout the year.

Go Highlanders!!

Westtowne Superlatives

Drill Down - Jacob Castle (1st), Chris Mangis (2nd) and Matt Arnold (3rd)

Best Rookies - Lucas Owen and Shiloh Donnell

Best Marchers - Chris Mangis and Mesum Mathison

Biggest Flirts - Travis Alvarez & Ester Ahn

Most Supportive Marchers - Eva Graham - Mellaphones, and Yeji Seok - Clarinet

Best Costume - Beauty & the Geek (Mesum Mathison and Jacob Buser) and Reno 911 (Chris Mangis, Evan Pardue, and Nate Bloom)

Best Room – Mattress Warehouse (Jake Shochet, Chase Dubose, Connor Hymes) and Candy Land (Maddie Atkins, Rebecca Moser, & Janice Donnell)

Most Spirited – Trumpets

Best Section – Mellaphones

Most Improved - Color Guard

The Band Pool Party

Band members took a well-deserved break at the Band Pool Party on August 28. Following a long, grueling practice, musicians congregated at the Mclean Swim and Tennis Club to swim, socialize and eat. Pizza and sodas were served, followed by an abundance of desserts. Band parents were instrumental in making the party a success by supplying desserts, helping set up, chaperoning the kids, and cleaning up at the end. Thanks to all who made the evening a success!



Have you purchased Giant and Safeway Gift Cards this month?

Our grocery store gift card program (also known as “Scrip”) has gotten off to a great start. In September, many families purchased Scrip and started earning credits toward the cost of band trips and expenses. If you haven’t bought Scrip yet, I encourage you to give it a try. The sooner you start using gift cards whenever you shop at Giant or Safeway, the more money you’ll save!

Want to know more?

Question	Answer
How does this program work?	<p>It’s pretty straightforward. The Band Parents Association buys \$100 Giant and Safeway gift cards at a discount (5% discount for Giant/ 4% discount for Safeway).</p> <p>You pay the face value for the cards you buy. <i>Example:</i> You write a check made out to “McLean HS Band Parents Association” for \$500 of Giant scrip and you get five \$100 gift cards to use.</p> <p>3. We record a \$4 credit for every \$100 you purchase. <i>For the example above,</i> we would record a \$20 credit in your son/daughter’s name.</p>
How much money can I save?	<p>That’s entirely up to you. Some families buy Scrip every month for their regular grocery shopping, to purchase prescriptions, or to buy other retailer’s gift cards available at Giant and Safeway stores (a great way to earn credits at the holidays!).</p> <p><i>Example:</i> If you typically spend \$200 per week or \$800 per month at Giant/ Safeway, and you use Scrip for these purchases, you will earn \$32 per month in credits – or \$320 between September and June! That’s money you won’t have to pay for future band expenses.</p>
When can I use the credits I earn?	<p>When money is due for the Spring band trip or band camp next year, we will let you know how many credits you have earned. You can choose to apply your credits to your bill and reduce your costs.</p>
When can I buy Scrip?	<p>Scrip will be sold most Wednesday’s at the end of band rehearsal, at football games, and band concerts. Bring your checkbooks!</p> <p>You can also email Mary Beth Arnold at bmbarnold@gmail.com or call her at 703-827-5701 (home) or 703-244-7925 (cell) to arrange another time and place to purchase scrip</p>

Register Your Safeway Club Card -- Help the MHS Band Earn \$\$ When You Shop

Safeway has joined an easy and convenient program called eScrip. You can sign up your Safeway Club Card number and register the creditor ATM/debit cards you will use to make purchases. Then with every purchase using your club card, Safeway automatically contributes a percentage to the band's scholarship/general fund account.

Please note: You can participate in the Safeway eScrip program even if you signed up your Safeway card number with the PTA.

This program is unrelated to our band Scrip program. In the *eScrip* program, Safeway's contributions are credited to the band, not to you individually.

To enroll in the eScrip program: call 1-800-801-4973 or visit www.escrip.com. **The McLean Band Parents Group number is 2299438.** Family and friends can also enroll, even if they live in another state. Just ask them to enroll as noted above.

eScrip Privacy Policy: ESI (Electronic Scrip Inc) and McLean Band Parents, Inc. have made a firm commitment to protect all information provided. ESI and MBPI will not license, sell, exchange or distribute any personal information about eScrip participants to any third parties not involved in the eScrip program. By participating in this program you are agreeing to all eScrip program terms and conditions listed at www.escrip.com.



SAVE THE DATE!!!! McLean Band Parents Association Annual Fruit Sale!

Saturday December 12, 2009 9:00am-3:00pm McLean High School

Volunteers are still needed. Please consider becoming a caller and help the McLean Band!

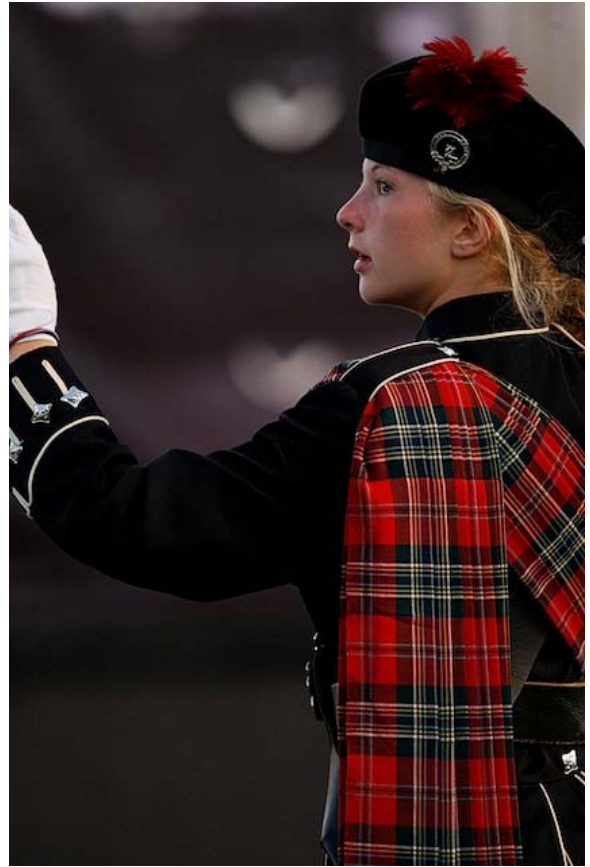
Contact David and Maureen Scholz 703-821-4084 mscholz@mcleaninsurance.com



McLean Jazz Band

Jazz band auditions will be held immediately after school on October 27 after school. Contact Mr. Weinhold with any questions.





Pictures courtesy of Kent Arnold



The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra will offer **100 free student tickets to students in elementary, middle, and high school** for each of their concerts this season as they welcome new music director Christopher Zimmerman to the podium in 2009-2010. Student tickets may be reserved one week prior to each performance on a first-come first-served basis by visiting www.fairfaxsymphony.org. **Accompanying adults will receive special discounted ticket at the door** when the student tickets are picked up.

Fairfax Symphony 2009-2010 Season: Great Expectations!

All performances are at George Mason University's Center for the Arts at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 3, 2009 – Jon Manasse, clarinet

Glenn Quader, Associate Conductor

Saturday, November 21, 2009 – Chu-Fang Huang, piano

Saturday, January 23, 2010 – Augustin Hadelich, violin

Saturday, March 13, 2010 – Alon Goldstein, piano

Saturday, May 1, 2010 – Julie Albers, cello

Glenn Quader, Associate Conductor

As the FSO welcomes their new Maestro, they look forward to wonderful performances, continued outreach and educational programming, and a commitment to impacting the cultural landscape of the Northern Virginia region.

**McLean Highlander Band
McLean High School
1633 Davidson Road
McLean, VA 22101**

