



Silver Jaguar Bands

Fundraising Updates

Trivia Night was a great success with many compliments on the facility and announcers. Many thanks go out to Lori Mertz for all her work on this event despite grave illnesses in her family. She had at least 10 other parents assisting her in the event! It's also always great to see Andrew Hoormann, class of '05, come back to support the band as the MC. Only 24 tables were pre-sold for this event but several people came as "walk-in's". Still, we earned more this year than last. The questions weren't too hard so putting our heads together helped get many answers! There were 100 door prizes raffled between rounds while judges scored each table's answer sheets. There were 30 baskets for raffle – half were student donations and half were business community donations! They were all beautiful and a treat to the raffle winners. The raffle of baskets earned hundreds of dollars (\$1372) toward the band general fund.

SwingIn' to Spring is well into the planning stages! It is of utmost importance that students and parents sell tickets to make this event successful. This dinner and dance is by reservation only and numbers have to be turned in to the caterer by March 1st. Andrew Hoormann will return as our MC for this event. The jazz band will perform like pros. The dance floor will be prepared. Dinner will be as delicious as last year. Mr. and Mrs. Sharkey may even get to dance together this year!

Our next fundraiser will be TJ's Pizza sales. The current 8th graders coming into band as freshmen will have the option of participating in this fundraiser to offset their summer band camp fees as well. The dates for sales are March 27th to April 8th. The pizzas will cost a

little less this year, making them easier to sell, but students will only earn 40% of sales. We expect to net the same benefit from the fundraiser.

In late April, the Heritage Festival will be hosted here. There are several slots for students to earn money for band fees. This year, the athletic boosters have agreed to allow our parents to operate the concession stand as well. This will help raise funds for the band general fund.

Summertime brings the UMB Pavillion Concert series. There will again be booths there for us to sell food & beverages. Only adults can work these events. If you have a concert you'd like to hear, consider earning funds while you enjoy the music. Joanne Quinlan will again be the chair of this fundraiser.

Next fall, the Fair and Air Show has agreed to allow us to have the same two booths again. The Blue Angels are scheduled to appear making attendance likely to increase. Sign ups will begin in April as we begin to assimilate the incoming students into band.

Some parents are checking into Applebee's and Golf Headquarters fundraiser options. Don't forget that scrip is an ongoing fundraiser. We also continue to sell lapel pins with the band logo. Please share fundraising info with the incoming parents and students. It will be easier for everyone when they hear first hand how to fundraise.

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Band Booster Officer Info:

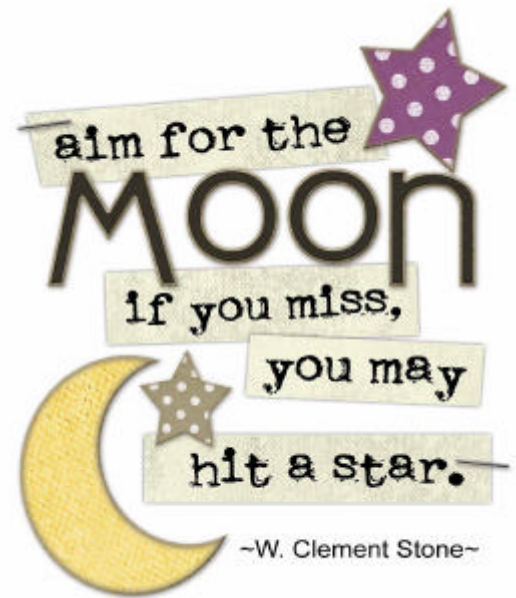
- **Larry Darnell, President**, larrydarnell@charter.net
- **Bob & Jeannie Ransom, Vice Presidents**
ransomink@pobox.com
- **Greg & Chris Fultz, Treasurers**,
ChrisFultz@netzero.net
- **Carol Welch, Secretary**,
mascotsmom@yahoo.com
- **Dale Sharkey, Band Director**

Recent Expenses

Recently, we had six separate flat tires on the Winter Drumline equipment. The inner tubes are apparently very old and the valve stems get stepped on causing blow-outs. Mr. Dickenson has repaired these but the underlying problem remains for the other old tires.

Winter band camp was a success among reports from students. Previous votes allowed the payment of \$2000 for the motivational speaker. The rest of the fees were expected to come from student payments of \$20. Since then, Mr. Berry found a little money in his school budget to help cover some expenses. This left only \$692 in food expenses for the two days. Since

this was less than planned, student payments are being returned and the boosters are paying the food expenses from the general fund.



Winter Band Camp

Our motivational speaker, Scott Lang, was very engaging. He can be contacted via www.scottlang.net. He made the evening go by fast. One student even felt it was more positive than the last leadership trip to Chicago. There was a fair number of 8th grade students who turned out



for the seminar. The point of the seminar was to produce self-motivated excellence. Then, on Saturday, the students received clinics specific to their section and a meal. Later, they were able to attend a concert of the Webster Brass Quintet whose tickets normally sell for \$12 each through the Crescendo Concert Series.

March 3rd and 7th Competitions

District Solo and Ensembles will take place Saturday, March 3rd. It is a pretty long day because there are so many performances that are mostly consecutive. All the schools from the metro district are invited. This takes place at Florissant Valley Community College

and the campus cafeteria is open for meals. Students perform

their music for judges. If they receive a rank of "1", they will go on to perform their musical piece again at state in April.

State Band Festival is a large ensemble competition among area high schools held on March 7th at Kirkwood HS. Students from first and 6th hour bands will miss a day of classes to compete at this event. They will perform musical pieces and are given a sight-reading challenge. Last year, this event was held at FHC. The judges give rankings of 1, 2, or 3. They also help groups get ideas on how to improve their performance.



Washington DC Trip Update

We have 85 students, 6 parents, and 2 teachers traveling to DC in April. Since we have a separate equipment trailer, certain expenses are not covered under the travel fees. There was an extra fee for the equipment driver to join up w/ the band. The driver also has to spend a night in a motel on the drive to DC and back. This doesn't happen on the bus because they receive a new bus driver half way to DC. Students sleep on the bus for those long drives. During the February booster meeting, parents voted to have boosters cover the additional expenses, estimated at \$1200, involved for the equipment driver and vehicle on the trip.

Most of the students going to DC have been re-fitted for uniform size. If you are going, but have not been sized, you need to see Mrs. Towe soon. A new pair of gloves and a matching "T" are required for traveling students. Those will be ordered by Mrs. Johnson and available to students soon. Mrs. Blythe will take over gloves and shirts for next year.



End of Year Band Banquet

On May 19th, a band awards banquet and ceremony will be held. Before the letters are passed out and before the senior slide show, an optional buffet dinner will be offered. This year, Chevy's will cater our dinner meal. Tickets for dinner are the same as last year (\$15, and this includes drinks and dessert). A portion of this cost covers the free meals that are given to the senior band members. There has never been any profit off the meal. Mrs. Lessnau and Mrs. Seidel are co-chairs for this meal service. Every band director has their own particular

In case you have not been to the Band Website lately, here are details posted by Mr. Sharkey:

We have been accepted in the 2007 National Cherry Blossom Festival (NCBF) Parade in Washington, D.C. Our trip plans have been approved by the Fort Zumwalt School Board. The trip will be coordinated by Educational Discovery Tours (EDT), the same travel planner that we used for our 2005 trip to Orlando, Florida.

We will begin after school rehearsals after our March 15, 2007 Concert. Rehearsals will be on the following days and times:

Mondays and Wednesdays in March from 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM (March 19, 21, 26, 28)

Tuesday, April 3, 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday, April 4, 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM

Thursday, April 5, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (Parent and Student Meeting following rehearsal, approx. 6:30 PM)

Monday, April 9 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

We will load the equipment truck following rehearsal on Monday, April 9, from 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM

We depart O'Fallon on Tuesday, April 10, 2007

We arrive in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Jazz Band performs at the Tidal Basin Stage, near the Lincoln Memorial on Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Marching Band performs in the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade on Saturday, April 15, 2007

We depart for O'Fallon on Saturday, April 15, 2007

We arrive back in O'Fallon on Sunday, April 16, 2007

Our hotel is the Hilton, near Downtown.

We should get an itinerary with times and specifics the week of March 1, 2007

awards to present. We are fortunate to have this many band educators and programs for students. This is a tremendous time for honoring our outgoing seniors as well as receiving individual letter recognition. We hope to have a huge turnout so students have their chance to shine. This is why students earn band "points" throughout the year!

All American Marching Band

From www.menc.org:

In cooperation with SportsLink, the national producer of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl: For the first time ever, MENC will offer "All-American" status to ONLY 90 of the best marching musicians in the nation! Accomplished marching musicians who will be high

school seniors in January of 2008 are encouraged to submit audition materials to MENC by the **deadline: April 6, 2007**.

They will perform for television on January 5th, 2008. If you are interested, then go to www.menc.org to find the link to the multi-page application for this marching band.

Winter Guard

(with input from Ms. Groseclose & Mrs. Hennenfent)

Winter Guard scored a 54.5 at their first competition and received some very positive feedback from the judges. They are continually making improvements and looking forward to remaining competitions. They would love to have cheering support from the rest of the band for future competitions:

March 10 - Francis Howell

March 17 - Rockwood Summit

March 31 - MCCGA Championships

Information and pictures can be found on this website: <http://web.mac.com/maryhennenfent/iWeb/winterguard>.

Also, tentatively on March 21, we will have a color guard recruitment night where we will open up practice



to any interested 8th graders to come and see what guard is all about.

Band 2007—2008

There is already interest in what camp will cost next year. This year's fees barely covered the camp and marching season making it important to add many other fundraisers. Additionally, we were rained out of one marching event. Unfortunately, the budget numbers are not ready for the next 12 months. We have the campsite reserved at Cuivre River provided we can afford an away camp.

There is a major DCI marching event featuring eight corps at Mizzou on Sunday, July 29th. Mr. Sharkey would like to include this as a camp activity. It's a great activity to attend as a group but there is a question of how to pay for this and arrange travel. On July 26th, five corps will perform at South High School, which is much closer.

Music for our show next year is already being customized for our unique brass to wind ratios. Mr. Sharkey has a meeting planned for April to discuss more details.

Also, the annual auditions will be held April 30th, May 1st and May 3rd for parts and for leadership positions.

More changes will take place as new parents move into leadership positions in the booster organization. There are currently openings for next year's booster board president and board secretary. Now that the same parent has done the scrip program for two years, it's time for a little new help here. As Doug Dickenson moves away, Steve Hudson has agreed to become the next equipment committee chair. Lastly, my continued heart and BP issues have made many activities difficult, so I'm asking again for someone to shadow then take on newsletter and email duties as soon as possible.

Life is easier than you think - all you have to do is this: accept the impossible, do without the indispensable, bear the intolerable, and be able to smile at anything." Barbara Johnson

Practice Like a Professional by Becky Blythe

“Amateurs practice to get it right. Professional practice to not get it wrong.” This has become a favorite quote of mine. It’s from *Monday Night Football*. This past band season was successful in many ways and not so successful in many others. We are amateurs.

I’m a former band member and a devoted band junkie. I’ve spent many a long hour on the football field practicing to not get it wrong. In three years of band, we went to 15 contests, winning 12 of them. Winning comes from a combination of a hard-working staff, band parents that provide emotional and financial support, and a group of dedicated students that will practice to not get it wrong.

What are the characteristics of a winning band program?

- Band members that understand from the time they board that bus to attend a competition to the time they return home, they are representatives of their school and their band and carry themselves accordingly
- Band members who carry themselves, their instruments, or weapons at attention while on the field or when entering/leaving the field
- Band members who show respect to each other, their chaperones, and their competition
- Band members that know where they are on the field at each moment and that marches on and off the field in straight lines without bumping into each other
- Band members who will correct themselves and each other if they notice a fellow band member not at attention, not in file, or marching on the wrong foot
- Band members who will accept correction by their directors, instructors and fellow band members
- Band members who do everything humanly possible to better their performance each and every practice and each and every show

- Band Members who do not accept losing as an alternative

Champions carry themselves this way. We are amateurs.

Overall, this band is filled with many delightful, respectful and dedicated individuals. We just don’t seem to know how to win or how to carry ourselves as winners. And there is simply no reason that this band should not be successful on the field, especially among the competition in this area. We should be able to field a band that has a reasonable chance of placing no lower than 3rd at each competition.

In order to make that a reality, I would issue the following challenges:

- To the Parents/Boosters – Assist the director and staff in getting the best possible musical arrangements, marching routines and visuals to fit our band. Bottom line, a successful band program costs money. Our fees are minimal. If we want to give our students the best chance to win then, in some instances, it will cost some more money....new and colorful guard uniforms, props, visual effects, better music, better marching routines, creative instructors. And, just as important....encourage more parents to attend band contests and sit together as a group to cheer on the students. The better programs have large groups of parents and supporters that attend each and every contest.
- To the Students – It’s really pretty simple. Put forth a commitment to being the best and work towards that goal and accept nothing less.... from yourself and from those around you. You are amateurs. You should want to be professionals.



Lapel Pins

The purchase of 500 lapel pins was approved at the November booster meeting! They sell for \$3 each or 4 for \$10 on a cash and carry basis at meetings, concerts, & events. These will be great additions for a ball caps,

backpacks, purses, letterman’s jackets, as well as shirt lapels! Having just one is not enough. Only 385 lapel pins remain and they will be offered to incoming freshmen in the March and April meetings.



Silver Jaguar Bands

FORT ZUMWALT WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Address
1251 Turtle Creek Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63366

Phone: 636-379-0300
Email: dsharkey@fz.k12.mo.us

Please send Newsletter Article Ideas to:
Judydarnell@charter.net

Go Jaguars!

We're on the Web again!
www.fzwband.net



Calendar News—Expanded from the Web

March 10th—SwingIn' to Spring

This is our annual whole band fundraiser where our Jazz Band performs and parents dine and dance. Hurry to get your tickets!

March 15th—Band Showcase

In other words, CONCERT at 7pm! But, it also includes a chance to see the performances of Winter Guard and Winter Drumline. Don't forget your cameras!

March 17th—FZ North Jazz Festival

At FZN. Time: TBA

March 22nd—Concert at the Touhill

The Wind Ensemble will perform with the college band at 7:30pm at UMSL's Touhill Center. Those not performing are asked to attend for the educational benefits of the show. The concert is free and the hall is magnificent.

March 27th—Incoming Student Orientation @ 6:30pm

All students interested in band **leadership** should come out for this meeting with the current 8th grade band students. You will be **needed** to orient and encourage these

future FZW band students. There will be papers to distribute, fundraisers to explain, and data to collect. Uniform/shirt sizing will begin (at least on a limited level). Booster committee members please prepare info you want to share. **Please** help shape the band for next year!

April 2nd—Band Info Meeting for Next Year

All returning students meet in the auditorium for a peek at the vision for next year.

April 10th-15th—85 students travel to DC

April 23-26th—Color Guard Clinics

April 27-28th—Host Heritage Festival; Volunteers basis.

07-08 Band Auditions take place on April 30th, May 1st and May 3rd. Times TBA.

May 11th and 18th are both concert nights (7pm)

May 19th—Band Banquet and Awards Ceremony

May 26th—All band students perform for Graduation at the St. Charles County Family Arena. (morn or afternoon)