

The Pride of Herndon Newsletter

Herndon High School

700 Bennett St. Herndon, VA 20170

www.herndonband.org

Spring, 2016

Herndon Shows its Pride in the Cherry Blossom Parade

They saved the best for last. Behind Daniel the Tiger, marching towards the National Monument, The Pride of Herndon played for the entire nation on April 16 in the 81st annual Cherry Blossom Parade. Entertaining a crowd of thousands with songs celebrating Washington D.C. in the spring, the group was ready and willing to take full advantage of the experience.

"The Pride can count on going anywhere they put their mind to. The take away from this go get 'em attitude as one of the band leaders is that I'm proud we have such a confident group and I hope I emulate the same confidence they feed me with," said senior drum major Julia Picchiotto of the event.



The band submitted pictures and videos and was selected as one of 14 marching ensembles slated to provide entertainment for the parade. According to director Kathleen Jacoby, this is a unique experience in The Pride's recent history.

"Everything about the day was surreal: taking a picture on the steps of the most visited museum in the nation (the Air & Space Museum), having Miss District of Columbia and Miss Maryland come hang out during warm-up, setting up next to huge balloon floats, staging next to news vans from major television networks, snapping a quick shot of the kids in line-up and catching the Washington Monument in the background, turning the first corner and being right in front of the National Archives," Jacoby said.

From 10 to 12 on Saturday morning, parents, brothers, sisters, and other well-wishers lined the route, sat in grandstand seats, and even gathered with students at the line-up location to send them off on their mile-long musical trip down Constitution Avenue.

"These kiddos can go just about anywhere. Who knows where their next big parade will be! I did feel that Herndon really represented the local suburban DC community well in



comparison to the bands from farther away. For those bands, coming to the Nation's Capital is their big trip of the year. It made me remember, and I hope the kids realize how fortunate we are to live in this area," said parent and Fairfax County music teacher Patti Adams, reflecting the joy of the day in the eyes of the entire Herndon HS band family.

Participation in the parade also provided memories beyond the marching and the crowd lined streets. The over 30 seniors in the band relished the opportunity to don their uniforms one last time and be together in perfect weather, performing and hobnobbing with parade celebrities. In the end, these seniors reflected gratitude for the camaraderie and pageantry of the festival.

"The most memorable moment of the day was turning the corner where the cameras were rolling and suddenly feeling everyone in the grandstand's eyes on us. It was a bit intimidating but also really amazing because instead of feeling nervous I felt proud that there was such an amazing group of musicians behind me," said Picchiottino of her last marching experience with The Pride.

Director Kathleen Jacoby, in attendance with her daughter Amy (who did her own conducting from her stroller between naps), reflected on the scope of this experience as her band took the national stage.

"You would think being a native of this area would desensitize me to the awesomeness of our nation's capital, but it was just the opposite. I felt an incredible amount of awe and pride," said Jacoby.

Boston "Makes Way" for The Pride

In the past five years, The Pride of Herndon has toured amusement parks and war memorials-traveled across the Continental U.S. and beyond. But this spring trip had a different feel. The band took its love of all music to the urban north, experiencing everything from a world class symphony orchestra to a Green Monster to a favorite children's book.

They began their first morning in Boston with one the Pride of Herndon's seniors reading Make Way for Ducklings, the Robert McCloskey classic, to her bandmates. There was also a Freedom Trail Tour, where participants were able to visit sites crucial to the American Revolution. The Faneuil Hall Marketplace, proclaimed "The Cradle of Liberty," offered these Virginia residents a true taste of downtown Boston. The Pride visited Fenway Park, the home of the Boston Red Sox, and toured Salem village, the site of the infamous witch trials of 1692.

This trip was made possible for several Pride students by donations from the community.

According to Ms. Jacoby, the band had about 10 students benefit from the generosity of three private donors. Several students received full scholarships and others got help offsetting payments.

"It's incredible how three people managed to impact so many more people than just themselves!" Jacoby said.



To be sure, the highlight of the trip was the opportunity for all of these young musicians to play in a professional music venue. The Pride of Herndon had the opportunity to play at Symphony Hall, home to the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Representatives from the ensemble offered a master class, and students had the opportunity to speak with them before their own performance later in the evening.



"The very first release during our warm up on stage at Symphony Hall - it must have echoed for almost five seconds!" said director Kathleen Jacoby, when asked about her favorite moment of the trip.

Indoor Guard and Drumline Garner Honors

The underclassmen ruled this year, as the Indoor Colorguard exceeded all expectations with a young crew that carried on the excellence of last year's graduating seniors.

"This year was a building year for the indoor colorguard, since we had so many young members," said Coach Laura Flyte, who led the group in this year's performance of "Lord of the Dance" by Ronan Hardiman.



The Guard took first place at its February 6 competition at Potomac HS and went on to place fifth, fourth, and fourth at Mount Vernon, John Champe, and Woodbridge respectively. The group also earned a third place out of 17 in the movement category during championship preliminaries on April 2, earning a coveted spot in the championship competition for the second year in-a-row. They earned an eighth place out of 17 as one of only half of the guards competing allowed to perform in finals.

"We are already looking forward to next year's show, which will have more advanced music, include harder skills, and more intense body work," said Flyte. The colorguard will be holding clinics for both potential and returning guard members on Saturdays beginning in June and continuing through band camp in August. Students interested in trying colorguard can email HerndonColorguard@gmail.com for more information about clinics.

The indoor drumline had a successful season as well, participating in four competitions during the spring season. At the Atlantic Indoor Association Percussion Scholastic held at Mount Vernon HS on February 13, they took second place, followed by eighth place on March 5 at the Powhatan HS competitions. On



February 19, the drumline went to West Potomac HS, where they took second place and brought home the coveted Iron Man trophy. They then ended their season at South County HS with a

12th place at the final AIA Percussion Scholastic of the year.

"The line and pit improved enormously throughout the season, and our actual scores improved rapidly; we just kept going to bigger and bigger shows with more really stiff competition!" said Patti Adams, Fairfax County music teacher and band parent. She emphasized the musicality of the group during the season.

"We are proud that our drumline kept true to themselves and performed the heck out of a highly entertaining, real "meat and potatoes" show and performed it very well. Everyone on the line has improved as a player. We are also enormously proud of the poise and maturity that our drumline members showed throughout the whole season- never giving up, understanding that numerical placement is not always reflective of one's growth, and always working as a team."

A Word from Three Seniors

Julia Picchiotto

I'm so lucky to have been in this marching band. You learn immediately that it takes everyone's effort to make a good show, not just a few strong individuals. Band in general made me feel like I had something to give and made me hungry to give more. If not for the friends I'd made in band, not even stopping at Herndon's band, I don't know where I'd be or what I would be doing.



Sarah Oti

The power of music is unmeasurable. Music has given me my identity and directed me to all of these amazing people I call my band family.

The moment that I realized the impact music truly had on my life was during my junior year. I was sitting in a college selection seminar and my counselor began ask me, "What makes you, you?... Once you find the answer to that question, you'll be able to pick the college for you." Those words resonate with me as I write this now because music makes me, me!

I am so extremely thankful to have had an opportunity to make memories with my band family! "Music is the soundtrack to my life" and I can't wait to see what is to come!

Peter Trapp

Looking back on myself as a young 13-year-old freshman, I never once thought that marching band would mold, shape, and simply define the person that I am today. I came to band camp to find myself swarmed with wonderful band geeks happy to see me and eager to learn my name. I was part of a family, a family that would always be there for me in my times of joy and despair. Friends willing to drop what they were doing to lend me a hand. I remember one day during my freshman year I was having a bad day and I went to talk to Mrs. Jacoby. I always enjoyed stopping by to talk with her because she always seemed so eager to talk and get to know me. I talked about how I wished I played piccolo so my arms wouldn't get tired while marching and she stopped what she was doing right there and made me hold a piccolo at attention for 10 minutes. My arms ached and burned more than they ever did when I held my saxophone and I never

complained again! Mrs. Jacoby probably doesn't even remember that conversation, but that day impacted me more than any other day in my life. She was so kind, so open. After that day that I wanted to make people feel special like she made me feel, I wanted to make someone's bad day just a little better. I wanted to inspire and lead like I saw Mrs. Jacoby do. Without band I would never have learned what it meant to be a leader and care for the people that looked up to me or be a part of an organization that touches so many people's lives more than anyone could think was possible. Thank you Mrs. Jacoby for being such an important person in my life and good luck next season. Go Hornets!

Competition and Concert Schedule

May 13	Navy Band Concert
May 21	FCBDA Solo Competition
May 24	Spring Concert
June 13	Senior Banquet
June 16	Graduation

A Call for Volunteers

The Pride of Herndon will be sending off a large senior class this year, and, with them, some dedicated volunteers. There is always a need for parents willing to step up and participate as chaperones, uniform parents, publicity representatives, photographers. If you have a talent, The Pride has a use for it. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of a program that has such an impact on the lives of our children and their community.



Director's Message

The spring is always a bitter sweet season for the band program. Culminating projects come to fruition. Next year's show design and leadership structure are beginning to come together. We

celebrate the outgoing while anticipating for the incoming.

As we wrap up the school year I'm doing my best to hit "pause" on the senior class and keep them from moving on. They continue to foil me.

And yet, I know deep in my heart that they are ready to spread their wings. Members of this class have helped the Pride to soar. My hope is that they will take something from their four years in this program and do the same as they move on to their next adventures.



Kathleen Jacoby, Director
HHS Bands

HHSBPA

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Uniform Coordinator: Rebecca Phelps (Concert) Rose Trapp (Marching)

Volunteer Coordinator: Joanne Fogleson

Newsletter and PR

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