



# Pride News

The Pride of Herndon Newsletter



## Wind Ensemble Participates in VMEA

### Band Makes Sixth Appearance at Music Educator's Conference

In 1947, Vladamir Johnson, a Russian interpreter and part-time music teacher from Washington, began rehearsing a group of fifteen high school musicians in the rural town of Herndon. On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Director of Bands Kathleen Jacoby, with The Herndon High School Wind Ensemble comprised of 81 students, made its sixth appearance at the Virginia Music Educator's Conference. This most diverse and dedicated group of students have received unparalleled support from parents, educators, and the community from their earliest music education.

Students found out about their participation in the conference last spring. It's an honor awarded to only three high schools in the state

this year. Rehearsals for the performance began at the start of the 2014-15 school year. The program included a challenging repertoire of contemporary music. (The oldest piece of music in the performance dates back to the 1950s).

In a statement about the Pride of Herndon's participation in Showcase earlier in the year, senior trumpet player Christine Horting summed up the work ethic that enables the band to continue to play at such a high level.

"What has continued to awe me over the years is that the POH members start working early in the morning, and somehow they still have energy to perform late that night. They maintain positive attitudes throughout the event, which is what matters at the end of the day."

#### Band Camp and Showcase of Bands

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Students celebrate successful fundraising day and community support.

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Students score high at VBODA and SRO

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**HHSBPA Executive Officers****President:** Robin Handy**Vice-President:** Mina Philips**Treasurer:** Dee Witmer**Assistant Treasurer, FCPS Accts:** Bruce Friedman**Secretary:** Cindy Rea

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## From the HHSBPA President

Welcome to the Herndon High School Band Newsletter! It's hard to believe that it's already November. The marching season seems to have just flown by, and now the concert season is upon us. I'm always amazed at how far our students progress in such a short period of time. To me, their achievements speak volumes about the quality of the Herndon High Band Program and our instructors. Of course, these achievements also say a lot about our dedicated students!

I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who contributed such hard work during the early part of the year to make the marching season happen. From uniforms and instruments to chaperones and pit support, we could not get our band to and fro, on and off the field without an army of support.

Of course, none of this could happen without funds, and this year has seen quite a few changes in that area. We've managed to streamline our fundraising plan while maintaining a reasonable operating budget. We definitely could not do that without the support of our band students, parents, alumni and the Herndon community. So for that, I'd also like to extend a hearty "thank you".

While we've have had some excellent support so far this year, we've really only just begun. There are still many more areas where you can get involved this year. We are currently looking for parents who are interested in serving as future committee chairpersons. Shadow positions are available for a number of committees. By shadowing the current committee chair, you can learn the ropes and get acquainted with the board without a lot of pressure. It's also a great way to find out more if you're not sure where you'd like to get involved.

Please feel free to join us at one of our Board meetings. The HHSBPA Board meets on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 pm in the HHS Guidance Conference Room. All parents are welcome and encouraged to participate.

On behalf of the HHSBPA, I'd like to wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season. If you ever have any

questions, you're welcome to email me anytime at [President@herndonband.org](mailto:President@herndonband.org).

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Warm regards,

Robin Handy, HHSBPA President

## A Message from the Director

This has been quite the school year for me personally, as I've tried to balance pregnancy with the marching season and VMEA preparations. Time and time again, our Herndon band students have exceeded my expectations.

It would be next to impossible to find another group of young adults with the intrinsic motivation that I see on a daily basis: planning sectionals, writing lesson plans, practicing alone and together, setting up and tearing down for rehearsals.... Our students want—no, demand—be the best! While I've seen my role this season as nudging, guiding, and redirecting as needed, the band members must take credit for being driving force behind our successes.

If all goes according to plan, my maternity leave will extend from winter break to spring break. Regardless of who will be conducting the groups, I have absolutely no doubt that the students will make the most of these three months and continue to make music together on a daily basis. That self-sufficiency and teamwork they have shown already is the true value of any organization.

-Kathleen Jacoby

Director of Bands

## Band Camp

HHS Marching Band students and instructors practiced for three weeks prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school. Band camp is considered intense but rewarding for the students and instructors alike. The camp allows freshman and transfer students some time to get to know their fellow band mates, a time to perfect their marching skills and receive additional instruction by specialized instructors, and it allows the whole band and color guard some time to learn and perfect their new marching show.



## Baby Shower Celebrates Pride Member to be

On November 7, students from all Herndon ensembles gathered to throw a baby shower for director Kathleen Jacoby, due with her first baby at the end of December. The band family continues to grow in excellence and affection!



## Showcase Shows Pride Hospitality

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, the band hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Northern Virginia Regional Showcase of Bands at HHS.

Twenty-eight schools and over 3,000 people attended the event. The show was a huge success due to our abundant volunteers. Many people worked 2 or 3 shifts to make sure it ran smoothly. Volunteers included HHS band members and their parents, HMS students and parents, as well as alumni and other members of the community.

"We are very lucky to have so much support from our parents as well as the community," said Robin Handy, HHS Band Booster President.

"The HHSBPA (HHS Band Parents Association) board is thrilled to have such a committed group of volunteers. The Showcase event is known for being a well-run, fun show. We could not do it without our wonderful volunteers."



## We're Going to Disney World!

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Pride of Herndon will leave for Orlando FL. After a day in the Animal Kingdom and time at Epcot participating in workshops with Disney instructors, the band will march in the pre-parade of the Main Street Electrical Parade on April 25.

"The magical experience of Disney awaits our students," said Rhonda Reeves-Long, transportation and chaperone coordinator.

"The musical enrichment and performance that our band shares is a true reflection of Herndon Pride."



## Senior Night Bids Adieu to Pride's Finest

The Pride of Herndon seniors finished in style on Halloween Night with their last performance of "The Final Frontier" and sectional celebrations beforehand.

"Senior night was honestly the most fun I've ever had at a football game. My section truly felt like one big family," said Cameryn Gonella, clarinetist.



## Tag Day ties Band to its Community

The Herndon community continues to show its support of the HHS Band.

This year's HHS Band Tag Day, held on September 6, was one of the band's most successful events in years. Students assigned to different groups canvassed the

Herndon High School boundaries asking for support from local citizens. With a total of \$31,900 dollars raised for the high school programs, the band was extremely pleased with the generous donations and encouragement provided from the community.

## Pride Recognition Looks to JMU, VBODA, and Beyond

Besides hosting a competition at home, the HHS Marching Band also participated in the Loudoun Valley Showcase competition on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, earning first place in the AAA class, and in the JMU Parade of Champions on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>.

The marching band's last competition for the year was at the VBODA Marching Festival on Oct 25<sup>th</sup> in Nokesville, Virginia, where they took home a Superior rating.

Individuals from the band have also gained spots in Fairfax County's Senior Regional Orchestra. Jacob Reeves placed fourth



in percussion, and Aimee Toner took first flute. This orchestra performed on November 15 and featured some of the finest musicians in the Northern Virginia area playing an exciting and challenging repertoire.

"It's a fantastic honor, and I'm especially excited to play the flute part in 'Pictures at Exhibition,' said junior Aimee Toner.



## Tag Day Concert Bridges the Gap Between Marching and Concert Seasons

The annual Tag Day Concert is always a bittersweet experience for seniors in the Pride of Herndon, as this indoor event marks the last time they will don the Pride of Herndon marching band uniform. Drum majors Braden Cuttler, Julia Picchiottino, and Peter Trapp stood on auditorium chairs and led the marching band in its last performance of this year's show.

Afterwards, the Wind Ensemble half of the concert featured a run through of the band's upcoming VMEA performance, with Aimee

Toner playing solo flute on "Three Graces" and Jacob Reeves receiving a standing ovation for his solo performance of "Xylophonia."

