



## From the Director's Podium

Instrumental Music Families,

As the fall turns to winter, and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter comes to a close on the 2009/10 school year, I am once again in disbelief as to how fast the year is progressing. I am pleased to announce that all of the programs are off to a fantastic start and progress daily. The fall concert, with performances by Jazz Combo I, Studio Jazz I, Wind Symphony, and Wind Ensemble was huge success and well attended. I was happy with such great music making this early in the school year. I want to also thank Mr. Dennis Crystal, band director at Newbury Park, for all of his help in making this concert possible at his school.

If you have not had a chance to check out the new band room, you might want to do so, as it is still a work in progress, but it is awesome nevertheless. Our new Wenger acoustic lockers are in and look fantastic. With a black grilled front and cherry wood sides, the lockers really give a warm and professional feel to our new space. In addition, they are designed to keep the acoustical volume of the room the same and lower the overall decibel level with special absorbent materials. We also have enough locks and lockers for every student to have their own locker, which is great! Our new JBL

### Important Dates to Remember

\*11/7/09:

*Hart Rampage Comp.*

\*11/14/09:

*Trabuco Comp.*

\*11/23-11/29/09:

*CBDA Recordings*

\*12/8-12/10/09:

*Holiday Concerts at TOHS*

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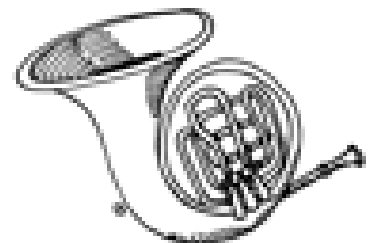
sound system has also arrived and sounds fantastic. G and I are finally able to play reference recordings for the students, which is a huge teaching tool during rehearsal. And we can now use our harmony director keyboard during rehearsal, which comes complete with pure intonation capabilities and a metronome. Yippee! Within the next few weeks we'll have the sound system mounted on the walls and have all of the XLR cables hidden behind the walls for a nice clean look. Our acoustical engineers have been out to listen to the space and have made their final acoustical recommendations. Once these have been installed, the Tech Wall people will finish the wall coverings and the painters will fix up any last details and blemishes. The last band room "projects" will be the installation of the dry erase boards and the projector. Once all of the installation and touchups are completed, IMC will start moving all of our pictures, trophies and collegiate pennants to their new home; then the band room will be "done" and I can't wait!

If you have not been out to see the Regiment show, *Carpe Diem*, you might want to come to the next two performances at College of the Canyons in Valencia. The show has consistently been the crowd favorite at recent performances. Let's just say Mvt. II includes mini trampolines and a bike riding tuba player. For the first time in my WHS career, we are also using props in the show: 13 to be exact, and they look simply stunning. The parent volunteers did a fantastic job over the past five weeks in designing, building, and painting these splendid props. Thanks guys! I must also say the food crew is doing a wonderful job at keeping such a large group of growing teenagers happy with great food on performance days! I too thank you! So, come to a performance and see *Carpe Diem* before the season is over.

Finally, I want to make sure you all are checking out my blog. It can be found at top of the [www.whsband.org](http://www.whsband.org) home page. Just click on "Mr. Peter's Blog" and read about the daily happenings at the WHSIMD!

Take care and we will see you soon!

Mr. Peter



## String News with Liz Blake



Congratulations to the Chamber Orchestra and members of the Symphony Winds for a terrific performance of Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf"! They did a wonderful job, not only of playing some fairly difficult passages, but also of making the music come alive to tell the story. We performed at TOHS, and had the 340-seat auditorium fairly full- the biggest audience I've seen yet for a strings concert! This concert was the first in what I hope will be a yearly October series for children.

Holiday concerts are coming up, and with them, the first appearances of the Concert and String Orchestras. Both groups are working hard and doing well, and I'm excited to present them to you. The Concert Orchestra will also be making a trip up to Ventura in January, to perform with other high school groups from around Ventura County, and have some fun making new musical friends.

The orchestras' trip this year is a musical weekend up north of Goleta, at the Rancho La Scherpa Conference Grounds. This is shaping up to be an amazing trip, with professional performers and conductors coming in to work with the students on their orchestra and chamber music. And of course, the ziplines and paintball course should provide some additional fun for everyone!

Much of our year is still in the planning stages, but it's shaping well. I'm looking forward to working with everyone over the next few months to make these plans come together, and to have as much fun as possible with the music and with each other.

Liz Blake





## Sue's News

As the holidays quickly approach I look back at the last 3 months with amazement on all that the boosters and the department have accomplished. We are so lucky to have such incredible directors, boosters, staff and parent volunteers. The list is extensive and impressive on what we have already accomplished since school began. Regiment production, planning, prop building and competitions, Sounds of the Conejo Regiment event, fall concert, ensemble pictures, parent meetings, booster meetings, chaperone meeting, Corp Sponsorship program, department survey, dinner dance planning, fundraising, continuously recruiting volunteers, Peter and the Wolf orchestra concert, annual financial audit of the booster program, endowment grants applications, planning for the Fresno Regiment trip, uniform and concert wear ordering and fittings, food planning for all the events, website enhancements, bi-weekly email blasts, and much, much more...

I can't thank everyone enough for their endless support and dedication to this program. We couldn't do any of this without you. Thank you to everyone who has helped out over the last few months. A special thank you to our freshman volunteers as well...Thank you for joining our amazing team! We have many great events to come over the next few months. I am looking forward to seeing our continuous progress. Happy Holidays everyone....

Sue Wolf  
WHSIMD President





## Production News from Rochelle Kidd

The 2009 regiment season is off to a great start! The production department has been busy! The students were all fitted for their uniforms during band camp, the ordering and alterations were completed and they had their first debut on October 2nd at the home football game. There were only a few uniform malfunctions which were easily remedied by the following week! Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time on Sweatshop Saturday to rip seams, iron, sew hems and stirrups and get all the uniform parts together and organized for 89 students! We did it in a day! Congratulations! The students are very appreciate and they look awesome! Special thanks to my faithful assistants Sylvia Wooldridge, Cathy Hannah, Margaret Goldberg, Elena Lukasiewicz and Piet Chini for their dedication and willingness to spend a lot of time in the Tuff Shed prepping uniforms for all of our events!

The Sounds of Conejo program held on October 10, 2009 at Thousand Oaks High School also proved to be a very successful event featuring not only our very own Regiment but also the marching bands of Camarillo High School, Moorpark High School, Royal High School, Thousand Oaks High School and Newbury Park High School. The students had a chance to share their music with one another with the grand finale featuring all 6 schools united as one and playing together, 500+ musicians! Outstanding! It was also our first opportunity this season to showcase our beautiful Semi trailer which the Truck Dad's took great care in washing and prepping that morning. Thank you to Paul Roth and his faithful Truck Dad's for their time and energy! The loading and unloading of the equipment and instruments ran smoothly as always!

There has been more work going on behind the scenes with our Truck Dad's. Since August, Paul Roth, Mark Embry, Andy Binsley, Brett Green and the rest of the gang have been designing, building, dismantling, re-building and painting props for the field show. They have spent endless hours getting ready for our first field show in Mission Viejo on October 24, 2009. Their time and effort is very much appreciated!

October 13th was our first Concert at Newbury Park High School. Sylvia Wooldridge, our Concert Attire Director, did a fantastic job organizing the fittings and ordering of the concert dresses and tuxedos for all of the ensembles. The students looked fabulous and sounded great! The orchestra students also looked professional during their debut of Peter and the Wolf under the direction of Liz Blake on October 18th. Bravo!

Thank you to Karen Augustyn for making sure the football stands are always prepped with paper and roped off for the Regiment during the football games!

Last but not least, our Food Committee is led by Karen Persichetti and Jeri Embry. Our program would not be complete without these two ladies and their faithful parent crew! A huge thank you for the endless hours spent behind the scenes planning menus, organizing food drop off/pick up, shopping for supplies, chopping, packaging, cooking, transporting, setting up and serving! Great care is taken in making sure all of our students as well as the directors and parent volunteers are well fed and hydrated at all of the events. You folks do an outstanding job!

Cheers to a great 2009 Regiment Season! Please come out to the field shows or football games to witness the final product! The students have worked very hard and you will be impressed by their progress under the direction of Mr. Peter.

Rochelle Kidd, V.P. Production

## Survey Results: Thanks for your Feedback!

At the beginning of the school year, we sent out a survey to all WHISMB families, asking you to share your experiences and provide some input on what more we might be able to do to improve the program. We received responses from about 20% of the families – a good response to the first survey, but something we hope to increase in future years.

### *Who responded?*

87 families, representing 94 students responded to the survey. 80% had a either a freshman or sophomore in the program. About 25% are new entrants to the program while 17% have been part of the program for five or more years! Approximately 77% of the respondents have a student in one of the band ensembles, 50% have a student in regiment, 38% in orchestra, 23% in jazz, and 12% in either winter guard or drum line. On average, regiment students participate in 2.7 ensembles while “non-regiment” in 1.3.

### *What did we hear?*

The good news...virtually everyone (99%) would recommend this music program to others with about 80% indicating they are very satisfied with the music program overall. When asked what are the favorite aspects of the program, three things stood out – the quality of the music education, the supportive community of teachers, friends and families, and the opportunity to hear great music. All in all, a wonderful foundation to build upon!

### *What are we going to work on?*

**1) Education:** While there is almost universal understanding of the Department’s mission and vision, only about 75% of respondents had reviewed the department handbook. Ninety-five percent of respondents understand the purpose of the Boosters organization, however there is some confusion about the “Fair Share” program and pricing, especially among new entrants to the program.

**2) Communication:** Thank heavens for email! Almost 100% of respondents want to use email for receiving information and communicating, followed by the website (60%), and newsletters/flyers (35%). There is an opportunity to continue to build upon the department website as a communication tool, since the usage currently skews to those in Regiment.

**3) Involvement:** Given the number of families and breadth of ensembles represented by the Boosters, a focus will be made to create ways to involve and encourage participation of all families in activities. There appears to be substantial cross-program support for participating/attending booster meetings, concerts, restaurant nights, and the annual dinner dance – and ways to get more people more involved in each will be explored.



## Fundraising News from Lynn Garruto and Susan Cotton



### What do Amgen, Bank of America, and WellPoint have in common?

These corporations are just three of the many local companies that have matching gift programs which have matched WHSIMB family donations and contributed thousand of dollars to the program over the last few years. Don't know if your employer offers gift matching? Your human resources department can help. Please ask them about matching gifts and if your employer does offer this program they should be able to provide you with a matching gift form to send to WHSIMB along with your donation. We are a non-profit 501(c3) and eligible for most corporate matching gift programs. Federal Tax ID: 95-3311075.

### Corporate Branding & Community Partner Opportunity!!

We have a great opportunity for your corporation's marketing group to put their company logo or brand logo on our fabulous WHSIM 58' custom semi trailer that travels throughout California and Nevada!!! We have a great package of incentives that can run from 1 to 3 years or longer. It is great exposure for them and their business. So why not approach your marketing director and see if they might be interested? Can't hurt to ask!!! Contact Lynn Garruto at 818-991-0505 or Susan Cotton at 818-575-3261 and we will get you the package of materials that explains everything. Thanks!!

## Food Committee News

Now that Football and Regiment season are in full swing, so is the Food Committee!!! We have had a wonderful start with a fantastic show of support and enthusiasm from our committee. We are so happy to have so many new parents and all our dedicated returning parents as well. We hope you all see what a fun time we have and how much the kids appreciate what you do. Everything has been running so smoothly with so many hands to help out!!

A huge thank you to everyone for all your help so far with the Beach BBQ, Potluck, football games and now the competitions. Our kids will surely not go hungry!! In addition to helping prepare food and serve, we have had many generous people donate snacks, desserts and drinks and it is truly appreciated.

Bon Appetite!!!

Karen, Jeri & Karen

## **Important Dates: November 2009—January 2010**

### **November 2009**

- 11-1-09 – Newsletter released
- 11-3-09 - Booster Meeting
- 11-4-09 - Romios night
- 11-6-09 - Colina MS recruiting performance
- 11-7-09 - Regiment - Hart Rampage Comp
- 11-12-09 - Dinner Dance Meeting
- 11-13-09 - Los Cerritos MS recruiting performance
- 11-13-09 - Varsity Home Football Game & Middle School Band Night
- 11-14-09 - Regiment -Trabuco Comp
- 11-18-09 - Romios night
- 11-20-09 thru 11-22-09 - FRESNO
- 11-23-09 - 11-29-09 - CBDA Recordings with Mike Gangemi
- 11-25-09 - 11-27-09 - Thanksgiving Holiday

### **December 2009**

- 12-1-09 Booster Meeting
- 12-2-09 - Romios night
- 12-8-09 – Orchestra Concert – TOHS
- 12-9-09 – Band Concert - TOHS
- 12-10-09 – Jazz Holiday Concert – TOHS
- 12-10-09 - Dinner Dance Meeting
- 12-16-09 - Romios night
- 12-21-09 thru 1-1-10 – Winter Break
- 12-30-09 - Romios night

### **January 2010**

- 1-5-10 – Booster Meeting
- 1-14-10 - Dinner Dance Meeting
- 1-25-09 – Regiment Disneyland Fun Day



## Booster Executive Board

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