

# Pride of the Bluegrass

The News of the Lafayette Band

From the Director's Desk



Charles M. Smith

## Lafayette Musicians Excel During 2011 Concert Season

While I'm not a fan of the really hot, humid weather we see during Band Camp, I was starting to think spring had arrived before the temperatures dipped back down into the forties during the last week of March. When trees and flowers start blooming, it reminds me that we'll be busy wrapping up the current school year as we look forward to the upcoming marching season.

We've been very busy with various aspects of our concert season! Thanks to everyone who made it possible for Lafayette to host the performance by the District Seven Honor Band. Flexibility was the name of the game when we were able to step up and hold the concert here for the groups that had rehearsed at Bryan Station. All that juggling was needed, of course, because of the lousy weather that forced cancellation in January. I'm glad that the students who were selected for that honor band (including 49 from Lafayette) had the opportunity to participate, since bad weather has forced cancellation of the event in the past. Again, thanks to everyone who made it happen!

In addition to the concert

rehearsal and preparation, we've also seen dozens of students looking to the year ahead as they train and audition for color guard and positions as drum major. I really commend the hard work of these students, which promises that we'll see equally hard work during the 2011-12 season. I appreciate the cooperation of Clay's Mill Elementary School for allowing us to use their gym for this training. It really pays to be well-connected, doesn't it?

On March 28, the Lafayette Band was recognized by the Fayette County School Board for its success as a finalist in the 2010 KMEA Marching Band competition. The recognition was originally scheduled in the late fall and had to be re-scheduled because of snow. Seniors Meredith Burns and Maria Kidd accompanied me to the meeting and represented the Band very well.

The trombone and saxophone days that we held March 11-12 were very beneficial both to our students and to the younger students in our feeder schools. A total of 55 kids studied with Johnny Bishop, Chris Strange, John Boemer and Jeff Bayerle,

continued on page 2  
1

## Dates to Remember

- Apr. 4-8 Spring Break
- Apr. 11 LBA meeting, 7 p.m.,  
LHS Cafeteria Raffle Kick-off
- Apr. 17 Wind Symphony concert with  
UK, SCFA, 7 p.m.
- Apr. 25 LBA board meeting, 6:30  
LHS Library
- Apr. 26 Percussion Ensemble Concert  
7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 29 District Band Festival,  
Scott County H.S., time TBA
- Apr. 30 LHS Prom
- May 1 Honor Banquet, Calvary  
Baptist Church, 1 p.m.
- May 2 Jazz Band concert, Beeler Aud  
7 p.m.
- May 3 Woodwind auditions
- May 4 Percussion auditions
- May 5 Brass auditions
- May 9 LBA meeting, 7 p.m., cafeteria
- May 18 Spring concert, 7:30, SCFA

## Are you a member of The Pride?

For more information  
about joining  
this group of LBA  
supporters see  
information on the  
website,  
[www.lafayetteband.org](http://www.lafayetteband.org)

## Table of Contents

Birthdays	5
Raffle Information	5
Co-Presidents Message	4
Dates to Remember	1
Director's Report	1
Banquet Reservations	6

the band director at Henry Clay. We found that this was a really good opportunity to help students on a variety of levels and it served to introduce the younger students and their parents to the Lafayette Band. We may even try to schedule two such events next year.

The last weekend of April will be a busy one for us, especially the seniors, as KMEA District Seven festival is scheduled for April 29-30. All three of our bands will perform on Friday because the Lafayette Senior Prom is scheduled for April 30. The seniors will continue their marathon the next day, as our Honor Banquet is scheduled for Sunday, May 1. Watch your Weekly e-News for more specific information about that banquet.

We're waiting to hear from the district about graduation dates, which will then allow me to schedule the needed rehearsal for graduation. At press time, graduation was scheduled for June 4, but please watch your email for more information about that performance and the needed rehearsal.

Lafayette High School, as is the case for all public schools, is going

through some difficult budgeting times and we've seen our budget somewhat decreased for the coming year. Many Band parents have expressed their concerns to the Site-Based Decision Making Council and I would like to thank Tracy McIntosh for keeping us apprised of the work of the council. I encourage all parents to remain vigilant concerning topics that concerns the well-being of our students. LBA was well-represented with about 70 parents at the February



*Terry Holliday, Commissioner of the Department of Education, takes the baton at the Wind Symphony KMEA performance.*

## Thanks to Our Blue Level Sponsors

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- Walk Softly Photography

SBDM meeting when the budget was discussed and although no changes were made, the council was made aware of our concerns as well as those of other arts groups in the school and in the community.

Please be sure to vote in the upcoming SBDM election, scheduled for April 20-21. Your input is most important.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me in the Lafayette Band Room any day after 10 a.m. Respectfully submitted

Charles M. Smith,  
Director of Bands  
Lafayette High School  
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296-9257 (Home)

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# Lafayette Band Community Sponsor of the Month



MANAGEMENT  
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[www.AMRms.com](http://www.AMRms.com)

***Thanks for your support of the Lafayette Band  
and music education!***

AMR Management Services helps the band to maintain its award winning website, which keeps Band families apprised of the latest information concerning upcoming activities and events. If you are interested in community sponsorship, or know a business that would be interested, please contact Randy Gonzalez, 224-4427, [randy.gonzalez@insightbb.com](mailto:randy.gonzalez@insightbb.com)

# Activities come fast and often as the school year comes to an end

We hope everyone is thinking about spring and getting their yards in shape. Do you know what would really make your yard stand out? Lafayette Band Mulch! The Spring Mulch Sale is winding down and now we are now focused on delivery the thousands of bags purchased. We need volunteers (students and parents) to volunteer on Saturday April 16 our main delivery day.

We need drivers with trucks or cars that can deliver mulch. We need students to load and unload trucks. We need people who can help traffic flow and help the loaders count the bags. We need food volunteers. There really is a job for everyone. Last year we had record sales and ended just a little after noon. Come to Millpond Shopping Center off Boston Road and take part in this great activity.

Mark your calendars for May 1. The Association will host its annual honors banquet at Calvary Baptist Church where we will recognize the many accomplishments of our band students. Look for the reservation form in this newsletter. We hope to see you all there.

As we close the school year, we roll out one of our biggest and most important fundraisers, the Raffle. We will kick off the Raffle at the April 11 parent meeting. We ask that each student in the band sell at least 25 tickets. Tickets are \$10 each and the grand prize is \$10,000! Please plan to attend the parent meeting and pick up your tickets. Also at the April 11 meeting, we will elect the new officers and board members for 2011-2012.

This is an exciting time of year as we prepare for final concerts, help our students make

plans for prom, and look toward graduation for our seniors. As an organization, we remain focused on raising funds to support our band's many activities. But in so doing, we do not lose sight of the difference these dollars make in providing outstanding extra and co-curricular opportunities for our students.

We hope everyone has a great spring break and we look forward to seeing you at the very important April 11 parent meeting.

**Mark your calendar  
for Band Camp  
2012  
July 25- Aug. 5**





# Today is a Birthday, I Wonder for Whom . . .



Lauren Bellomy	Apr. 4	Harace Hunter	Apr. 13	Yuki Watanabe	Apr. 7
Conner Cesario	Apr. 28	Maria Kidd	Apr. 11	Sophie Woodard	Apr. 17
Alex Cowan	Apr. 8	Ciara Lister	Apr. 25		
Katie Coyer	Apr. 1	Ben Mead	Apr. 11		
Carly Derrick	Apr. 7	Katelyn Slavik	Apr. 21		
Turner Hawkins	Apr. 14	Jacob Slone	Apr. 3		
Murphy Houlihan	Apr. 28	Chase Teachey	Apr. 25		

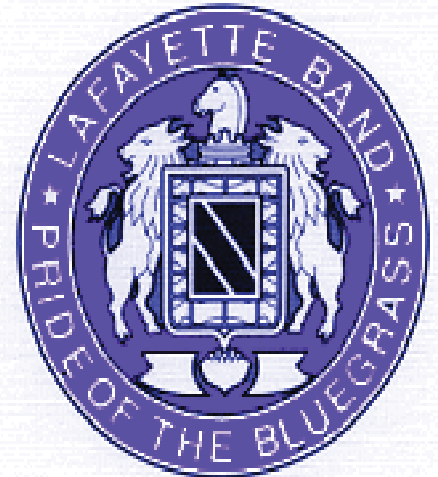
## Raffle Time is Here! Largest Fund Raiser of the Year

The Lafayette Band Association Spring Raffle is our biggest fundraising effort of the year and we need your participation to make it successful! Every band student is asked to sell 25 tickets at \$10.00 each.

We welcome our eighth graders and their families to LBA and encourage them to participate in this fundraiser. Thank you for adding this activity to your schedule as we know the end of eighth grade is a very busy time for families.

We also encourage our graduating seniors to make a special effort to sell tickets. Think of it as a “thank you” for the benefits that you’ve gained from your years in the Band and as a legacy you can leave for the students who are coming behind you.

Raffle tickets will be distributed at the LBA Parent Meeting on Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in Lafayette’s cafeteria. The drawing for the raffle will be conducted at the Spring Concert at the Singletary Center for the



Arts on May 18. If you have any questions, contact Beth Potter at [Pottermom@insightbb.com](mailto:Pottermom@insightbb.com) or 859-948-3859.

Please note: ALL raffle tickets (SOLD and UNSOLD) must be turned in by 6:00pm on Wednesday, May 11. Watch the weekly news for money and ticket collection times and dates.

*Carol Lynn*  
*Originals & Events*



**Make Reservations Now!**

# **LAFAYETTE BAND BANQUET AND HONORS CEREMONY**

**Sunday, May 1, 2011**

The 2011 Lafayette Band Banquet and Honors Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st, at 1:30 p.m., at Calvary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall (150 East High Street). We will celebrate another awesome year of Lafayette Band, bid farewell and pay special tribute to our seniors, and recognize the underclassmen with their well-earned "letters and bars".

Once again, our banquet is being sponsored in part and will be catered by Outback Steakhouse. We truly appreciate their continued support of our event. We invite all Lafayette Band families to the lunch buffet that includes: steak, grilled chicken, salad, mushrooms, rolls, dessert and beverage. All for only \$15.00 per person. Our graduating seniors will be our guests for this event and are invited to attend free of charge, compliments of the Lafayette Band Association.

Registration begins at 1:00 p.m., with lunch served shortly after check-in. Please make your reservations by Monday, April 25, 2011.

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## LAFAYETTE BAND BANQUET & HONORS CEREMONY RESERVATION FORM

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations @ \$15.00 Each      \$\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Attending @ No Charge    \$\_\_0\_\_

Parent's Daytime Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Evening Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment must be received by April 25. Send the completed Reservation Form and check made payable to the Lafayette Band Association to:

Ann Cowan  
2016 Heather Way  
Lexington, KY 40503

If you have questions regarding the Banquet and Honors Ceremony, contact Ann Cowan at 278-0818 or [anncowan@insightbb.com](mailto:anncowan@insightbb.com)

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Have you committed to your Bingo slots for the year? If not, call your section chairperson to reserve the times that you will work! We all rely on YOUR participation in fundraising through Bingo!  
Bingo keeps your band payments in check!

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