

Pride of the Bluegrass

The News of the Lafayette Band

From the Director's Desk



Charles M. Smith

Some reflection on the season just past

It's hard to believe that we're several weeks past the end of marching season isn't it? Even harder to believe that before we know it, the students will be arriving for the first day of band camp for the 2011 season. But before we look too far ahead, I want to do a little reflection on the season just past.

In some ways, I think we might have learned more this season than in seasons that saw us take home bigger trophies. For one thing, I saw steady and dramatic improvement in the preparation and rehearsal for every competition, from our appearance at Madison Central in September all the way to Grand Nationals.

While some of our results didn't work out the way we might have liked, it wasn't for lack of effort on the part of our musicians. I would like to commend every one of you students for the effort you put forth, the hundreds of repetitions you practiced

until CHIME was as good as you could make it.

I was particularly proud of this Band after State. Despite our disappointment in the finish, the students continued to work hard to take a show they were proud of to Grand Nationals. I clearly saw that pride in Indianapolis and in the days of rehearsal leading up to that weekend.

I think we saw more clearly than ever this year that Lafayette Band isn't about winning. It's about working together as a team, as a team with one with one heart and one goal: not necessarily to be better than somebody else, but to be the best we can be.

I salute each of you for that effort.

Let's not overlook the fact that there's still a lot to come during the rest of this year! By the time you

continued on page 2



The Pride of the Bluegrass performs at Papa John Stadium on October 30.

Dates to Remember

- Dec. 7 Jazz Band Concert, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 9 Area Band Concert, 7:30
- Dec. 11 All-State Auditions, Final Round
- Dec. 13 LBA meeting, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17 Last Day of School
- Jan. 4 Classes resume
- Jan. 7 Audition, District 7 Band
- Jan. 8 8th Grade All-County Band, hosted at Lafayette
- Jan. 11 Spring M2 begins
- Jan. 11 LBA meeting, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 14 8th Grade Band orientation
- Jan. 25 LBA Board meeting, 6:30
- Jan. 27-30 District 7 Honor Band, Bryan Station High School
- Feb. 4-6 KMEA Conference
- Feb. 19 Jazz Band Dance

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

Table of Contents

Birthdays	5
Fundraising Information	7
Co-Presidents Message	4
Dates to Remember	1
Director's Report	1
Jazz Band Dance	6

read this newsletter, KMEA will have announced the names of the students who have made it past the first round of auditions for the All State Band which will perform at the state convention in February.

The area band concert, one of my favorite events of the year, is scheduled for December 9. I always look forward to this annual event and many people comment to me every year how much they enjoy hearing the progress bands make from year to year. I hope that you'll make every effort to join us in the Lafayette gym on December 9 at 7:30 p.m.

The Jazz Band concert is scheduled for December 8 in the Beeler Auditorium at Lafayette at 7 p.m. I hope you'll find time to join us for that concert, even if you don't have a student in the Jazz Band. I promise

it will be an evening of music you'll really enjoy.

Again, I thank you for the support you've showed through the marching season. I know that all of our support groups – the field crew, the uniform moms, the food crew and the chaperones – are crucial to the success of the Lafayette Band. We couldn't do it without you!

If you have any questions or would like to reach me for any reason, please contact me in the Band Room any school day after 10 a.m

Respectfully submitted,
Charles M. Smith
Director of Bands
Lafayette High School
381-3483 (School)
296-9257 (Home)

chuck.smith@fayette.kyschools.us

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AMR Management Services created and provides consultation on the award-winning Lafayette Band website, www.lafayetteband.org. The web provides up-to-the-minute information about all things Lafayette Band. List it on your favorites and check it often!

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

CHIME: An Opportunity to Learn and Grow

The marching season has concluded with our recent trip to Indianapolis for Grand Nationals competition. Congratulations to Mr. Smith and the Band for competing in the semi final round with some of the best high school bands in America. The Band's Saturday performance was something they can always be proud of and is the way we want to remember CHIME.

As Association Presidents, we want to express our sincere thanks again to all who volunteered or otherwise assisted with the Grand Nationals trip. There simply is no other organization quite like LBA. As an organization, you handle complex and taxing trips with efficiency and with sincere care for the safety and well being of our students. Every interaction the parent volunteers have with our kids is a teachable moment and it was again an honor to work beside you, shepherding the band from venue to venue, from learning experience to learning experience.

Each of our four marching band seasons has been unique. Each year we watched the band mature and compete achieving believable and unbelievable things. This year's challenges left us all, we believe, longing for at least one more opportunity to march . . . to be Lafayette. All of Kentucky can be proud of how music education and marching band has developed in the Commonwealth. Lafayette has historically set the standard, and now we are joined by other programs that march with great pride and that perform music reflective of national prominence.

As parents, coaching our children through disappointments is not new. As Lafayette parent volunteers, supporting our band through challenges is perhaps not as familiar territory. What is so encouraging is to see an organization respond effectively to these challenges as we remain focused on helping our children learn just as much as they would from particular successes. Throughout this year's journey, we witnessed our kids take care of each other, motivate each other, and represent the Pride with characteristic style and grace. Consequently, we know that the Lafayette Marching Band emerges from this season an even stronger Band, and thanks to you, we emerge as an even stronger organization.



*LBA co-presidents
Randy and Lori Gonzalez
with son Clay, class
of 2011, at Bands
of America Grand
National competition in
Indianapolis.*

LBA Parent Meeting

December 13, 7 p.m.
LHS Cafeteria

**Join us to review plans
for spring 2011
Band activities.**

As we shift toward the concert season, we want to remind each of you to do all you can to help make our fundraisers successful. Thank you for using Facebook and other social media outlets to publicize event and fundraising opportunities. The world is as connected as it has ever been and there is no reason that connectivity can't help LBA reach new heights in fundraising. And as always, there is a method to this fundraising madness. The financial burden is great on the organization as we support a nationally recognized program that quite honestly does not have the public financial support that other marquee programs have. We believe our fundraising program has the ability to grow and perhaps one day reduce the financial burden on band families. So thank you for buying fruit, cheese, sausage, discount cards and mulch; but also, thank you for pushing these opportunities out into the community where there are Lafayette alums just waiting for an opportunity to give back.

Keep your eyes on the web site for details about the spring calendar. Mr. Smith and the Band staff have many exciting things planned for January through June of 2011. Congratulations to all who made it through the first round of All State auditions. While marching is over for now, we look forward to many more exciting opportunities to hear some of the most talented musicians in the state play some beautiful music.

We wish you and your families a very enjoyable, safe and restful holiday season.

Lori and Randy Gonzalez



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



Claire Ballard	Dec. 27	Courtney James	Dec. 11
Robert Craig	Dec. 26	Dylan O’Hair	Dec. 13
Ryan Booth	Dec. 17	Ashley Paul	Dec. 21
Andrew Burton	Dec. 9	Samantha Pigg	Dec. 20
Katherine Etherton	Dec. 29	Amanda Pugh	Dec. 22
Miranda Fields	Dec. 13	Kristen Wade	Dec. 7
Emma Jackson	Dec. 10	Emily Warner	Dec. 6



Carol Lynn

Originals & Events



Fund Raising Notes

Put on your dancing shoes for the Jazz Band Dance

The Lafayette Jazz Band Program, created in the early 1950's, is comprised of mostly upperclassmen and performs traditional Big Band jazz from Glen Miller to today's popular show tunes. The highly acclaimed group has performed in jazz festivals, concerts, and civic events over the years.

The Jazz Band Dance and Silent Auction is scheduled for February 18 in the Immanuel Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on Tates Creeks Road. The dance is a wonderful evening of food, silent auction, dancing, and getting to know the Lafayette Band family! And we do mean family, because it's an event that parents and

student alike enjoy.

This is an important fundraiser which benefits the entire Lafayette Band. Each family is asked to participate by coming to the dance and bidding on any of the many items, by bringing food and drinks to share, and by soliciting items from vendors and other sources.

Please contact Carole Howell at (859) 223-6485 or redskins@qx.net if you would like to be on a committee or assist in any way. Thanks to all of the many parents and students who have already secured donated items for the auction.

The Lafayette Jazz Band Dance – be there or be square!

Do you . . .

- Use GoodSearch as your search engine?
- Shop with your LBA Kroger gift card?
- Make on-line purchases with Good Shop?

These fundraisers are an easy way to benefit the Band. For more information, see the Fundraising section of www.lafayetteband.org



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- Zandale Cleaners

Bingo!

Do you know the most lucrative fundraiser for the Band? Holiday fruit? Discount cards? The Spring raffle? Nope, it's bingo.

Eight to 10 Band parents work every Tuesday night at the Bluegrass Bingo Center on Clay's Mill Road (in the same strip mall as Brooklyn Pizza). Some parents work once a month, some work twice and a few stalwarts work every Tuesday.

Several workers are parents of seniors who MUST be replaced by the end of the year if bingo is to continue for 2011-12.

It's not difficult, and it's really a lot of fun. If you don't have a lot of time to give to, but could give one night a month, call chairperson Maria Hctor at 940-8981.

Successful Fund Raising in the Fall More to Come in the Spring!

Thanks to everyone who worked to make the annual Lafayette Fruit and Wreath Sale such a rousing success. Thanks especially to Jill Hutchinson for the hard work she did on this important fundraiser. The sales effort on the part of our families was commendable and thanks, too, to everyone who helped with fruit delivery and distribution.

It won't be too long before we turn our attention to our spring mulch sale which has become increasingly successful over the very few years that we have made this effort.

Even though there's snow on the ground, please be thinking of the family and friends who might be interested in supporting the Band by purchasing our high-quality mulch.

And Class of 2011, don't forget that efforts to sell, unload and deliver mulch has become a traditional "swan song" of the senior class, making one last fund raising effort as a statement of how much the Band has meant to them during their years in school. Watch for more information in the coming months.



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As the 2010 marching season comes to a close, the Lafayette Band Association would like to thank the members of the individual crews that provide needed support to the Band.

Chaperones accompany the band at all times, beginning at band camp, when they distribute ice packs, aspirin and TLC; through football season when they station themselves in the band section of the stands and cheer for the Generals; and on into the competition season when they travel on buses (passing out candy and cookies!) and sit for long hours in hotel hallways in the middle of the night after “lights out.” The LBA chaperone crew assures the health and safety of the Band. This crew requires the ability to function effectively on coffee instead of sleep. Lafayette Band chaperones, under the direction of head chaperones Jackie and Lorie Thompson The 2010 Chaperones, under the direction of head chaperones Jackie and Lorie Thompson include Mike Booth, Lisa and Darryl Duncan, Rob Edwards, Julie Fathergill, Robin and Steve Feese, Peggy Gabriel and Jim Trammel, Tim Hall, Stacy Hamilton, Susan and Roy Honican, Jim Hutchinson, Anne Kjelby, Sharon Lake, Susan Liddle, Debbie Paul, Becky Ramsey, Lisa See, Nina _____ Warner, Jennie

The Field Crew travels ahead of the Band, loads and unloads uniforms, instruments, and backdrops, basically everything but the kids. They’re also responsible for getting everything on the field, usually in a very small amount of time. The field crew produces whatever projects Mr. Smith and the rest of the staff devise. Therefore, skills for building, fabricating, or just plain man (or woman) power, are essential. Wherever you see the Band, you’ll see the field crew. Workers need a strong back and a great sense of humor. The 2010 Field Crew, under the direction of Joey Maggard, includes Dwayne Imes, Dave Arens, Carthel Smith, Nick Fugette, Sam Brown, Sid Lizer, Steve Pigg, Jim Burns, Lance Hellman, Mike Richeson, Jimmie Emmerson, Jay Hawkins, Kevin Lister, Kevin Fugette, Gayla Webb, Tom Shirley, Randy Warner, Joey Maggard, Gary Hartz, Tim Woodall, Randy Kaplan, Jeff Stivers, Steve Blanton, Ken Pacillio, Jim Adamson, Kevin and Beth Degler, Mike Crocetti, and Mike Crain

The Food Crew makes sure the students are well nourished, whether it is for an all day practice, or a weekend performance. Beginning at Band Camp in July, the food crew serves meals in the Lafayette cafeteria or sometimes such exotic locations as parking lots or hotel ballrooms. In addition to a multitude of sandwiches and chips, the Food Crew always serves a smile along with a cookie! Under the direction of Ann Cowan, the 2010 Food Crew includes Martha Duncan, Tina Hamilton, Shari Jackson, Mayumi Arens, Terri Adamson, Randy Gonzalez, Tammi Michl and Linda Sharpe

The Uniform Crew keeps the Band looking good. They measure and fit for uniforms (both traditional and competition), and shirts. After football games and competitions, the uniform crew makes sure all uniforms are accounted for and in good repair. While the band dresses, the crew is on hand with emergency sewing equipment, pins and sometimes even duct tape and hot glue. Under the direction of Cindy Blanton, the 2010 uniform crew includes Lori Gonzalez, Cathy Greene, Cindy Greene, Dorothy Robison, Kathy Coyer, Debbie Moore, Kenna Blanton, Jeanine Lister, Sara Maggard, Melissa Ballard, Beth Sharp, and Patty Craig