

# Pioneer Band Association

Building a Foundation for Musical Excellence

# NOTES

## FROM THE PODIUM

Welcome new freshmen and welcome back all returning band students. Band Camp was amazing! If you were the intelligent parent who made the journey north, especially the parent "Bus Gang" to attend the Sunday afternoon performance and demonstration, you were 'wowed' to witness what we accomplished in just five days. I was speaking to several members of the Interlochen staff. After the Sunday concert they said it best, "Most schools strive to have a performance of this caliber at the end of the school year, but in Ann Arbor you perform at this level after only five days!". I was stopped again and again by families from throughout the greater Ann Arbor community to say how impressed they all were with the level of the Pioneer Band and that the "Stars and Stripes" took their breath away. The audience reaction said it all, congratulations Pioneer!

Although I say this in one form or another these words are as important today as ever. This is a **BIG** year in the Bands at Pioneer and there is always something happening. **Please pay close attention to this newsletter, attend capsule-night, and parent-teacher conferences. Come to PBA meetings (the second Tuesday of each month in the PHS band room), and attend our concerts. It is only through your active participation in your child's life that you will know what is happening. Your presence at your child's activity is extremely important.** This is the best manner that we as parents can demonstrate our unconditional love, respect and support for their activities. Additionally if you don't hear the music at your house (from your child's instrument not the radio), you and your child need to discuss if you, as a parent, are making a wise investment. Your child's instrument can run several hundred dollars. In addition, reeds, oils, and lessons all cost \$\$\$\$. Are you making a wise investment? Practice is a dividend on that investment as well as performances. In Math, Science, and English, your child is expected to complete assignments and Band is no different. Our assignment is to learn our parts. Don't be satisfied with your child telling you "I practiced before you got home". Encourage them to demonstrate their proficiency by playing their parts for you. In conclusion, I wish to thank you all for your time and your support of your child's decision to become a high school musician. Your active support and presence is priceless. Before you know, it will all be over and they will be asking grandma and grandpa (you and your spouse) to baby-sit so that they can have a little quality time.

All the best,

*David A. Leach* Director of Bands

**Reminder for Students...** Students who have concert uniforms at home need to get them dry cleaned by the end of September if they have not already done so. Please keep your uniforms until needed for the concert season. Please contact Robin Hess with any questions at:

**robinLHOT@earthlink.net or (734) 994-1115**



Sept/October 2009

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**PBA NOTES** \_\_\_\_\_

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Next submission due date:  
October 18th, Sunday



## FROM THE PODIUM

I am really looking forward to working with this year's Varsity Band. I have been very impressed with the students so far. They have wonderful attitudes and are helpful and eager to learn. We're currently working on a brief marching band unit. Although the Varsity Band students won't march in any games I feel that it's important that they get a taste of what they will do if they want to move up to Concert and Symphony Band. It was great to see them supporting the marching band at Wagongate!

While the students are outside marching our band librarians are preparing their music and folders so we can hit the ground running. We will be starting our inside concert rehearsals soon. Each student should be making sure that they are doing their nightly half hour of practice. They have also been told that they need to have their names on their instruments (both inside and outside), even if they are using one of our school instruments. Luggage tags work well for this. Students have been advised to never leave their instrument in their hall lockers. We have a storage area in the band room for this purpose.

Chair tryouts will be in late October or November. All students will play scales plus the most difficult areas of their concert pieces. All wind players will audition on the first parts for their instrument. Percussion will have additional requirements. There is only one chair tryout during the year so make sure that your child is practicing ahead.

Although I direct the Varsity Band I also work with every other band group at Pioneer. If you have any questions or concerns along the way please get in touch with me. The best way is via email ([waring@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:waring@aaps.k12.mi.us)) or use the link on the [www.aapioneerbands.org](http://www.aapioneerbands.org) webpage.

Welcome to the Pioneer Band family!  
*Nancy Waring* Associate Director of Bands



## The Latest from the PTO Thrift Shop!

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Looking for a way to earn \$\$\$ to fulfill your General Band Fund obligation?  
Try volunteering at the PTO Thrift Shop!

Students or their parents may sign up to work 2 hour shifts. Volunteers usually earn \$8 an hour. The shop has a "rolling sign-up" system in place. Each Monday morning, a new week is added to the sign-up book. Stop by early to get the best selection.

All students age 14-17 must obtain a work permit to volunteer at the store. Students can obtain a permit at the school office or at the store. New volunteers are required to attend an orientation session before working their first shift. Email the volunteer coordinator at [volunteer@a2ptothriftshop.org](mailto:volunteer@a2ptothriftshop.org) to sign up for a session. The session lasts about 1.5 hours and that time will be included in your paid hours. Payout dates are Sept. 1st, Jan 1st, and May 1st.

Volunteer are always needed and appreciated. If you haven't tried it yet, give it a whirl, you might love it!

Please remember to work, shop, and donate to the PTO Thrift Shop!

**The PTO Thrift Shop is located at 2280 S. Industrial.  
Phone: 996-9155, Website: [a2ptothriftshop.org](http://a2ptothriftshop.org)  
Hours: M-F 9-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5**





## **Pioneer Band Families – Be Creative, Have Fun and Support the Bands, all at the same time!**

The *Gala & Silent Auction* is one Pioneer Band's most fun and exciting events of the year, and in this challenging economy one of our most important fund raisers. Thanks to the generous support of our families and community, the event last February raised over \$15,000 – much needed dollars for scholarships, lessons, and trips for all students throughout the year.

A festive evening, as well as an opportunity to celebrate and highlight our award-winning program, the *Gala & Silent Auction* is adult-oriented and features a large silent auction, a live auction with professional auctioneer, a buffet-style hors d'oeuvre reception, and performances by our student musicians. Initial planning is underway for this year's event, which will be hosted on a Sunday to be determined in February. Some new options for this year's Gala are being explored, including the possibility of a unique venue and some creative involvement from local caterers a la The Food Network.

An event of this scale could not succeed without the help of many PBA family members, and volunteering for the Gala is a fun way to contribute your time as well as get to know other band families.

**Ann Curtis** (accurtis1@gmail.com) and **Janene Centurione** (danjan22@hotmail.com) are the Gala Co-chairs, and they will be contacting everyone to enlist volunteers and discuss participation options. You may also have heard that PBA is looking for "apprentices" for various activities. An apprentice is a parent who is willing to observe and work closely with the committee chairs for this year's event, with the goal of transitioning to committee chair next year. Ann and Janene are looking to "pass the torch" for the 2011 Gala, so if you have a flair for organization and parties and are interested, please contact them.

As plans progress, details like the date and venue will be posted on the Pioneer Band website at [http://aapioneerbands.org/?page\\_id=71](http://aapioneerbands.org/?page_id=71). Or for questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Ann or Janene.

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## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

BE AWARE THAT CHANGES WILL PROBABLY OCCUR. WATCH THE WEBSITE, NEWSLETTER, AND CLASSROOM ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DATE CHANGES.

(SB=Symphony Band CB=Concert Band VB=Varsity Band JB=Jazz Band PBA=Pioneer Band Association)

### SEPTEMBER 2009

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	GROUP
8 Tue		FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL		
9 Wed	12:30-2:30 PM	MARCHING UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION	B-126	SB, PBA Uniform Team
9 Wed	3:30-5:30 pm	Marching Drill	Practice Field	SB, PBA Hydration Team
10 Thu	12:30-3 pm	Marching Uniform Distribution	B-126	SB, PBA Uniform Team
10 Thu	3:30-5:30 pm	Marching Drill	Practice Field	SB, PBA Hydration Team
11 Fri	4:30-10 pm	HOME FOOTBALL GAME vs SALINE Game Time 7:00 pm WAGONGATE	Practice Field Hollway Field	WAGONGATE SB PBA Escort Team, PBA Uniform Team
15 Tue	3:30-5:30 pm	Marching Drill	Practice Field	SB, PBA Hydration Team
15 Tue	7:30 pm	Pioneer Band Association Meeting	B-126	ALL BAND PARENTS
16 Wed	ALL DAY	Candy Sale Begins	B-126	ALL FAMILIES
16 Wed	3:30-5:30 pm	Marching Drill	Practice Field	SB, PBA Hydration Team
17 Thu	4:30-10 pm	HOME FOOTBALL GAME vs SAGINAW Arthur Hill Game Time 7:00 pm	Practice Field Hollway Field	SB PBA Escort Team, PBA Uniform Team
28 Mon	ALL DAY	Deadline for MSBOA All State B/O Applications to State Office	MSBOA State Office	ALL BAND STUDENTS
29 Tue	ALL DAY	Candy Sale Ends	B-126	ALL FAMILIES

### OCTOBER 2009

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	GROUP
3 Sat	1-4 pm	Band Picnic	Allmendinger Park	ALL BAND FAMILIES PBA Picnic Team
7 Wed	1-3 pm	Early Release for Secondary Schools Marching Drill with Huron PBA RECEPTION TO FOLLOW	Practice Field	SB PBA Hydration Team PBA Hospitality Team
8 Thu	3:30-5:30 pm	Marching Drill @ HURON Practice Field (Combined Rehearsal with Huron Band)	Huron Practice Field	SB
9 Fri	4:30-10 pm	HOME FOOTBALL GAME vs HURON Game Time 7:00 pm HOMECOMING	Practice Field Hollway Field	SB PBA Escort Team
10 Sat (11 Sun All Day - Rain Date)	ALL DAY	BAND CAR WASH	Pioneer Parking Lot	ALL BAND FAMILIES PBA Car Wash Team
12 Mon	ALL DAY	MSBOA All State B/O Audition Times Posted on web	www.msboa.org	All Students
20 Tue	7:30 pm	Mandatory TOUR Meeting	Schreiber	All Paraticipants & Parents
20 Tue	1:30-3 pm	Marching Uniform Distribution - CB	B-126	CB, PBA Uniform Team
21 Wed	1:30-3:30 pm	Marching Uniform Distribution - CB	B-125	CB, PBA Uniform Team
21 Wed & 22 Thu	3:30-5:30 pm	Marching Drill (Combined Rehearsal w/ CB)	Practice Field	SB/CB, PBA Hydration Team
23 Fri	4:30-10 pm	HOME FOOTBALL GAME vs DEARBORN Fordson Game Time 7:00 pm	Practice Field Hollway Field	SB/CB, PBA Uniform Team, PBA Hydration Team, PBA Escort Team
29 Thu	ALL DAY	District S/E forms & Fees Due	B-126	ALL BANDS
31 Sat	ALL DAY	MSBOA All State B/O Auditions At several state sites	TBA	All Participants





## Volunteers Still Needed!

To those of you who have already signed up to volunteer to help at various events and to serve on various committees – thank you! For those of you who have not yet decided how to get involved, know that PBA still needs people to help with almost every event scheduled on the calendar.

And for those of you who are thinking that you'd like to be involved a bit more extensively, but are just not sure quite how to take the plunge, there are some perfect opportunities for you.

If you would like to serve on the PBA Board, the position of Secretary has just opened up. Besides keeping minutes at all PBA and PBA Board meetings, the Secretary participates with the rest of the Board to set the direction which enables PBA to serve the Pioneer Bands as effectively as possible.

Besides that opportunity, several of our committee chair people have youngest children who will graduate next June or have already served in the chairperson role for multiple years. In order to ensure a smooth transition to next year's volunteer efforts, we are looking for parents who are willing to serve this year as "apprentices" to those chair people, learn the ropes first-hand, and then be ready to step into the chairperson's role in 2010-2011. Those committees are:

- \**Band Picnic* – organizes this annual fall gathering of all band members and families
- \**Marching Hydration/Hospitality* – coordinates provision of refreshments for students during band rehearsals about five weeks (10 days) in the fall
- \**Newsletter* – responsible for publishing the bi-monthly newsletter, PBA Notes
- \**Gala and Auction* – coordinates this fun and festive winter affair which is the major fundraising event of the year
- \**PBA Secretary* – responsible for taking notes at all the board and general meetings starting in November. (Please contact Gloria Wilson at 734-975-0081 or [president@aapioneerbands.org](mailto:president@aapioneerbands.org))
- \**Picnic Pops* – organizes wonderful spring outdoor concert at Pioneer High.
- \**PTO Thrift Shop* – serves as liaison between PBA and the Thrift Shop, where students and families can work to raise funds.
- \**Registration* – organizes sign-up day each August, right before Band Camp
- \**Senior Activities* – makes sure that special event is planned and memorabilia is provided for graduating seniors. (Parent of a junior preferred.)
- \**Webmaster* – responsible for keeping Pioneer Bands web site up to date and functioning properly.

Are you ready to help? Then please contact David Baum ([dbaum@umich.edu](mailto:dbaum@umich.edu), 734-662-9095), PBA co-vice president.

Thanks in advance for considering all of these opportunities. With your help, we can keep the Pioneer Bands one of the best music programs in the country!

### *PBA Notes want to go GREEN!!!*

Our goal is to reduce our paper output and reduce the cost of mailing PBA Notes newsletter. You will find our 4 color bi-monthly newsletter on our website [www.aapioneerbands.org](http://www.aapioneerbands.org). While online you may print the pages as you need, eg. calendar, special article, etc..

**IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE YOUR MAIL SUBSCRIPTION** please contact:  
 Gloria Wilson, President: 734-975-0081 or [president@aapioneerbands.org](mailto:president@aapioneerbands.org)  
 or Kathy Toy-Nao, PBA Editor: 734-904-7225 or [newsletter@aapioneerbands.org](mailto:newsletter@aapioneerbands.org)



# Pioneer Band Association

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PERMIT NO. 230  
ANN ARBOR, MI

**Building a Foundation for Musical Excellence**

PIONEER BAND ASSOCIATION  
PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL  
601 WEST STADIUM BOULEVARD  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48103  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**TO:**

**We're On The Web!**  
[www.aapioneerbands.org](http://www.aapioneerbands.org)

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**PBA Free Car Wash** ...is scheduled for **Saturday, October 10.** (The rain date is the 11th but keep your fingers crossed that won't be necessary.) The way we make money is by students collecting pledges that pay an amount per car washed. It is very important that *students fill out the Pledge Forms* and obtain as many pledges as possible.

The other way we make money is by receiving donations at the car wash itself. The students will sign up to work in their band class but parents are needed too to help coordinate and monitor everything.

Contact:  
**Nancy Terhar, 734-663-9385, Natb1013@aol.com**  
to volunteer a couple of hours to this important event.

## **Candy Sale begins September 25th**

**Candy sale ends Sept. 29th.** Turn money in during band class (even if student still hasn't sold all of the candy yet). Checks made payable to PBA, \$52 per box. In the memo section, lower left hand corner of your check, clearly write the first and last student name, which band (VBWW, VBBP, etc) and "candy".