

MAD MEMOS



James Madison High School
2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna, VA 22181



Volume 2 Number 5

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Dear Madison Families,

Do you actually know the scope of what the PTSA does that makes Madison a better place for the students and teachers? I'll bet not. What do we do with your dues money and the other monies we raise? No one in the PTSA gets paid for their work. We don't have offices. We don't have the kind of expenses a regular non-profit organization has. So where does all that money go?

Surely everyone knows that the PTSA compiles and produces, in a very short time frame, the Student Directory (still available at the main office for \$10 per single copy or \$15 for two copies). Every month we produce MadMemos. We also sponsor and organize the class dinners so parents have an opportunity to get to know each other and form stronger bonds. These are the most obvious activities.

But did you know that we also help fund "Flight School" to prepare the incoming freshmen for the transition to high school? We welcome the teachers back to school with a fabulous breakfast and host other celebrations for them during the year. We sponsor the Reflections program that draws on the creative talents of over 100 students and results in the award of hundreds of dollars in prizes and recognition of terrific works. Our involvement in helping the Robotics Club enter its major competition is pretty invisible but nonetheless essential. We contributed \$1,000 towards the entrance fee. We have defrayed the costs of additional training for our foreign language teachers and contributed \$3,000 seed money to the Outdoor Courtyard Classroom project. We fund the academic awards ceremony honoring hundreds of our top achieving students. The PTSA did all this in the first half of the school year! And there is so much more to come!

Well, on to the business coming up. Every five years the PTSA is required to update its bylaws to conform to the requirements of the Virginia PTA. You can find them posted at http://www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS/Parents/ptsa/ptsa_bylaws.html. We'll be voting on them at the February 13th PTSA meeting. The Virginia PTA also is looking for volunteers for its various committees and for participation in the PTA Day at the General Assembly. That information, along with the Virginia PTA legislative program are posted at http://www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS/Parents/ptsa/ptsa.html#pres_msg. Finally, look for information coming up on our new fundraiser – an art auction in April.

To Madison's best year yet,

Bettina Lawton
PTSA President

**FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL
2500 James Madison Drive
Vienna, Virginia 22181**

**Mad Memos
Jan. 13, 2006**

The coming of the New Year signifies the midpoint in the school year and an opportunity to explore where we have been as a school as well as plan for the second semester. Our seniors have begun to see the light at end of the tunnel and are getting anxious and restless as they begin to plan for graduation and beyond. Many of our seniors have submitted college applications or are beginning to explore other avenues for their post-high school experiences. The juniors have recently participated in a college night that was held on January 11, 2006, and as the number of sophomores turning sixteen increases so does the demand for parking as they get their driving permit. The freshmen are completing their adjustment to high school, and after a semester are beginning to settle in and focus on the academic rigor of their studies. Madison continues to be committed to raising achievement in all of our students and the January 10, 2006 early school closing was designed to give curriculum teams the opportunity to address the achievement issue.

Madison curriculum teams meet weekly to discuss content, skills, assessment strategies, as well as best teaching practices. During the ½ day on January 10, each curriculum team reviewed their progress during the first semester and explored strategies to assist students with content and skills during the second semester. I invite all parents to examine the Madison website for additional information regarding the Professional Learning Communities process as well as to explore curriculum goals for our teams.

Finally, I want to encourage any parent of an underclass student who might need academic support to visit Warhawk Hall during the Student Assistance Period. During this block of time the National Honor Society provides student tutors to further assist students who might benefit from one on one attention from a tutor. The program is designed as an additional support strategy for core classes. If you have additional questions concerning the peer tutoring process please feel free to call the guidance office for additional information. We will continue to explore strategies to provide students with additional support as well and enrichment in areas where they have identified a need. As I have mentioned on a number of occasions, when we are able to provide a student with additional time and support in any subject area we believe we can have a positive impact on that student's performance in the classroom.

**Thank you for your continued support of Madison High School.
Mark Merrell**

Thank you,

**Mark A. Merrell
Principal
Madison High School**

James Madison High School

CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET FOR A GOOD CAUSE!!

A new way to make a difference, in three simple steps....

1. Bring your unwanted valuables to:



2500 James Madison Dr.
Publications Room #167
Vienna, VA 22181
December 12th through the 21st
January 3rd through the 26th

2. ezAuctioning, Inc. will sell them on eBay on behalf of James Madison's *The Hawk Talk*, student newspaper.
3. *The Hawk Talk* receives a check on your behalf for the sold item(s) and you'll get a donation receipt for your generosity.

What's Popular?

- Antiques & Collectibles
- Cameras & Camcorders
- Computers & Related Equipment
- Car Audio & Video, Cell Phones
- Event Tickets
- Home Electronics
- Designer Handbags & Shoes
- Jewelry & Watches
- Musical Instruments & Equipment
- PDA's
- Roof Racks
- Sporting Goods
- Toys & Games
- Video Game Systems (Xbox, PS2, Etc...)

ezAuctioning accepts items that have an estimated value of \$50 or more, but not clothing.

« Can't attend the donation event?

No worries, feel free to drop off your unwanted valuables at ezAuctioning and indicate to the staff your item(s) are for the James Madison "Hawk Talk" Newspaper. We will take care of the rest!

Go to www.ezAuctioning.com click on current auctions and look for your item(s)

James Madison "Hawk Talk" Newspaper Donation Form

Donor Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Item(s) Information

1. Brief Description: _____

2. Brief Description: _____

3. Brief Description: _____

4. Brief Description: _____

5. Brief Description: _____

6. Brief Description: _____

7. Brief Description: _____

8. Brief Description: _____

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE TO FCPS AND HELP STUDENTS LEARN

The student auto sales program works with auto programs around the county and uses late model cars & trucks to work train on. Once the vehicles have been refurbished some are then sold as fund raisers for the school to enhance the automotive program. Student Auto Sales is looking for your fully tax deductible car or truck for the students to learn on. Please contact Joe Scango at 703-220-3515 or email

jescango@fcps.edu



Nothing political is sacred to these quick-witted, multi-faceted Congressional staffers.

Come see fast-paced musical political satire at its best!

Capitol Steps

will perform live at

Madison High School

Sunday, March 19, 2006 - 4:00 p.m.

To reserve tickets, cut off form below & mail w/check. Tickets will be mailed to you.

Capitol Steps Ticket Request Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

of tickets x \$25.00 = \$_____ Total Enclosed

Make check payable to JMHS All-Night Grad & mail to:

JMHS All-Night Grad, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna, VA, 22181

For information call: Pam or Ran Hock at 703-255-3798

PTSA Sponsored - Benefits JMHS's (Drug Free, Alcohol Free) All-Night Grad

New in this Issue

For your convenience, many of the URL's and e-mail addresses have been Hyperlinked!

Look at us now!

James Madison High School's Art Department wants you to mark your calendars for their spectacular art show! This show will feature works from all of the visual art student's grades 9-12 and selected works from our pyramid schools!

JMHS ART SHOW

March 13th – March 17th From: 7:10-3:30

Opening Night: Wednesday, March 14th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm
James Madison Library and Warhawk Hall

We will be looking for some parent volunteers during the day on March 10th, 14th eve, 17th please contact Ingrid.AprilLevey@fcps.edu or call 703-319-2300

Senior Ethics Day Rescheduled for April 4, 2006 Vienna Community Center

Looking for a couple of people to chair this wonderful educational experience for the Senior class. This is the 6th year for Ethics Day at James Madison High School.

Seniors will be exposed to a series of ethical situations and asked to analyze and respond to the dilemma presented. The day does not include lectures on ethical precepts or espouse any specific set of ethical beliefs. The exercises ask young people to apply their ethical values to situations and then challenge them to support the applications they choose.

If you have the time and desire to see this event take place this year, please contact Michele Khol kholcm@verizon.net (2005 Ethics Chair) to discuss specifics. Since this event was previously scheduled for December 6th most of the groundwork has been done.

Important ! PTSA Bylaws Changes

Proposed JMHS PTSA bylaws changes (in 'Word format) are posted on the JMHS website under the subheading of "Parents" for public review and comment. The JMHS PTSA is required to update its bylaws every five years to remain a PTSA in good standing. Most of the changes included in this update are required by the State or National PTAs. A vote on the proposed bylaws will take place at the PTSA meeting on February 13, 2006, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the JMHS Media Center. Members are invited to attend the meeting and participate in the vote. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact PTSA President, Bettina Lawton, or Bylaws Committee Chair, Robin Hayutin at fishelal@aol.com.

Attention Seniors and Senior Parents: We are collecting Kiddie Pictures for the Kiddie Quiz at the All Night Graduation Celebration.

We would love for each Senior to bring in one non-returnable copy of a photo from when you were between the ages of 2 and 5. Put the picture with your name on the back in an envelope and bring it to the office. We will have a box there labeled Kiddie Quiz. You may also send these items to the following address: Ms. Meg Dwyer, 2444 Casmar St, Vienna, VA 22180. Thanks so much!

Congratulations to Benjamin Schwank! He was one of eight FCPS Students named Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalist.

A total of 300 semifinalists were chosen from among more than 1,500 entrants and will receive matching awards of \$1,000 along with their schools.

Forty finalists will be announced on January 25; they will attend the Intel Science Institute and compete for more than \$500,000 in college scholarships.

Press release:

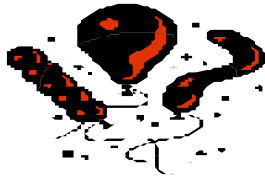
<http://www.fcps.edu/suptapps/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=266>

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Academic Boosters is going to have its first Wine-Cheese Art Auction on April 23, 2006.

More details to come! If you are interested in learning more about the art auction, you can look at www.rossgalleries.com . Anyone interested in

helping with this event, contact Susan Hildebrand at rnsbh@aol.com or 703-281-3364.



Madison Gift Shop

Located in T-9

BALLOONS 4 SALE

*Happy Birthday
Thank You
Good Luck
Get Well Soon*

*Come by during assistance or your lunch period
Bags & Gifts Available*

Parents only: Special deliveries

Call: 703-319-2430



*Mrs. Susan Jones
Susan.W.Jones@fcps.edu
Mrs. Maria Fernandez
Maria.A.Fernandez@fcps.edu.*



There is an organization based in Sterling called the Orphan Foundation, which does everything from teaching foster children life skills to providing college scholarships. Another thing they do is send care packages to orphans at college 3 times a year. They sent one in the fall, and there will be one in April. They also do one for Valentine's Day, which includes something called the Red Scarf Project, where people are knitting, crocheting or buying scarves to put in the package. Most will be red, but will take any unisex color. They have collection boxes in Einstein Bagel stores all over the country. The deadline is this Friday, January 20. They are desperately in need of people to help sort and catalog the donations, which will be arriving from more than 200 Einstein Bagel locations. If you have a few or more hours you could give to this worthy organization 9-5 pm. Jan. 23 -26, and especially February 1,2,3 and Feb. 6., or if your student needs community service hours, please contact Annalisa Assaadi, Orphan Foundation National Events Coordinator, aja@orphan.org, 703 821 8669.

Thank you.

Linda Disselkamp

JMHS Band News

The VMEA (Virginia Music Educators Association) / VBODA (Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association) **District XII's All District Band** will be hosted at Herndon High School from Thursday, February 2nd to Saturday, February 4th, 2006.

The culminating concert will take place on **Saturday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Herndon High School Auditorium.**

Congratulations to the following 27 JMHS Band members that have been selected and will perform at the District XII's All District Band Concert.

Wind Ensemble

Andrews, Marggie
Carpio, Analicia
Carpio, Rebekah
Cutri, Steven
Feerst, Tim
Friedfeld, Max
Jones, Colin
Kingsley, Kevin
Klimavicz, Caitlin
Koff, Sam
Porter, Brian
Trichilo, James

Symphonic Band

Bathe, Drew
Boselovic, Joe
Choi, David
Chong, Susan
Cohen, Dave
Duell, Chrissy
Goode, Tony
Mehrvarzi, Chris
Navin, Lindsey
Shaak, Rebecca
Shelby, Mason
Shelby, Samuel
Skinner, Jane
Smith, Claire
Tsiaperas, Paul

Kathy Uhrich, PTSA Liaison
JMHS Band Parents Association
rkuhrich@verizon.net