

Pride of the Bluegrass

The News of the Lafayette Band

From the Director's Desk



Charles M. Smith

Thanks to all as the year continues

The weekend didn't turn out the way we hoped, did it? I know the students feel badly; I feel badly. We had two good shows in Bowling Green, which was unusual. Usually, one show is clearly stronger, but both semi-final and finals performances were exciting and well-done. The students had a great day, worked hard and did everything I asked of them. I wish I could explain the decision of the judges and I wish I could explain why Dunbar has been such a challenge for us. What I can say is that I'm proud of the effort the students put forth. What I can say is that we're still Lafayette.

I'd also like to commend the seniors for the leadership they gave throughout the marching season.

This relatively small group of students really stepped up and gave the example seniors need to make for the underclassmen. Their efforts did not go unnoticed!

Our rehearsal on that cold afternoon and evening in Columbia was great and I'd like to thank Lindsey Wilson College for their hospitality. I appreciate the encouraging comments from their director, Tim Allen, and I know the students appreciated the information about the college's marching band and available scholarships.

Despite its outcome, we can congratulate ourselves on a successful marching season and there's still a lot to come as we move into our concert season.

The purposes of the Lafayette Band Association are to lend support, both moral and financial, to the Lafayette High School Band and to cooperate with the Band Director so that the Band is brought to and kept at the highest possible degree of performance and musicianship.

Dates to Remember

- Nov. 8 No School (Election Day)
- Nov. 9 TOR meeting
- Nov. 14 LBA Parent Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 15 All-State auditions, first round
- Nov. 23-25 No School (Thanksgiving)
- Nov. 28 LBA Board meeting, 6:30
- Nov. 28 - Dec. 1 Color Guard Auditions
- Dec. 3 Delivery date, Fruit and Wreathes
- Dec. 7 Area Band Concert
- Dec. 10 All-State auditions, final round
- Dec. 16 Last day of school, winter break

LBA Parent Meeting

Nov. 14

7 p.m., LHS Cafeteria
End-of-marching season wrap-up, preliminary details concerning TOR trip. Agenda will include information about upcoming fundraisers, upcoming All-State auditions and other concert season events.

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**The Band is going to Pasadena
(California, not Drive) to perform in the**

Tournament of Roses Parade!

Learn what you need to know

about the trip at the

November 9 meeting

7 p.m. LHS Cafeteria

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Going back a couple of weeks, though, I'd like to thank you for your help with Eighth Grade Band Night and the students for the welcome they gave our friends from Jessie Clark, SCAPA and our other feeder schools. They did a great job making the eighth graders feel a part and the incoming students, under the direction of Mrs. Cyndee Hawkins and Mrs. Robin Barker, did a great job keeping the spirit in the stands high while we were in warm-up circle.

Congratulations, too, for a job well done with the Fire Prevention Parade. It seems like a long time ago, but I do recall that the weather was almost perfect that night. The crowd lining Main Street seemed to appreciate the efforts of the students.

A couple of things have gotten out of sync for us, with the announcement of our invitation to the Tournament of Roses Parade. The first thing that's changed has been color guard audition, which will move up to the end of November, so that we make sure that we've gotten the needed information to parents concerning the commitments that will be required for the trip.

The first of those commitments is going on right now, with our annual fruit and wreath fundraiser. I hope everyone is looking at this as the first fundraiser for the Tournament of Roses parade and they've heard the starting gun go off! We want to make

sure that this sale is the first of many successful fundraisers over the next 14 months.

Please remember that auditions for All-State are Nov. 15 at Bates Creek. I know that our students have had a lot on their minds (and their calendars!) the last few weeks, but I hope you've heard some preparation for that audition. After the local audition, there will be a selection of students who will participate in the second round of auditions at John Hardin High School in Elizabethtown on Dec. 10.

While you're marking your December calendar, please remember to block out Dec. 7 for the Area Band concert. We'll be calling on students and their families for the assistance

needed to host this event. I always enjoy seeing our extended Band family at this event and people in the elementary and middle schools always seem to appreciate our hospitality.

Even though we've come to the end of our marching season for 2011, there's a lot ahead of us and I look forward to all of it!

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

Respectfully submitted,
Charles M. Smith, Director of Bands
Lafayette High School
381-3483 (School)
296-9257 (Home)
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The Band performs during semi-finals at WKU on October 29.



Thanks to our Marching Sponsors

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



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



Kalia Barnett	Nov. 28	Jonathan Greene	Nov. 29	Keegan Rease	Nov. 3
Malia Barnett	Nov. 28	Emily Hutchinson	Nov. 29	Sarah Scott	Nov. 14
Joseph Browning	Nov. 14	Drew Norby	Nov. 17	Rachel Tussy	Nov. 14

Carol Lynn

Originals & Events





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FUNDRAISING Notes

Fruit and Wreathes SELL, SELL SELL!

As we eagerly anticipate the trip to California in December 2012, we know that our most important task right now is FUNDRAISING!

For now, Mr. Smith has determined that our fundraising goals can be met by maximizing the effectiveness of the activities we already have on our calendar, namely Amazon wrapping (November and December), sale of mulch (February and March), and the Grand Raffle (April and May).

The Grand Fundraising Effort started, though, with the annual Fruit and Wreath Sale, which launched in mid-October. If you haven't seen the order form or the information about the products we are selling, please ask your student to dig it out of his or her backpack.

Fruit and wreath sales have always

been among our most successful because of the quality of the product we sell. The community's excitement about the Band's selection to appear in the TOR parade will serve as an extra incentive for great fruit sales!

If you know of any businesses that might be interested in giving Band fruit as holiday gifts, please contact Carole Howell, 859-420-7845 or Jill Hutchinson 224-2388 as soon as possible.

**Fruit and Wreath
Sale Deadline
Nov. 22
Delivery
Dec. 3**

Bingo Needs You!

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 to keep your band payments in check!

Brass: Jill Richeson

Woodwind: Vivian Salley

Percussion and Color Guard: Gayla Webb

Board and Activity Chairs: Sara Maggard

Do you . . .

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

These fundraisers are an easy way to benefit the Band.

For more information, see the Fundraising section of www.lafayetteband.org

The amount of money the Band is receiving because of the use of Kroger gift cards has increased considerably in the last several months. Keep using them and encourage family and friends to use them as well.

To obtain more cards, contact Julie Ward at ashley.ward@insightbb.com.

She made a great suggestion at the last LBA parent meeting: if you're going shopping or dining out at one of the many stores or restaurants that sells gift cards at Kroger load your Kroger card, then purchase the store gift card. Every month LBA receives a check for 4 percent of all our purchases. We earned \$700 in September, let's go for \$1000 in November!

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Bank of Lexington

Disappointed But Blessed

So, some tired reflections on the Sunday after the KMEA State Championships.

There is, for sure, disappointment with the finals results, but, have you ever been any more proud of your kids? They have worked so hard over the course of the last 14 weeks...

Many of us were able to witness the Band's performances on Saturday and the word spectacular would truly be an understatement. The music produced by the winds was beautiful. The drillwork was precise. The guard was absolutely wonderful. The percussion was on fire. Lafayette's two Saturday performances will be looked back upon for many years as a source of pride, even for such a tradition laden program as this. Again, spectacular!

Isn't it amazing the transition the freshmen and eighth graders have made? Isn't it amazing the leaders that the upper classmen have become? And what about this class of seniors? Role models, mentors, and leaders... a class to be remembered and honored for sure.

Thank you to Mr. Smith, Dr. Magee, and all the staff. Your passion for this art shows in your work with our children and we, as so many parents before us, are very, very grateful! We are thankful for your creativity and the fact that you share your skills with our kids. This gift you give to all us means more than you will ever know.

Now to our LBA volunteers, particularly our Crew volunteers. Never have the words "Thank You" seemed so inadequate. The Food and Travel maze from this past weekend was more complicated than most of us will ever know. Five venues to coordinate. And it went off without a hitch... perfect. If you see Randy and Allisa or ANY of those Food Crew folks, pat em on the back and let them know how much their work means to this organization. And when you see Cindy or any of the Uniform Crew (let's throw Becky and those Color Guard moms in there, too!), please do the same. Let them know how good the kids looked on the

field this weekend – that the mirrors were shined and that the plackets were perfect! Let the Guard moms know that the hair and makeup was stunning – they'll like that. When you see Tim or any of his Chaperones, ask if they've caught up on their sleep and how the bus rides were. Thank them for being with the kids at all times, caring for their medical needs and for providing the kids an ever present emotional support. Finally, when you see the any of the Field Crew, say the words, "Load, unload, load, unload, lad, unload" and see if they smile. Ask how their muscles feel. Ask whether acetaminophen or ibuprofen works better. Ask about the pancakes.

Thank you to our fellow senior parents. This ride is not over yet, but it is a good time of year to just let you know that, during this window that we have shared, you have made a difference. Together, we are keeping the LBA on task and on purpose.

Finally, thank you to all who are on plan or complete with their Family Payments and those who have participated so strongly with our fundraising efforts – including Bingo. Every family must do their part to assure our financial stability. Every family. This is the only way a trip like this past weekend's can occur. Many bills will come due this and next week for LBA. Please take a moment to examine your account and make sure you are current.

LBA finances become that much more important as the band moves towards its 2013 Tournament of Roses Parade appearance. On November 9, we will be meeting with parents of the 2012-13 band, and we will share details of this once in a lifetime trip. **Please, make attendance at this meeting a priority.** It is very important that we all be on the same page regarding details of the trip.

The band now moves into concert season. Many students

will be going through All State auditions very soon. When those honors are announced, don't take it lightly, count how many Lafayette students are picked, and realize that musicianship is truly the backbone of this program. We want to see all of you at the Area Concert on December 7. Be on the lookout for dates of Jazz Band events and the Percussion Ensemble concert and try to attend. All of these are treats.

We are so lucky – blessed some would say – to live where we do and to have our children be in this tremendous program. Its sheer size can sometimes be intimidating, but we ask you – implore you – to please, find a way to get involved with this part of your child's life. Help keep this program as vibrant as it has been for more than 75 years. Share this moment as a family, don't let it slip away. Never hesitate to call us at 277-7893 with any concerns.

Many thanks and *GO LAFAYETTE!*
Joey and Sara Maggard
LBA Presidents



Field crew generals Steve Blanton and Joey Maggard.