



STUART TIMES

Issue IV - January 2006 - A publication of the J.E.B. Stuart PTSA - www.fcps.edu/StuartHS/

President's Message

Stuart is already planning for the next academic year. Curriculum Night will be February 2nd at 7:30 pm with all academic departments represented. Experts from the Fairfax Academies will be available for questions. This is open to all Stuart families who have questions and concerns about choices for the next academic year but is geared especially to rising 9th graders coming to Stuart next year.

The PTSA Academic Committee meeting on January 5th focused on Special Education Issues, especially on college planning. Please note: Stuart's Academic Committee will be meeting on February 9th at 7:30 pm in Room 150 [2nd Thursday due to Curriculum Night on February 2nd]. The topics will be recognition of academic achievement and the pros and cons of Class Ranking.

Stuart is fortunate to have a financial aid specialist available to work with students in preparing their financial aid applications for college. This specialist is supported by the Fairfax Foundation and works closely with our Career Center Specialist, Carol Kelley. Take advantage of this resource.

Stuart's designation as a model high school by President Bush a year ago has evolved into Stuart becoming a laboratory high school with close ties to Northern Virginia Community College [NOVA]. Some students will be taking courses at Stuart, taught by NOVA adjunct instructors, for college credit beginning in this 2nd Semester. Stuart has also had a number of high schools visiting, all interested in achieving some of Stuart's success at their own schools. Stuart High School will be hosting an educational visit from a Salt Lake City, Utah team on January 26th.

Taste of the Town is March 19th – please get involved so that this important source of funds for so many Stuart school groups will be a success.

Winter sports are in full swing with District events coming up in February. Music Groups are already going through the District Competitions. The Spring Musical 'Cinderella' is already cast and practices are underway. Support our kids and attend the Stuart events!

Kathleen McBride, PTSA President

From the Career Center

Junior Career Unit

January has been an exciting month in the career Center. We held a Junior Career Unit designed to aid juniors in starting their college search. It included a program on "Making the College Search Count." In addition, juniors completed one half of a Survey and were sent home with the second half of the survey, and asked to discuss it with parents, and return it to their counselors when they register for classes. Copies of the Junior Survey are available on the Guidance website.

Stuart Alumni Survey

We have developed an online survey for Stuart Graduates. It asks a number of questions about their college experience. The Survey results should provide a valuable resource for future Stuart Seniors when trying to find a college match. The survey can be accessed at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=662651666447>.

Parents of recent Stuart graduates currently attending college, please ask your child to complete the Alumni survey.

FAFSA Help Days

All Seniors who are planning to apply for financial aid should complete the FAFSA form by **February 15**. The form is based on 2005 data, but can be completed **before** you complete your 2005 tax return, using 2005 income figures and estimating deductions. Many state schools begin awarding financial aid on March 1 so early filing is essential. If you think you will need help in filing the FAFSA, please call Mrs. Kelley at 703-824-3988 or Mrs. Sanchez, our Financial Aid Champion, at 703-824-8971. The Fairfax Scholarship Fund has organized FAFSA Help days throughout the County on Saturday, February 4. You can schedule an appointment to complete your FAFSA online at: FairfaxScholarship@att.net. **You must have already obtained your pin number and bring your financial documents to the meeting in order to complete the FAFSA online.**

Standardized Testing

I frequently am asked whether students need to take standardized tests to gain admission to four-year colleges, and if so, what is the optimum time for students to take those tests? First, **most** but not all colleges and universities, including all the Virginia State Schools, require the students to submit either the SAT or ACT to be considered for admission. Therefore, students planning to attend a four-year school should take either the SAT or ACT **no later than November of their Senior year**. This means that they must register to take the test, no later than **September of their Senior year**. Some Juniors also take the SAT or ACT in the spring of their Junior year. This year the SAT will be given on April 1, May 6 and June 3. The ACT will be administered on April 8 and June 10.

Registration is approximately 5 weeks prior to the test administration date. Registration and test information can be found online at www.collegeboard.com or at www.actstudent.org. Stuart will hold a free test preparation class before the May administration of the SAT. Enrollment is on a first come first serve basis with preference given to Juniors. There are also a number of other options for test preparation: <http://www.fcpsnet.fcps.edu/ssse/CareerConnections/resource/testprep05>.

News from the Activities Office

The J.E.B. Stuart Athletic Booster Club will be holding its First Annual, "What College Bound Student Athletes Need to Know." The presentation will be on Monday, February 27, 2006 at 7:00 pm in the Little Theater. Ms. Sue Collins, Director of Student Services at George Mason University, will be the Guest Speaker. Also speaking will be Mrs. Liz Bojtos, Director of Student Services J.E.B. Stuart High School, and parents and former students from J.E.B. Stuart that have played or are playing sports in college. We invite all of our parents and student-athletes that would like to continue playing sports after leaving J.E.B. Stuart. Ms. Collins will be available to answer questions after the speakers.

Important Dates:

January 25th-District One Acts at J.E.B. Stuart High School
January 26, 27, 28th-District Swim/Dive at Providence Recreational Center
February 4th-Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Mount Vernon at the MCI Center
February 7th-District Indoor Track Begins
February 10 and 11th District Wrestling Tournament at J.E.B. Stuart High School
February 13th-District Boys/Girls Basketball Tournaments
February 20th-Spring Sports Begin
February 27th-What College Bound Student Athletes Need to Know

Special Education Issues

Question: How can I assist my special education student with the College Admissions Process?

Answer: At a recent Academic Committee /Special Education Meeting held on January 5, just such issues were addressed and the following is a summary of just some of the salient points raised by Patricia Raeder, our Employment and Transition Representative at J.E.B and discussed by participants. We will devote subsequent columns to the other critical issues raised by the other presenters at the meeting, which included Ann Colunga, Special Education Dept. Chair, Marsha Goldberg, FCPS Parent Resource Center, Michelle Whalen, Assessment Coach/Testing Coordinator, and Kari Kelly, Career Resource Specialist.

Questions For Our Students to Consider

Do I need support services to succeed in college?
Am I eligible to receive support services?
Do I understand my learning difference/disability and how it affects my academic performance?
Do I have documentation of my learning difference/disability?
How do I get support services in college?
How do I find the right college for me?

Which College is Right For Me?

Factors to consider:
School size
Programs and majors available
Extracurricular offerings
Geographical area
Scholarships available
Types of support services offered

Transition Strategies

Work on understanding strengths and weaknesses
Talk about disclosure and the pertinent issues involved
Experiment with accommodations
Understand College processes
Secure necessary documentation

14th Annual JEB Stuart Taste of the Town - March 19, 2006 - Donation Plea

One of the fun things about the Taste of the Town is that there are so many items offered in the live and silent auction that you can't buy in a store. Each year, unexpected people step forward to offer donations that we are all excited to bid on! This weekend, please reflect on your hobbies, interests and careers, past and present, and consider whether you have something that you could share with the Stuart Community, such as...

-Do you have a green thumb, or a talent for making floral arrangements? Could you help someone else landscape their yard or teach them how to make a flower arrangement?

-Are you a good cook? Could you teach a cooking class to kids or adults, or host a cocktail or dinner party at your home or the winning bidder's home?

-Do you live on the lake and own a boat? Could you offer to entertain another Stuart family on your boat one afternoon or evening?

-Do you have season tickets to professional or college sporting events, such as the Redskins, Wahoos, or Hokies? Could you donate tickets to one of the games?

-Do you have a subscription to the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap, or another theater? Could you donate tickets to a performance that you would be willing to miss?

-Do you have a vacation home? Could you donate a weekend so that another family can enjoy a getaway from the city?

-Do you have an interesting job that might offer a behind-the-scene career perspective to a student? Could you take a student to lunch, talk to them about what you do each day, and show them around your office?

-Do any of your friends or relatives own a restaurant, store, or business? Could you ask them if they would like to buy an ad in the TOT catalog or if they would be willing to donate food, an item, or a gift certificate to our event?

-Have you received duplicate luxury gifts (jewelry, perfume, designer handbags, etc.) that are taking up valuable room in your closet?

We are in the process of gathering auction items and we need your help! Please contact either Kristina Crane at kkcrane@aol.com or 703-531-1452 or Sharon Jaeckel at sjaeckel@cox.net or 703-256-5374, or Jane Mattoon at jmattoon@verizon.net or 703-256-67444 before February 25th to donate items or services. Items donated after that date will be listed in the addendum.

Nancy Moy will be updating the TOT website, which can be accessed from the PTSA website. The TOT website will have a sample donation letter, donation and advertising contracts, sponsorship agreements, and a list of items donated to-date.

We have less than 2 months to go before our big event. Let the Creativity Begin!



Graduating Senior Swimmers at the Bell Meet with Falls Church on Friday January 20, 2006

Swim and Dive Team

The Stuart swim and dive teams had a great season with both the men's and women's teams achieving 5-1 records in the District dual meet competition. On January 20th the Raider men and women both won the Bell Meet against rival Falls Church – Congratulations Stuart!! Also worth mentioning is the men's win over Yorktown in the final dual

meet of the season. Teams are now gearing up for the District Championships to be held at the end of January. The District meets will determine the District Championships, as well as qualify swimmers and divers for the Regional Championships.

This season marked Coach Danny Pick's seventh (and final – Coach Pick is retiring) season as the Raiders' head swim coach, and this year's group of Seniors is the fourth to have had Coach Pick for a full four years. Notable swimmers include Joey Connor and Zach Chadsey, both of whom have already qualified for Regionals on the basis of time, in the 100 Backstroke and 50 Freestyle respectively. Our divers have had a great season fielding one of the largest dive teams in years. Consistently high scoring divers include Sarah Kilbourne and Bobby Horton. Go Raiders - Good Luck at the District Championships!

Track and Field

Friday the 13th turned out not to be such an unlucky day for the varsity indoor track team. For the first time in more than a decade, the boys and girls both placed first at a meet. "This is the first time I ever remember it happening," long-time coach Phil Harris said. In addition to Harris, James Gondak and Cassandra Haynes, who are all Fairfax County faculty members, lead the teams. At their home meet on January 13, the track team out-scored, Washington-Lee, former district champ Mount Vernon and rival Falls Church. Raiders claimed nine first-place wins out of the 25 events scored. This leads the girls to an undefeated overall district record of five wins to zero losses and the boys to an impressive record of four-to-one. This is a major improvement for both the girls and boys, who finished seventh and sixth in the district last year, respectively. Their next meet will be next Friday, February 3 at Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington. They will be competing against Edison, Mount Vernon and Falls Church. Wish them luck! The 4x800m relay race starts at 5:30 p.m.

Wrestling

Last month on December 23 our very own wrestling team, led by Head Coach Shawn Hutchison, hosted the first-ever Raider Holiday Classics wrestling tournament. Out of 14 weight classes, six Raiders dominated and advanced to wrestle in finals. Overall, seven wrestlers placed in the top four of their weight class and one senior even claimed the champion title for the heavyweight division. The next home meet is Wednesday, February 1. It is also Senior Night, so plan on walking your senior wrestler out on the mat that night at 5:00 p.m. The following home meet is in fact the district tournament, a two-day competition among eight teams for the district title. The tournament will take place February 10 starting at 5 p.m. through February 11. Bring your family and friends to support your wrestling Raiders as they host the district tournament.



JEB's Varsity Wrestling Team placed third as seen in this team photo with trophy at the Ireton Holiday Classic at Bishop Ireton on Saturday, 12/17/05

Basketball

The Varsity Boys Basketball team will be playing Mount Vernon High School on February 4, 2006 at the MCI Center after the Wizards game against the Atlanta Hawks. Tickets are \$35.00 each while they last. The Wizards game is set for 7:00PM followed by the Stuart team. It's the night before the Super Bowl. Also, the team is one win away from matching last year's total of 7 wins, the JV team is 6-0 in the district and the Frosh are starting to come around. So, come join the fun with us. Head Boys Basketball Coach **John King**

Athletic Training Program Accepting Donations

The J.E.B. Stuart Athletic Training Program is accepting donations of gently used ankle braces, knee braces, crutches and other sports medicine equipment. Please contact Korey Berg, head athletic trainer, for further details. 703-824-3963 or korey.berg@fcps.edu

Band Notes

Congratulations to the Stuart band students who auditioned for the All-District Bands on December 10. These groups are very selective, and we were honored to have ten students selected for participation, as well as six alternates. Alternates named were Jackie Desrosiers, Graham Goldthorp, Marcelo Arnez, Francis Kinney, Andy Twigg and Preston Adams. Selected for the Symphonic Band were Nina Ruhter, Kelly Racette, Courtney Bullock, Henry Terhune, Mike Van Atta and David Goslin. Selected for the Wind Ensemble were Steven Schlaseman, Kris Pourzal, Daniel McFarland and Sam Terhune. Furthermore, these last three students - Kris, Daniel and Sam - qualified to audition for the All-Virginia Bands in February.

What's more, our own students hosted the auditions here at Stuart, and literally dozens of band, choir and orchestra students volunteered countless hours to pull it off. With over one thousand students and hundreds of others moving through the school, Stuart students managed the auditions wonderfully, and all the directors present said it had run very smoothly. Kudos to all of these students, as well as to the many parent volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event happen.

Choral News

Festival

Every year, all District X middle school and high school choral programs participate in **District Festival**, traveling to a site within their district to be adjudicated on the quality of their performance. Musical selections must be chosen from a previously approved list of songs, and sight singing (reading music at sight) will be factored into a choir's overall score, new for 2006. This event will take place at EDISON HS on March 17 and 18. It is essential to the success of the choir that every student attend and sing their best. Schedules will be handed out as soon as times are assigned.

Spring Trip: Atlanta

Things are looking good for our spring trip to Atlanta! We currently have 55 students signed up for our trip on March 29-April 2. The third installment of \$100 is due January 16. (Previous payments – Oct. 15/\$50; Nov. 15/\$100; Dec. 15/\$100). **The final cost of the trip will be \$500, making the final February payment \$150.** Please make checks out to STUART BAND BOOSTERS.

Spring Musical Cinderella

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Cinderella*, Stuart's musical for 2006! Once again, students in the choral department fill the leading roles for the show – **Rachel Dady** leads the cast as Cinderella, with **Daniel Snyder** as the Prince, **Lizzy Mass** as the Queen, **Amy Rosegrant** and **Leyla Babaoglu** as stepsisters, and **Caitlin O'Neill** as the Stepmother. The show will run March 23-25 at 7:30 pm, and March 26 at 2:00 pm. Don't miss *Cinderella*!

Boosters Meeting on February 8th

The next Booster meeting will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 8** at 7:30 pm in the chorus room. We will need lots of help with this spring's 2nd annual production of *Broadway Desserts*, so please plan to attend!

Tri-M Recital

Stuart's TRI-M National Music Honor Society will be performing a recital on **Friday, Feb. 18 at 7:30 pm** in the **Little Theater**. This performance will be recorded for the IB Music class performance assessment. Donations will be accepted to raise funds for *Feed the Children*.

Academic Committee

The PTSA Academic Committee meeting on January 5th focused on Special Education Issues, especially on college planning. Please note: Stuart's Academic Committee will be meeting on February 9th at 7:30 pm in Room 150 [2nd Thursday due to Curriculum Night on February 2nd]. The topics will be:

- Recognition of Academic Achievement;
- National Honor Society Application Process;
- Pros and Cons of Class Ranking.

High School Academy Open House Schedule

A high school academy is a center within an existing high school that offers advanced technical and specialized courses that successfully integrate career and academic preparation. Academy courses are highly specialized elective programs that meet the requirements for college credits, verified credits, and industry certifications. The open house will provide you with information about course offerings for the 2006-07 school year.

Marshall Academy

International Studies & Business and Engineering & Scientific Technology

January 19, 2006 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Chantilly Academy

Engineering & Scientific Technology and Health & Human Sciences

February 8, 2006 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Snow date: 2/16/06

Edison Academy

International Studies & Business and Engineering & Scientific Technology

February 9, 2006 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Fairfax Academy

Communications & The Arts

February 16, 2006 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Snow date: 2/23/06

West Potomac Academy

Communications & The Arts and Health & Human Services

March 29, 2006 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information and directions, go to:

www.fcps.edu/DIS/OCTE/academy/index.htm

Register For Keep in Touch

Register now for Keep in Touch, a service that allows employees, parents and others interested in emergency messages and other information about the school system to receive updates via e-mail. Participants set up individualized profiles and receive the most up-to-date information as soon as it is available. All Stuart PTSA notices will be coming to families via KIT. To sign up, visit the FCPS web site at www.fcps.edu and choose 'Keep in Touch' on the left hand side. Or, visit direct: <http://fcps.medianext.com/fcps/signup.html>

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Stuart Times

is Published Monthly by the J.E.B. Stuart PTSA

All submissions to the newsletter can be sent to Gokalp Babaoglu, Publisher, at jebnews@yahoo.com. Please format your entry as a **Microsoft Word** file attachment. Deadline for submissions is the Thursday after each monthly PTSA meeting.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically please signup with Keep in Touch. For PTSA membership information, please see the Stuart PTSA website (click on Membership) or contact Amy Hammond, dvh76@prodigy.net or Beth Gilmore, beth.gilmore@verizon.net.

Dates to Remember

January 26, 27 & 28	District Swim/Dive at Providence REC Center
February 1-4	Regional Swim/Dive at Oak Marr
February 2	Curriculum Night
February 4	Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Mt Vernon at MCI Center
February 6	Athletic Boosters meeting-7:30 pm-Library Conference Rm.
February 7	Report Cards Handed Out to Students
February 7 & 10	District Indoor Track/Field
February 8	Choral Boosters meeting
February 9	Academic Committee meeting
February 10 & 11	District Wrestling Tournament at Stuart
February 13	District Boys/Girls Basketball Tournaments
February 20	Spring Sports Begin
February 23	Pre-Festival Concert
February 25	Regional Indoor Track at GMU
February 27	“What College Bound Student Athletes Need to Know”
March 2	Winter Sports Awards
March 7	Spring Sports-Meet the Coaches Night
March 17 & 18	District X Choral Festival
March 18	Home Computer Orders at Stuart 10:00 am - Noon
March 19	Taste of the Town
March 23-25	Stuart’s Spring Musical “Cinderella”
April 29	Raider Run
May 6	SAT at Stuart

J.E.B. Stuart High School

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