



MARCHING UNIT NEWSLETTER
September 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year”...at least according to Staples. Anyway, school’s back in session, the kids are hard at work practicing their show (and hopefully not falling down too much) and our outdoor season starts on September 26th. Right now we’re scheduled to perform at Wood’s football game at Wissahickon and then going to Ridley High School for a competition but as I’ve stressed, everything is subject to change. If any performance schedule changes are received we’ll pass them along via e-mail and we’ll post them on the web site. Please ask your children to keep you posted on their practice schedules too. A reminder that the time we post on the web site is our scheduled performance time at that particular show, not the report time to school for the kids. As in the past few years, all home football games will be played at Wissahickon High School. Come on out and cheer on our Unit.

Thanks once again to all the families that hosted parties for the unit during Band Camp and to Tom and Linda Rakszawski for organizing the end of camp Band Family Picnic. We survived the rain without melting and if you went hungry that was your fault. And thank you to all the families for all the food at the picnic. Welcome again to all the new members and parents. It was a pleasure meeting everyone at the picnic and the parent meeting.

Please check your hanging file (located in the band room) frequently for flyers, notices, fundraisers, information, etc. ...A reminder that uniform agreements will be placed in your folders to be reviewed and signed by both the parents and student. Please stress to your child the importance of taking

care of their uniforms at all times. They’ve lasted a lot of years and need to last a bunch more.

As I mentioned at the parents meeting, volunteers are needed in various ways including fund raisers, props, chaperoning and the Craft Show. Parent volunteers are the lifeblood of this Parents Association and your participation is needed to continue both the Marching Unit and Indoor Units success. If you’re interested in helping out in any way or want more information please contact me or anyone on the board. Take it from me – it’s easier to shadow a chairperson or board member and learn how things work that way.

Thanks for your support!
Mark

PARENT GENERAL MEETING will take place on Tuesday, September 22nd, at 6:45 p.m. in the school auditorium. Upcoming competitions and fund raisers are on the agenda.

SHIRT ORDERS

Kids’ Shirts – Soon the marching unit members will be offered the opportunity to order a specially designed tee shirt for the marching season. Usually the kids will wear them under their uniforms at performances. These are generally not costly and all marching unit members are strongly encouraged to order one, since they enhance a look of uniformity, even when the band members are not wearing their jackets. Additionally, the larger orders help keep the costs down for everyone. More information will be sent out soon.

Parent’s Shirts – The last opportunity to order the green golf (or sweatshirt) for parents will be at the

parents' meeting on Tuesday, September 22.
Contact Nora Lutz at 215-784-0475 if you have any questions about the parents' shirts.

FUND RAISERS

PIZZA – Luann Kittredge is the fundraiser chairperson 215-675-8934. The fundraiser will start on September 22 at the parents meeting. Order forms and information will be distributed.

YANKEE CANDLES – Orders are due by September 16. If you have any questions, or need additional forms, please call Denine Anderson at 215-328-0261. **Note:** Please disregard packet info instructing that checks should be made out to the seller. All checks should be made payable to **AB Wood Marching Unit**.

CANDY BARS - All American \$1.00 Candy Bar Fund Raiser is sold in boxes at \$40.00 per box. Payment is needed when you take delivery of the candy. Boxes will be available at the Parent Meeting. See Denine Anderson.

STEAK AND HOAGIE COUPONS – Available for purchase anytime and at all monthly parent meetings. Contact Linda Rakszawski at 215-674-5006.

WAWA HOAGIE COUPONS – These coupons are good at any Wawa (even ones at the Jersey Shore). You can either purchase a short hoagie for the cost of \$3.50 (usually the cost is \$3.99) or get a \$3.99 credit toward the purchase of a larger sandwich. Orders will be due by October 2 and more information will be shared shortly. You can also call Barbara Neiderriter at 215-891-9717 if you have questions.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!!!!

GIFT RAFFLE – This fundraiser is relatively easy but has traditionally yielded a significant return for our efforts, last year included. We are asking each family to contribute one bottle of liquor toward our “basket of cheer” gift raffle. In addition, we will be discussing and choosing themes for our baskets. Please bring your bottle of liquor and theme ideas to the September 22nd parent meeting. Additionally, we’ll be asking for volunteers to be “basket leaders” to coordinate the items in each basket. Additional

information will be sent out shortly, but please call Beth McSherry-Nichols at 215 884-6960 or Denine Anderson at 215-328-0261 with any questions.

TRAILOR TOWING – At this time we are also looking for a volunteer who has a vehicle with a towing package to help move our equipment trailer to and from competitions and games. Please contact Mark Arnold at 215-672-7579 if you can help.

UNIFORMS Does your child still need adjustments to his/her band uniform? Please ask your child and if so, please contact Rose Kennedy at 215-443-8435 A Band Uniform responsibility sheet needs to be returned-SIGNED and put into the Kennedy file folder in the band room. Additionally, **please be sure to advise Rose Kennedy if your child's uniform needs cleaning or repairs.**

ALL CATHOLIC - Audition music is available from Tom Rakszawski at 215-674-5006. Auditions for the various ensembles are as follows: **Strings** – Wed., October 28, 4:00, Cardinal Dougherty; **Chorus** – Thurs., Oct. 29, 4:00, Bishop Shanahan; **Concert Band & Jazz Band** – Sun, December 6, 1:00, Archbishop Carroll. The web site for All Catholic has changed. It is now called "Secondary Visual and Performing Arts" and the address is www.teacherweb.com/PA/AOP/HSArts/apt3.stm (or, click on the link from the AWMU website). Visitors should note that some pages on the web site require a password, as they are intended for teachers' use only.

WEB SITE FOR MARCHING UNIT

<http://www.abwoodmu.net> Visit our web site for the latest in calendar updates, competition results and the current newsletter, along with photos and other information you may find interesting. Feedback, suggestions, ideas, photos, stories, links to Cavalcade of Bands (AWMU related) etc. are welcomed and in place. Please contact Mike Rakszawski at rakszawski@comcast.net; The website for Cavalcade of Bands, the division in which Wood is marching, is as follows: <http://cavalcadeofbands.com>

ADVANCED TICKET SALES are not available for Cavalcade. Tickets for competitions must be purchased at the gate.

PARKING NOTES Please do not park in the school driveways, especially on performance days, as this makes it very difficult for the buses and trucks to get through. These vehicles are very large, and need the extra room to make turns, load and unload. Also, keep in mind that the small parking lot nearest the band room is often used by the band for practice, and equipment needs to move through this area. Please try to use the larger parking lots if possible.

CRAFT FAIR To all parents, please keep these dates available for the biggest fundraiser of the year! All hands are needed! This includes the students as well. Please make sure that your child is available to help out with this important event. **NOV. 19th, 20th, & 21st** (November 19th is also the 8th grade visitation & open house, where the unit will perform.)

**MARCHING UNIT MEMBER
COMPETITION CHECKLIST**

BRING THE FOLLOWING EACH WEEK:

Garment Bag
Marching Shoes
Black Socks
Gloves (Clean!)
Instrument (band)
Lunch and/or dinner
Spending money for snacks

WEAR THE FOLLOWING:

Shorts (band)
WHITE t-shirt (band)

NOTE: As the weather gets colder, make sure to bring a coat, gloves, hat, blanket, long underwear, etc.



**Archbishop Wood Marching
Unit
2009-2010 Season**

**2009 Outdoor Season Tentative Schedule
of Competitions**

September 26	Wissahickon (Game) Ridley HS
October 3	Wissahickon HS
October 10	Plymouth Whitemarsh HS
October 17	Upper Dublin HS
October 25	TBD
October 31	Homecoming
November 7	Hatboro Horsham HS
November 15	Champs at Hersheypark, PA

Schedules and directions are posted on
Cavalcade's website:

www.cavalcadeofbands.com

November 20-21	Fall Craft Fair (Set up on November 19)
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