

A special note about the special edition. . . .

Rather than the monthly newsletter, the next few pages will present a review of our 2008 Marching Season...and what a season! We have so many people to thank, because without them and their continued efforts on behalf of the WISD Band Program, the awards and accolades outlined on the following pages would not be possible. To our high school Band Directors, Rich Armstrong and Reggie Cook, we must express our sincere gratitude for the vision for this show and for taking this group of band students to a new level. And to our WHS Band Students, you are the best!

from the desk of...**Rich Armstrong**

From the first rehearsal of this year's show, somehow we knew it would be something we would always remember...and we were right. Beginning with the now infamous propellers and air raid siren as the band opens the show with the flurry of "Gavorkna", the audience is transported to that cold December morning as enemy planes broke through the air space over the small Hawaiian islands. The escalating fury of the war and chaos is evident as the music reaches its final crescendo and the band depicts the many faces of war as they take their positions on the field - some mourning the loss of a friend, some wounded, others fighting to the end. Then, in the stillness, the soft notes of Tiffany Neal's flute solo introducing "October" drift upward as the storyline brings together two young Americans falling in love, only to have that moment in time harshly interrupted as the mail carrier delivers the dreaded draft notice, beckoning the young man to distant shores. He carefully scoops his love in his arms and carries her off as the flute serenades their exit. The band slowly descends to bow on one knee, lowering their heads and raising their hands to their hats in a solemn salute.

During these days of young men and women boarding ships and planes, there were some bright spots, more commonly known as Stage Door Canteens where young couples danced the night away to a wildly popular type of music known as swing...and swing they did! The Band's rendition of "Swing, Swing, Swing" elicited just that type of reaction from every audience as the combo of Trey Featherston, Scott Tipton, and Chelsea Kimberlin added a jazzy twist - to be followed by one of the crowd favorites: the drumline feature! Then, as the euphony gives the signal, the band moves into "Fantasia" for a few brief bars, giving the formation time to take shape for two parallel lines as the ending approaches with the last couple of stanzas of "America". The Iwo Jima pose indicates the end of the show, and without fail, the crowd's reaction was always one of true appreciation. Perhaps this appreciation was for our students and their performance, but somehow in the back of our minds, we always knew that there was a part of every crowd that was standing to pay tribute to a group of men and women who sacrificed so much for us to enjoy our freedoms today.

We began our season with this quote, and it seems very fitting to end it accordingly...

At a time in their lives when their days and nights should have been filled with innocent adventure, love and the lessons of the workaday world...they answered the call to save the world from the two most powerful and ruthless military machines ever assembled."

(Tom Brokaw)

So, with sincere gratitude to every WHS Band student who "left it on the field" - and with a renewed appreciation for these amazing veterans, I take this last opportunity to say with extreme pride..."The Waxahachie High School Band salutes...THE GREATEST GENERATION!"

Midlothian Marching Showcase



1st in Class
1st in General Effect
2nd Overall



18 Competitors - Outscored four 3A competitors and two 4A competitors with some of those competitors cheering for WHS as we hit the field with "Swing" on Saturday night! And we'll never forget the little man, standing and saluting as the music to "America" filled the stadium....



**UIL
MARCHING
CONTEST**

SWEET STAKES!



DeSoto Classic 2008

Eighteen competitors....Class 2A Champions, 2nd Overall in Preliminaries...beat out two Class 4A bands! Ranked 2nd Overall and captured Best General Effect! And once again...the response from the stands indicated that WHS was, indeed, the crowd favorite!

Waxahachie High School
Spirit of Waxahachie Indian Band
Directors
Rich Armstrong
Reggie Cook - Scooter Spicer
Kendra Ray - Dan Livot - Lalo Gagan
Drum Majors
Taylor Armstrong & Tiffany Neal



HEB MARCHING CONTEST

The prelims performance was tough...especially after a late night game in Waco, but we still came in 2nd in Class 4A. Finals competition was especially stiff, considering we were up against bands twice our size, but with a much better performance under the lights, we left with a 7th Overall Ranking!

Duncanville Marching Invitational

As Mr. Armstrong is known to say, we were going up against "the big boys"...and he was right! Coppell Band had 330 marching, while Richland put 200 on the field, and Clements from Sugar Land brought 250! But even against "the big boys", we made finals and ranked 9th at the end of the evening! Not bad for a band with 125 marching...not to mention the crowd's response! They were on their feet after "Swing" and continued their cheers through "America" and the final pose - what a night - what a season!



*And yes, we promise you
can sleep this Saturday!*

In order to have a successful contest season, an "army" of volunteers is an absolute necessary...here's a huge 'THANK YOU' to our volunteers! You made it work, and we are so very grateful!

October Adult Volunteers THANK YOU!

Dawn Adams	Patricia Gilsdorf	Sharon Owens
David Allelo	Paige Gordon	Heidi Perkins
Sue Allelo	Larry Green	J.D. Peyrot
Angie Almand	Lucy Guajardo	Tricia Peyrot
Joyce Armstrong	Katy Hay	Tom Perry
Kim Armstrong	Wendy Hay	Woody Perry
Tina Autry	Gene Hayes	Lisa Popp
Jackie Bailey	Beth Headley	Perry Popp
Scott Bailey	Allison Hugdahl	Bob Przybylski
Monique Barksdale	Kathy Hunt	Robert Quigley
Letty Bernal	Joanie Johnson	Edward Quintana
Andy Berning	Ghamenna Kaous	Ronda Quintana
Michelle Berning	Carol Kimberlin	Kelley Raley
Shirley Blanton	Randy Kimberlin	Joanna Redd
Kay Bowers	Joey Kirton	Doug Reid
Gary Bronson	Laura Kirton	Lisa Richardson
Joanna Bronson	Dawn Langston	Donna Ritchie
Chris Buse	Karen Lawton	Linda Rodriguez
Jose Cadena	Kathy Louque	Hengameh Rundgren
Aaron Clayton	Robin Louque	Daniel Sanchez
Nancy Clifford	Diana Lund	Gary Schueler
Mike Collier	Pam Maass	Mary Schueler
Patti Collier	Airy Matthews	Joyce Shepherd
Maria Craig	Ronnie McMahan	Donna Simmel
Mikel Craig	Cheryl McMurray	Mike Simmel
Jennifer Dacey	Wade McMurray	Casey Simpson
Lauren Devore	Julie Merritt	Paula Simpson
Laurie Donelson	Megan Mills	Brett Sissell
Rob Donelson	Lisa Mederos	Robin Sissell
Kendall Drew	Janet Moore	Cris Smith
Jack Dufon	Lori Moore	Torre Smith
Jennifer Eaglen	Heather Morgan	Nena Speigner
Terri Edwards	Josh Morgan	Billie Stephenson
Tommy Engel	Bob Moritz	Stu Stephenson
Tracey Engel	Judy Moritz	Stephanie Story
Christina Erickson	Rick Moritz	Karen Summers
Kirby Erickson	Jeff Murray	Elizabeth Tarpley
Bobby Featherston	Gerald Needham	Chrissie Taylor
Cindy Featherson	Tobie Nottingham	Heath Taylor
Barbara Fobes	Christi Nutt	Virginia Tipton
Danny Gentry	Jen Oebel	Gale Tobias
Ginger Gentry	Donnie Owens	Penny Williams
Michael Gilsdorf	Margie Owens	Jeanette Young

I would like to take a moment and thank each and every volunteer that contributed their time, their efforts, their resources toward our Contest Month.

Between serving pizza, making cookies and goodie bags, cooking breakfast, pouring orange juice, staying for late night practices, dressing up for "Trunk or Treat", preparing and serving food for all the competitions this year, decorating the Band Hall...and the list goes on...our parents have NEVER let us down!

This year has been terrific, and the band students have been quick to let us know how much they appreciated each and every effort! Comments such as "This is awesome!" "I love UIL month!" "Our parents are the best" were heard constantly. And I agree...the WISD band parents are the best at making sure our students feel special, and your efforts have made my job so much easier this year!

A special thank you to Heidi Perkins and her crew for providing the terrific "away game" sack lunches this year. By the way, the chaperones looked forward to the special surprises as much as the students did - your efforts made long nights and long trips just a little easier!

Again, to every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, friend - we say "THANK YOU"!

Kathy Louque
Assistant Vice President,
Special Projects

THANK YOU!

...to the Bailey's for securing the "uniforms" for the Pit...they really add an extra touch of authenticity to the show!

....to Ronnie McMahan, Perry Popp and Aaron Clayton for an awesome job on the props!

...to all the photographers who provided special memories of a special show

....to Lisa Popp for giving us the privilege of viewing our show on the web page at our leisure

TO OUR CONCESSION GURUS:

Perry and Lisa Popp

Aaron Clayton

Laurie Donelson

Bobby and Cindy Featherston

Karen Lawton

Edward Quintana

You guys are the best!

Don't forget....

Videos of the different performances are available for viewing on our website....plus a link to awesome pictures!

Just one more word of thanks to our awesome parents!

Each year I think, "WOW! This is the best contest season yet - what will they do next year to top this?" And, yet, you do! The food this year went above and beyond - from Chicken Express to breakfast to Fajitas to State Fair turkey legs and sausage on a stick to BBQ from The Pit, and we don't dare forget those amazing desserts donated by Occasions Unlimited! The Band Hall décor was over the top with the huge balloon flag, posters, and stars on the lockers...and then, the special activities came just when the band needed it most!

Thank you to every parent who participated and supported us over the past several weeks. Thank you for the tired feet and muscles as the props and instruments were moved one more time for one more performance...not to mention the hard workers who spent their Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights in concession stands!

You are absolutely amazing, and I just happen to be the fortunate band director who has the privilege to work with you....
Rich Armstrong

Finley and Howard Bands took some time out on Saturday, October 25, to have some fun at the Donelson home - and we had a blast! These future Marching Band students were introduced to the infamous Band Hot Dogs by the man himself, Mr. Ronnie McMahan! Students dressed in costumes, hung out by the pool and had a great time at the Silly String Brawl and even had time to watch a movie before it was time to call it a night.

Thanks to Tricia Peyrot and Edward Quintana for all the efforts in organizing our night of fun...to Laurie and Rob Donelson for being the best hosts we could ask for...to Janet Moore, Andy Berning, Lori Moore, Larry and Nancy Green, JD Peyrot, Patti and Mike Collier, Jennifer Dacy, Jennifer Eaglen, Monique Barksdale, Jack DuFon, Allison Hugdahl, and Lisa Mederas for serving as chaperones!

Now, its concert time, with our performance scheduled for Monday, December 15, at 7 pm in the Fine Arts Center. We'll be contacting you regarding refreshments, etc., and you will probably receive a request from the WHS Band for parents willing to serve at their Holiday Concert.

To all our Band parents, you are terrific...and to all our Finley and Howard Band students, you're the best!

All Region Results

Breanna Simpson (Flute)/Concert Band

Alex Meade (Clarinet)/Symphonic Band

Emily Rolen (Clarinet)/Concert Band

Makenzie Desilets (Clarinet)/Concert Band

Scott Quintana (Trombone)/Symphonic Band

Cynthia Martinez (Bass Clarinet)/Concert Band

Caleb Neal (Alto Sax)/Concert Band

Colin Dacy (Trumpet)/Symphonic Band

Haley Phillips (French Horn)/Concert Band

Corey Simmel (French Horn)/Concert Band

Gage Park (Trombone)/Symphonic Band

WAY TO GO!

Dan Francis (dfrancis@wisd.org)

Kendra Ray (kray@wisd.org)

Junior High Band News

November Executive Meeting

Monday, November 17, 7 pm

December Booster Meeting

Monday, December 1, 7 pm

Howard 8th Grade Band Hall

NEWSLETTER ONLINE:
www.spiritofwaxahachie.com

ATTENTION ALL BAND PARENTS:

Within the next week or so, you will be receiving a letter from the Band Boosters regarding the December WISD Board Meeting. Please be sure to carefully review the information and make plans to join us at the meeting on December 8 at the WISD Administration Bldg.

WISD BAND STAFF

Rich Armstrong
Director of Bands

Reggie Cook Scooter Spicer
Asst. Director of Bands Color Guard Coordinator

Dan Francis
Director, Howard 8th Grade

Kendra Ray
Director, Finley 7th Grade

Donnie Owens Margie Ownes
Director, CMS Coordinator, CMS

BOOSTER OFFICERS 2008-2009

President _____ Ronnie McMahan
 Vice President _____ Lisa Popp
 Assistant VP Concessions _____ Perry Popp
 Assistant VP Fundraising _____ Lisa Richardson
 Assistant VP Special Projects _____ Kathy Louque
 Assistant VP Communications _____ Carol Kimberlin
 Secretary _____ Virginia Tipton
 Treasurer _____ Laura Kirton
 7th Grade Rep _____ Tricia Peyrot
 8th Grade Rep _____ Edward Quintana
 Middle School Reps _____ TBA

The Waxahachie Band Booster Organization provides support for all students in the Waxahachie Band Program. Every band parent and friend of the band is invited to join the Waxahachie Band Booster Organization. The Waxahachie Band Booster Organization meets on the *first Monday* of each month, 7:00 P.M. in the WHS band hall.

November 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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2	3	4	5	6	7 WHS vs Waco Senior Night 	8 WHS March-a-Thon	
9	10	11	12	13	14 Staff Development Day Playoff Game 	15	
16	17	18	19	20 Jazz Concert	21	22	
23	24	25	26 HOLIDAY	27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	28	29	
30							