



Special points of interest:

- Hoskins announces show
- Band Camp Dates
- DC Trip
- Big-Time Bingo

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HOSKINS ANNOUNCES 2008 SHOW

It's Donna Summers for 2008 in the "I FEEL LOVE" Show!

Mark Hoskins, band director for the Wildcat Pride, announced the theme for next season's show today.

"It was a tough decision," said Hoskins, "as it usually is. But Mr. Higdon and I both felt it was time to re-vive disco—a long misunderstood and underappreciated musical genre.

Said assistant band director Anthony Higdon, "Mark wanted Gloria Gaynor while I favored Kool & the Gang. In the end, Donna Summers is the perfect compromise.

While the specific songs had not been chosen as we went to press, *I Feel Love* is a given. Insiders are betting on *Love to Love You Baby* as the ballad and *Last Dance* seems a natural for the finale.

Hoskins had no comment on these choices, but admits that, "*She Works Hard for the Money* has always been one of my personal favorites and I know that Mr. Higdon gets misty when he hears her version of *MacArthur Park*."

Mr. Higdon likewise declined to comment on the song selection, except to say that, "It's about time we had a show that features the drumline—after all, we're a darn marching band!"



Band Co-President Greg Arnold had this to say, "Donna Summers! How cool! I love her songs! I give them all a 10 because they've got a great beat and you can dance to them."

Not everyone was thrilled with the announcement, however. Kirk Martin, in charge of band recruiting, responded to our query with, "What the heck is disco? Who the heck is Donna Summers? Who wants to march to that?"

Keeping in the spirit, Kim Duggins will be giving disco lessons following the next band booster club meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Once again, we make the trek to Furman University for Band Camp.

Rookie Camp will run from July 14 to July 18

Band Camp will go from Monday, July 21 through Saturday July 26. As always, parents are invited to observe the show at the closing ceremony on Saturday when they come to retrieve their offspring.

Chaperones are needed—please contact Kim Duggins if you can come and help (kimduggins@mindspring.com)

FROM THE TREASURER

John D'Avanzo wants to remind everyone that band balances for 2007-2008 need to be paid in full for students to be:

- Allowed to go on the Spring Trip to DC
- Receive an invitation to the annual awards banquet
- Be eligible to receive a band letter

If you're not sure whether you have paid in full, go to www.wildcatpride.org, click on STATEMENT REQUEST, add your name and email address and John will be happy to send you your latest statement.

DC TRIP NEWS

We have 52 students, 2 director and 5 chaperones from Wheeler and Campbell High Schools who will be traveling to Washington DC to perform at the Naval Memorial on Thursday, April 10 @ 11:30am. They will depart from Wheeler HS on Wednesday night, April 9, and arrive back home on Sunday, April 12 at 7 am. We are very excited about the many educational opportunities that the students will be exposed to on this trip, whilst also having time for lots of fun.

Following this performance we will tour the Capitol, the Smithsonian Museums, Arlington Cemetary, go on an evening Illuminated Tour, and have lunch @ ESPN zone. We will spend Saturday at the Busch Gardens Amusement Park before heading home.

There will be a *mandatory* parents' meeting for the Washington DC trip on Tuesday, April 1st, at 7pm in the band room. Please remember to send any remaining payments for the trip that night. Rehearsals have become, so check the band website to keep up to date with the rehearsal schedule.

We are very grateful to Mr. Hoskins for giving up his spring break to give our students this opportunity.

Should you require further information, contact Kim Duggins at kimduggins@mindspring.com. Thanks, Kim, for your hard work in organizing this trip!



Navy Memorial
Washington, DC

On Pennsylvania Avenue between 7th and 9th

Kim's Notes

Spring has sprung and the band room has been buzzing with all sorts of activity - rehearsals for festival, the spring concert and the Spring Break trip; recruiting 8th graders; winter guard; and more. We are beginning to think ahead to next year and have started planning the band budget, but before we do that we need to thank are dedicated seniors and their parents. We have been fortunate to have strong leadership and are grateful to all of you for the time you have given this program to make this a great school year. Our best wishes are with all of

you.

Congrats to our Winter Guard and the success they have had and we wish you luck as you travel to Macon for the championships on April 5.

We are proud of the Wind Ensemble for their Superior rating and the Symphonic and Concert bands for their excellent rating at festival on March 13 and 14. Thank you to Mr. Hoskins, Mr. Higdon, our instructors, and our students for all their hard work and extra time given after school for the additional rehearsals.

from Kim Duggins—Co-President



Planning for our Spring Band Banquet to be held on Saturday May 3 has begun. All band fees must be paid in full in order for a student to receive an invitation to this event, and also to receive those awards for which they are eligible.

We are very fortunate to have a hard working executive board and band staff to keep all the many functions of this program moving forward.

We look forward to seeing you at the April 15 Booster meeting.

Hospitality

Thanks you to all the parents who have sent in food this year for the various band functions. We couldn't afford to do everything we do without your donations. For the band banquet, I need people to help set up starting at around 1:00 pm, and assistance with getting clean up done. Last year we cleaned up most of the clubhouse while the kids were dancing.

Polly Burson
Hospitality Chair

from Polly Burson



Polly guards her world famous brownies at band camp

WINTER GUARD

On Saturday, February 18, the Southern Association for Performance Arts (SAPA) hosted a Winter Guard/Percussion Competition at Chapel Hill High School in Douglasville, Georgia. Wheeler High School's Wildcat Pride Winter Guard took part in this competition and took 2nd place in their division. The 18 member Guard is comprised of six returning members and 12 rookies and is captained by senior Isis Rose and junior Jamie Steinheim. Their program is titled "Feeling Good" with music by Michael Buble.

Then on Saturday, March 8, at a SAPA

competition at East Coweta High School, only one-tenth of a point separated Wheeler from Forsyth Central High for 1st place in the Scholastic AAA Division. Wheeler received 2nd place.

This team has worked extremely hard to receive the accolades they deserve. The team lost two members and had to rewrite the show because of the losses. They practice more than 10 hours a week. Still they smile, flip rifles, flip sabers, and twirl flags all for the love of the sport.

On Saturday, April 5,

from Janet Steinheimer

Wheeler Winter Guard will go to Macon to perform in the SAPA Championships. GO GUARD! We are all so proud of you and wish you the best of luck on April 5!



Winter Guard 2008

UNIFORMS!!! ATTENTION ALL PARENTS!!!!

Tuxedos and gowns will be collected and inventoried after the Spring Concert.

Please have your student's uniform professionally cleaned and deliver it to the band room before Friday, May 9, 2008.

If you are unable to have the uniform cleaned before that

date, please send it in anyway with a \$10 donation to the Wheeler Band Boosters to cover the cost of the cleaning. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Contact Barbie Johnson at:

Barbie.Johnson@Allstate.com
or (678) 988-0852 with any questions or concerns.

(If you cannot have the uniform cleaned and do not have the \$10 at this time PLEASE send the uniform back by the due date and let Mr. Hoskins know your situation.)

BIG TIME BINGO

Are you looking for a fun way to earn band credits?

Then Bingo could be for you. Bingo is held at the VFW facility on Powers Ferry Road seven days per week. Hours are Monday – Saturday, 6:00 - 9:30 pm (games start at 7:30 pm) and on Sunday 3:00 - 6:30 pm (games begin at 4:30 pm).

Wheeler Band Boosters run Bingo eight times a month. Wheeler is the only "non VFW" group working bingo, and has been working Bingo at the VFW for more than 10 years. Booster members who have received GBI clearance to work Bingo earn \$10 in band credits for each Bingo night they work. Booster members must submit a background check form, picture, and two fingerprint cards to the GBI.

Once the clearance is approved (takes 6-8 weeks), members are trained in the various positions available during any given night. These positions are caller, register worker, register assistant, and two floor workers. Job descriptions are available. All new workers are trained to work the floor to be accustomed to the Bingo game and rules. After that, members can train for any position. We are currently in desperate need of register workers.

Bingo dates are emailed to cleared members and are listed on the calendar on the Wildcat Pride website. Positions are filled on a first-come first-served basis. Band credits are posted to your student's account once a month.

If you are interested in earning band credits and would love to learn about the world of Bingo, please contact Janet Steinheimer at steinheimerjanet@bellsouth.net for more information.

THE REAL DEAL

For those of you who were quick on the uptake, you noticed that the date on this newsletter and may have figured out that we are not really marching to a Donna Summers theme this year.

The real deal—the show will feature music from The Who, Queen, and Pink Floyd. If you were a betting man (or woman), you might put something down on Baba O'Reilly, Bohemian Rhapsody, and Another Brick in the Wall making appearances.

from Janet Steinheimer

May bingo dates:

May 1: floor worker
 May 6: floor worker
 May 9: register, floor, floor
 May 17: assistant, floor, floor
 May 18: assistant, floor, floor
 May 22: register, assistant, floor
 May 26: assistant, floor, floor

We are in desperate need of register workers for Bingo. If you would like to be trained to work the register, please contact Janet Steinheimer at steinheimerjanet@bellsouth.net.

We are losing three register workers because their children are graduating. Therefore, it is imperative we find new register workers soon.

If you or someone you know would like to start working bingo, please contact Janet Steinheimer so she can get the paperwork started.

BRAVE THE BRAVES

Lynn Wehr and Leah Hansen have made arrangements with Aramark to provide us with a fund raising opportunity.

Band members (over 18) and their families can work Atlanta Braves games, earning band credits and raising money for the band at the same time.

The beauty of this arrangement—we can go down to

Turner field with as few or as many people as we can muster.

Lynn Wehr is coordinating this effort for us. Please contact her at: dlwehr@bellsouth.net for more information



FUND-RAISING FACTS

Fund-raising is one of the main functions of the Wheeler Band Booster Club. With a budget of over \$180,000, the Band Boosters need to bring in revenue in order to keep our band fees down.

We have 3 major fund-raising activities during the year. Papa John's at the Georgia Dome brought in \$22,000, with \$17,000 being returned to band members in the form of credits. Fruit Sales generated \$14,000 in revenue, of which \$7,000 went back to band mem-

bers. Bingo is the big moneymaker, producing \$21,000 in revenue with \$6,500 in credits to date.

Keep up the good work, volunteer to help raise money, and thanks!

SPRING CONCERT

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL BAND

SPRING CONCERT

TUESDAY APRIL 29

OLD GYM—7PM

COME SUPPORT OUR KIDS!

4 YEARS IN BAND

We asked Gregg Kortman for some thoughts about his 4 years of service to the Band Boosters:

My involvement with the Wheeler High School band program started when my daughter came to the high school as an 8th grader. The only experience I had had with band was what the middle school offered so I was stunned at what I heard that night. That was the start of the most enjoyable four years that I have had with my kids while they have been in school. This experience gave me a chance to hear music, meet students, and associate with parents that I would never have met if my daughter hadn't chosen to participate in marching band.

It may seem like a lot of work keeping the band program afloat but the fun has far exceeded the work. To see what we have accomplished in the last four years

is worth a look back. When we started making pizzas at the Georgia Dome, four years ago, no one knew anything about cooking pizzas. Now we can cook pizzas with the best of them. We learned how to load the band trailer so well that the kids can do most of it now with very little help from parents. We put the tractor back into service to help move band equipment on and off the field. We cleaned up the Jarvis carts and made them so serviceable that they are indispensable now. And if you haven't seen our kids off load the citrus fruit truck when it gets to the high school you have missed a real treat. They are so organized and so energetic it is simply amazing to watch.

What is most satisfying for me has been to watch the students and parents work together. It isn't always perfect, and there are ups and downs. Everything

by Gregg Kortman



worth doing has these kinds of things to deal with. And when it works it is so good that everything else is worth it. I am glad I was able to be part of this program for the last four years and I will miss the kids, the performances, and the parents that I have associated with. Lucky for me, I live close enough to the high school that I will be able to hear the music during practice and during the football games.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 1— Band Trip meeting—7pm band room
- April 9—Practice 4:30pm then leave for DC Trip
- April 15—Band Booster Club General Meeting
- April 19—Solo and Ensemble and KSU
- April 21—2008 Marching Band Mandatory Introductory Meeting
- April 22—Band Placement Auditions for Fall 2008
- April 29—Spring Concert
- May 2—Jazz Festival at Walton

**Wheeler Wildcat Pride Band
Awards Banquet and Dance**

Saturday, May 3, 2008

6:30 - 11:00 pm

Sibley Forest Clubhouse

**Dinner, Awards, Dance and
Farewell to Seniors**

**Sign up and payment due by
Friday, April 23, 2008.**

**Seniors' dinner complimentary
Others: \$20.00 per person,**

Please note all band accounts must be current and up to date for students to attend and be eligible to receive awards.

Student(s) _____ Phone # _____

_____ Yes, I will attend the awards ceremony and dinner

_____ Senior

_____ Total number of people attending the dinner

_____ Total cost @\$20.00 each (Senior dinner free)

Check enclosed \$ _____ (payable to Wheeler Band Booster)

Apply \$ _____ from band credits.

Please deposit above portion, along with your payment, in the blue box outside the Band room no later than April 25, 2008.

Contact Polly Burson @770-578-9710 with any questions

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AT TOWN CENTER

RECYCLE



Newspaper recycling bins are located in the East Cobb Middle School parking lot directly across Holt Road from the Lipscomb Gym.

Drop off your old newspapers there anytime! All profits benefit the Wildcat Pride Marching Band.

Help the Environment! Help the Band!

Get your friends and neighbors to use it too!



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