

Band Bulletin



The official newsletter of the William H. Taft Raider Band

From the Director

By Mr. Solis

The 2009 Fall Season has come and gone so quickly that we find ourselves wondering where it went. We welcomed a brand new group of Freshman parents and students as well as upperclassman from other band programs which brought many new faces to our Taft Band family. The addition of these individuals has given us a nice variety of students and new families. Our marching season ended once again on a very successful note and I congratulate our students for their dedication and time given to such an involved part of our program. Our freshman class and parents survived the season and I hope that the next three years bring as much excitement and energy as did this year.

The end of one part of our program brings in the beginning of another with winter Season events such as our Band Concerts, Winter Guard and Winter Drumline . These groups will be competing during the months of January through March in San

Antonio, Houston and San Marcos. Our concert season will begin with Region Band Auditions and culminate with the spring Concert in May.

The 2010 season promises to be an exciting time for our students and parents as we will visit Disney in March during Spring Break week.

I wish to thank all of students, parents, administration and community supporters for an outstanding 2009. Lets keep “ DOING WHAT WE DO BEST” as we perform in 2010. MAKE IT HAPPEN

.....



President's Ponderings

By Rene Jacob

As we close out the football season and are preparing for the holiday season, we realize and recognize how very grateful we are for our wonderful Taft Raider Band Booster Parents. Thanks to their dedication (to all of our students and the band program) uniforms were ready, props were designed/created, equipment was transported and moved into the proper place at the proper time, students never went hungry, and they were kept cool during band contests in the hot Texas sun. We owe our appreciation to the Band Boosters for assisting in keeping the band fees down by running fundraisers, including the Tailgate Parties, the Spaghetti Dinner, the spirit items sales, and more. And, don't forget the immeasurable gifts Boosters provided to the students through smiles, encouragement, watchful protection, and the extra snack or two or three. I, personally, thank each and every Taft Raider Band Booster Parent for all you have done so far this year; look forward to working beside you in our “band family” into 2010; and welcome more parents to come join in on this rewarding endeavor as we prepare for the TMEA Convention, the Spring Trip, the Band Banquet and more!



Volume I, Issue I
Winter 2009

Inside this issue:

You Look Marvelous	2
Color Guard News	2
Chaperones	2
A Night of “Really” Twisted Opera	3
Thanks for the Memories	3
Pirate’s Cove	4
Road Kill	4
Website	5
Spring Break	5
Roadies	6



You Look Marvelous!

By Rose Kline, "Lead Uniform Mom"

Fitting a 200 member band in marching uniforms and concert attire can be a challenge, but two factors make it easier.

First, the help of several volunteers who assist in measuring and finding a uniform that fits each student with minimal adjustments makes a world of difference. The fitting process begins in late July during band registration and continues throughout band camp in August. It's fun to see how much the returning members have grown over the summer! It's also "fun" explaining to new students and parents that marching pants are supposed to be that short (so the judges can see their toes up!). The fitting process for concert season is less hectic, especially in years without State competitions or football playoffs, since there are a few extra weeks to get transitioned from marching uniforms into tuxes and gowns. It's somewhat of

a metamorphosis as the band sheds their marching image and become the ladies and gentlemen we see on the concert stage as they play beautiful music for us!

Second, in case you didn't already know it, your children are GREAT! I actually look forward to seeing them each weekend during marching season. It can get hectic, but they actually make me feel appreciated. You have done an awesome job with them. (Who...my child? Yes your child).

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the mom's that helped with uniforms this year. I've enjoyed working with you and sincerely appreciate your support. Nestled away in the uniform room, few may see you at work, but you are certainly appreciated and the results of your work look MARVELOUS!

Color Guard News

By Tyler Berget

New guard, new coach, new season. The coaches of the 2009-2010 Taft color guard are Tyler Berget and Helen Stein. We are very excited to announce, that this is the first year we will have both a varsity and junior varsity winter guard. The varsity consists of

16 members, performing Landon Pig's Falling In Love At A Coffee Shop. Junior varsity numbers in at around 18 members, learning the tricks of the trade, and performing to Sara Bareilles' Gravity. Come support us as we compete in the TCGC circuit!



Chaperones

By Debbie Vela

Chaperones will accompany the band on the bus to all football games, contest and trips. This gives you the perfect opportunity to get to know your Raider Band Members. You are also able to walk freely among the band members and this gives you the opportunity to take your best pictures and memories that will last a lifetime for both you and the band members.

Chaperones are needed for monitoring the band at all times, restroom breaks, first aid, water and whatever else a band member may need. A chaperone will wear black pants and a Taft Raider Booster shirt this makes you easy

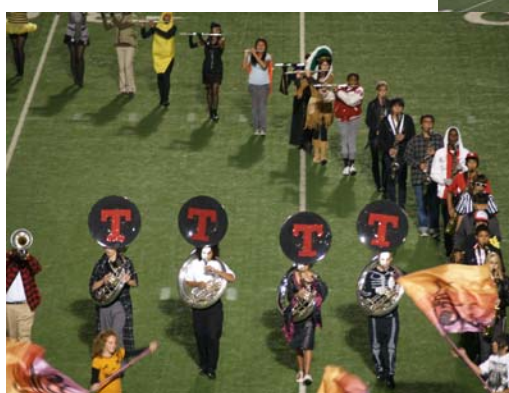
to spot when needed.

To volunteer your time to chaperone you can sign up online on the Taft Raider Band website, this is the best and easiest way. If you do not have a computer you can sign up at any monthly booster meeting. Before anyone can volunteer a Criminal Background Check for NISD must be completed, this can also be found on the Taft Raider Band website.

A Night of “Really” Twisted Opera



“A Night of Twisted Opera” became even more twisted the night before Halloween, when the Taft Raider Band donned their favorite Halloween Costumes for the performance at the Taft v Clark game.



Thanks for the Memories

By Raymond Perez - Drum Major

HEY BAND!!! From August to the end of October, it seemed like we saw each other every morning, afternoon, and weekend. Creating a second family, we marched and we played, and like every year, the Taft Raider Band culminated in a fun and successful season of "A Night of Twisted Opera". My goal as drum major was to unite the band, help elevate our performance and marching level, and most importantly prepare you for next year because the road to STATE, as Solis says, began last year, right as we walked off the field at Area. I want to say thanks to everyone who did his or her part because a band is about working as a

unit: when someone messes up it's not about who did it, because the band isn't solely about the drum line, the woodwinds, the brass, or the color guard, it's about the band as a whole. It's about unity and it's about passion. Here in the Taft Raider Band, it's great to know that are band is united and passionate about what we do because even when we don't get first place, we know that we gave a great show and entertained the crowd. Seeing this as my last year, I want to say thanks to everyone (band moms and dads included) for their efforts, for their focus, for their work, and with STATE next year, GOOD LUCK!





Earn Money for the Raider Band & Get a Discount at Pirate's Cove Car Wash

By Mandy Scott

The Taft Raider Band Booster Organization has partnered with the Pirate's Cove Car Wash, located at 11780 Culebra Road (just one block West of Taft), to offer all parents, students, and any supporter of the Taft Raider Band a discount on select car wash services. This program will support our fundraising efforts as Pirate's Cove Car Wash has also agreed to donate a certain amount back to the Taft Raider Band Boosters for each car wash purchased under the plan. This program is ongoing and you can print off your own copy of this Discount & Fundraising Card from the Taft Raider Band website. Cards are also available in the band hall by the white payment box.

Here's how the program works. The discount and donation only apply when you purchase one of the two car wash services listed below. **When you approach the car wash purchase screen, you must enter a designated coupon code to receive the discount and for the band to receive the donation.** Feel free to pass this information and a copy of the discount and fundraising card along to friends, neighbors, and relatives who want to receive the discount and help "Make It Happen" for the Taft Raider Band.

Calico Jack's Deluxe Wash (Exterior Wash with Free Self-Vacuum)
COUPON CODE # 8100 \$8.95 Regular Price \$7.95 Discount Price (You save \$1) \$1.00 Donation to Raider Band!
Captain Morgan's Super Wash (Interior Service & Exterior Wash)
COUPON CODE # 8200 \$16.95 Regular Price \$15.95 Discount Price (You save \$1) \$2.00 Donation to Raider Band!!

2009 Raider "Road Kill" Tailgate Season a Big Success

By Mandy Scott

The Taft Raider Band Boosters have a wonderful tradition of providing our band families with the opportunity to gather at select Monday evening marching practices to share some food and fun. These Raider "Road Kill" Tailgate Parties not only bring our band families together, but also give us the chance to see first-hand the hard work and dedication it takes for our kids to "Make It Happen" on the marching field each week. And while we are having all this tailgate fun, we are raising much needed funds for our Raider Band program!

If you took part in any of our Monday evening tailgate parties during September and October, either as a volunteer or a patron with a healthy appetite, give yourself a big pat on the back! During the 2009 marching season, the Taft Raider Band Boosters hosted 4 tailgate parties, served over 800 plates of food, and raised a total profit of just

over \$2,000. A fifth and final tailgate party was scheduled for October 26th but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Some new additions to this year's tailgate format proved to be very successful! First, we established an early serving time beginning at 5pm for our band kids. This provided them with a convenient, safe, and inexpensive dinner option before practice. We continued to allow the kids the opportunity to purchase food at the end of practice also. Another new item this year was the addition of a tortilla-wrapped Kiolbassa sausage to the menu. The only downside was that having to choose between a hamburger, two hot dogs, or a sausage wrap was quite a difficult decision for many!



Webmaster Notes

By Jerry Kline

What makes the Raider Band website successful? It's not the software that runs the website. It's not the webmaster. It's the team of people involved in supporting the band who provide the information that needs to be shared. From the band directors, to the various team leaders (fundraisers, chaperones, concessions, etc) to the parents that share photos to be displayed for all to enjoy, there are many people involved in making the website a valuable communication tool for the Raider Band. To all those who contribute content for the website – Thank You!

Electronic Signup Sheets. In addition to providing information to Raider Band parents and students, the website also hosts a program that allows volunteers to sign up online for the various events, such as concessions, chaperones, TMEA, spaghetti dinner, etc. The program requires you to include a valid email address which the program uses to send a confirmation email containing a

link that must be clicked on to complete the signup process. It may take a minute or two for the email to be received or your computer might file it in the "junk mail" or spam folder, but you won't be signed up until you click on the link in that confirmation email so watch for it! Of course, the email addresses obtained during this process will not be available to other event volunteers or released to any third parties.

Note-Worthy Email List. By subscribing to this email list, using a simple form on the website, you will receive occasional email messages from the Raider Band Boosters. These messages provide important news and information related to the band. The website, newsletters, and take-home flyers from the band hall will still be a major source of information, but "Note-Worthy Emails" provide time sensitive information and gentle reminders about upcoming events, due dates, and other important information directly to your email inbox.

Raider Band Website: TaftRaiderBand.Org

All the things your band kid should have told you, but didn't !

MICKEY, HERE WE COME!!!

By Mo Hillard

On Sunday, March 14, 2010, 130 Taft Raider Band Members will be marching down Disney World's Main Street USA! The Spring Break trip will be well under way. We will leave the Taft parking lot on Friday, March 12, 2010, around 3 pm. After 24 unforgettable hours on the buses, we'll arrive in Orlando ready to paint the town, after a few hours of sleep of course. The first night we will enjoy a **Sleuth's Mystery Dinner**. Then we'll hit **Disney World** full force for two days. On the first day, we will march in the spectacular parade showing off our awesome Taft Raider Band spirit and musical ability.

Monday, our second day at Disney, we will be free the whole day to enjoy all the park has to offer. On Tuesday, we'll descend upon **Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure at the Universal Orlando Resort**. We pack up and head to **Busch Gardens** in Tampa, Florida on Wednesday. After an exciting day there, we will board the buses and head back to San Antonio. A fun time will be had by all!



Raider Roadie Review


By Rey Vela

What is a “Roadie”? Some bands have “pit crews” while others simply have “loading crews”. The Raider Band has ROADIES! These are the parents that help move the band’s equipment to and from the various performance events. Rolling a marimba or carrying a horn into one of our trailers and securing them for travel is the primary service that the Raider Band Roadies provide, but you’ll also see them fixing a flat tire on a percussion cart, helping get equipment on/off the football field, applying duct tape to a prop that came apart right before a performance, or making sure the coolers of water bottles get moved close to the exit area so the band can quench it’s thirst after a grueling performance on a hot Texas day. Whatever needs to get done, the roadies are there to help. They’re a group of parents with varying types of skills, but they all share common interest – “pulling for the kids”.

Over the history of the Raider Band, the inventory of trailers used to move equipment has grown greatly. From single 16’ trailer several years ago, to fleet of 4 trailers including an “18 wheeler” that was brought into service last year, the roadies have a lot to moving space to fill. Fortunately, the band directors always find a way to bring enough equipment so the roadies can use all available space!

Along with this growth in trailers, the number of roadies has also grown. The days of getting everything moved by 2 or 3 dads are long gone. During marching season this year we had a small army of 15-20 roadies pulling for the kids. But there is always room for more, and if the trend continues next year, the band will be doing bigger and better things with bigger and better equipment so we’re always recruiting more roadies!



Approved by:


 Tommy Garcia, Principal

 Band Booster Officer

