



PORT CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL BAND ASSOCIATION
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 www.portchesterhighschoolband.org

JULY 2002
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By now, you probably know that the Port Chester High School Band has been accepted to participate in the 2003 Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida. The Band will perform in an adjudicated competition, march in the Junior Orange Bowl parade in Coral Gables and play during half time at the bowl game.

The Orange Bowl, established in 1935, will be held in Pro Player Stadium this year and the half time show is always built around major stars from the entertainment industry. At this point in the year, the headliners have not yet been announced. There is an official Orange Bowl Web site (www.orangebowl.org)

that will be updated throughout the months preceding the event. It will give you the latest bowl information and an idea of the scope and importance of this event in the Miami/South Florida area. PCHS is the only band from the Northeast invited to participate. As of July 1, bands from Canada, California, Georgia, Missouri, Virginia and Colorado are expected to attend. Port Chester will compete against 10 of these bands in competition.

Who's going?

Band Director Robert Vitti is committed to taking the entire Band and Color Guard to Miami. Mr. Vitti feels that to perform our show at its best there must be no empty spaces. The necessary staff and chaperones must also go.

Parents are welcome to attend, and a travel package is being put together. If you would like to make the trip, please see PCHS Band Association President Dom Carriero. Details will be

forthcoming.

How is the Band traveling?

We'd like to fly, but due to costs we may be using buses. This decision will be based on the success of our fundraising. If the thought of a long bus ride concerns you, consider it an extra motivation to help with the Orange Bowl fundraising, Ad Journal or fruit sale.

Where will the Band stay?

Dom Carriero has just returned from Miami and has identified two hotels that he feels will be suitable. Both are part of major chains and in neighborhoods that are safe and convenient for our purposes. All hotel rates are essentially fixed during Orange Bowl week, so that is not a factor in this choice.

When will the Band leave for Miami?

The Band will leave Monday, December 30, and return Friday, January 3, 2003. This may have to be adjusted if we need to use buses. (continued on page 3)

Association Officers

Dominic Carriero
President
 937-9087

Steve Mitchell
First Vice President
 937-1789

Dominic Mayo
Second Vice President
 934-2330

Maryann Giorgi
Treasurer
 937-9192

Joanne Pace
Secretary
 939-4240

Len Savanella
Publicity
 939-5785

Phil Gasparini
Business Manager
 939-6206

Band Staff

Bob Vitti
Director

Bill Losier
Assistant Director

Bob Villanova
 Mike Coppola
 Mike Messina
Percussion Instruction

Darren Delaney
 Stephanie Lombardo
 Trish Labella
Color Guard Instruction

934-7972
Music Office



If you've been around the Band for any length of time, you know that raising money takes up a substantial amount of time and energy. So we are pleased to announce a fundraising strategy that takes very little effort on your part and is

built on two popular pastimes: shopping and the Internet.

The concept behind **SchoolCash.com** is simple: If you are going to shop on line with major vendors like L.L. Bean, Amazon or Dell, go first to the Band web site (www.portchesterhighschoolband.org), click on the **SchoolCash** link and enter PCHS in the sign-in dialog.

(You can go to **SchoolCash** directly, too.) Anything you purchase will then generate a rebate to the Band. **SchoolCash** does the administrative work and cuts the Band a check every calendar quarter. This plan applies only to online purchases.

For a complete listing of participating merchants, visit www.schoolcash.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

- That red sparkly sashy thing on your uniform is called a "baldric."
- Baby wipes work wonders on dirty band shoes. (But not on color guard shoes.)
- Your band helmet is really called a "pickelhaube" and the spiky thing on top is a "spitze."
- Peeling "spitzen" can be touched up nicely with silver nail polish. (No other colors, please!)
- Valve oil and/or slide grease are SPF Zero and will not protect you from the sun's ultraviolet rays.
- Wrapping yourself in your Color Guard flag will not keep you warm, but you will look *maah-velous!*

Band Night 2002, held at Port Chester High School on June 5, drew a capacity crowd, filling Ryan Stadium with proud parents and enthusiastic student performers. The PCHS Band Association barbecue filled the air with the aroma of charcoal-grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, creating the feel of a family picnic. It made us all feel like members of a very large and musical family.

Each school in the district put a musical and performing unit on the field. The elementary schools performed first. They were followed by the Middle School Bands, fresh from their competition at Kutztown University and Dorney Park in Pennsylvania. As the field fell into shadow, the PCHS Band capped off the evening with its final performance of its Civil War field show.


For the younger children, this may have been

Band Night 2002



their first experience on a field before a crowd. For the Middle School Bands, the evening marked another stage in their development. For the High School Band, however, Band Night was bittersweet, with the knowledge that this unit was playing its patriotic 2001-2002 field show for the last time. For 34 seniors, this

marked their last performance as members of the Band.

Band Night is special because it represents what separates the Port Chester music program from others—the diversity of our programs and community and our commitment to the value of music in the education of our children. 

Recycling: Something Old, Something New


One of the Band's oldest money-makers is the basic can and bottle drive. This has been a lucrative source of cash. Every year, we raise about \$4,500 by simply collecting and cashing in your soda and beer cans. This year, we ask everyone to come to our recycling stop at PCHS and bring their cans and bottles.

If you have a party or family barbecue, remember that the deposits can be a welcome addition to our budget. If you have any connection with a deli or other food establishment, they may be willing to give the Band their empties. Let us know and we'll arrange

to pick them up. This year (**Think Orange!**), that kind of donation can help us get to Miami.

Along with cans and bottles, the Band will also be collecting laser printer toner cartridges for recycling. If you have a small Canon, Hewlett Packard or Xerox printer, the toner cartridge can be turned into cash for the Band. (Remember, what we need are cartridges from small desktop printers—not that big office machine that collates and staples large documents or the inkjet printer that's hooked up to your computer.) The ones we can cash in may have a

"return-to-manufacturer" (RS) label. **We will return them instead to a refiller, who will pay us \$2 to \$7 per cartridge**, depending on model and brand. We'll let the recycler sort out the details. Bring these to any Band Association meeting or, of course, to the regular recycling on the first and third Sunday of every month.

Some brands that can be recycled for cash are Apple LaserWriter; Canon Fax L Series; Epson ActionLaser; Hewlett Packard LaserJet; IBM/Lexmark Optra Series; Minolta SP Series; NEC Silent Writer, Superscript and NeFax; and Xerox XC/XD/XE Series. 

Summer Sectionals

Technically, Band Camp begins at 9:00 a.m. August 19, but veteran Band members know that the true beginning occurs sometime in July when the section leaders begin to call section rehearsals. Charged by Mr. Vitti with the responsibility of arranging these informal sessions, the section leaders will work out the details for at least two rehearsals, held in locations throughout the community. They are intended to begin the process of memorizing this year's new music, getting the members to know each other and familiarizing everyone with the complex sounds and rhythms of the music.


Please help and encourage your Band member to attend these meetings when they get the calls. Your cooperation will go a long way toward

making these sectionals productive.

The show for the 2002 competition season will be **Russian Sketches**, arranged for the Band by Carmen Signa. It contains music by the great Russian composers Stravinski and Moussorgsky, including "Firebird" and "Great Gate of Kiev." It's not easy music and Mr. Vitti has requested that all performers come to the music portion of the camp ready to play, having memorized and practiced their parts. This is a standard request made every year because memorizing the music becomes more difficult later on when the marching component of the show is introduced. The Band's success in the early competitions, and the speed with which the unit develops, will be based on

the proficiency that the kids bring into the August practices. The Color Guard and the percussion section have weekly practices on Thursdays all summer long, so they will have a working basis from which their portion of the show can evolve when all the pieces of this year's performance are put together during the week of August 26.

Remember, the music portion of Band Camp begins Monday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m. and meets through Friday of that week. The Band uses the High School for these sessions.

The second week of Band Camp, beginning Monday, August 26, is the outdoor marching portion and is held at Crawford Park from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through Thursday, August 29, when the show will be performed before the parents. 

JULY'S TOP 10 LIST

Ten Things You Can Do to Help the Band That Won't Cost a Thing

10. Repeat "Think Orange" 10 times a day until January 3.
9. Write an article for this newsletter.
8. Volunteer to be a bus chaperone.
7. Attend all the competitions and scream like a raving lunatic.
6. Help your performer remember to pack all the pieces of her or his uniform.
5. Stop over at the practice field on Tuesday and Thursday nights.
4. Join a flag sewing bee.
3. Let your neighbors in Rye and Harrison know how good we are.
2. Wear your Orange Bowl T- Shirt. (You DO have one, don't you?)

And the number one thing you should do to help the Band...

1. Pray, dance, chant—whatever!—for good weather on September 22.

Orange Bowl Bound! (continued from page 1)

The game itself and half time show take place January 2.

What will all this cost?

The estimated cost for the trip is \$115,000. The Band Association, through its fundraising, will pay for this. During the next six months, please support the Association's fundraising efforts whenever you see them at community events, through our mailings or around the village. We will also be selling Orange Bowl related items like bumper stickers, antenna balls and T-shirts as well as our Buy-a-Mile promotion.

What dates are important?


Of course, ink in December 30 through January 3. That week will be occupied. Due to the need for full funding this year, please note the following three dates:

July 17. If you have collected any commercial (non-personal) ads for the Ad Journal by that date, please be sure to turn them in to Freda Wesley. They will be included in the program sold at the home

competition. This offers sponsors two ads for the price of one.

August 29. Please have all your ads into Freda Wesley. If you have ads and checks now, submit them to her as soon as possible. Don't hold them until August. We need to have a clear picture of the progress of this important fundraising effort and Freda would appreciate being able to get a head start on the Journal as well.

September 22. Home Competition will be here before we know it and it is a key component in raising money for the trip. Please pitch in and make it a profitable success. In this Orange Bowl year, the Home Competition is more important than ever.

As the weeks and months go by, please watch your mail for news. The phone squad will also be in action, and this newsletter will inform you of any new developments. Check our website (www.portchesterhighschoolband.org), which will be updated regularly. Pay special attention to anything on orange paper. And above all: **THINK ORANGE!** 

Home Competition: September 22

By the time you read this, there will probably be fewer than 90 days left until the Home Competition. Mark this in your calendar along with your child's birthday and your wedding anniversary. **IN RED!** It's that big.

Our Home Competition is the Band's major public event of the year. PCHS will host 18 Bands from all over the metropolitan area and as hosts we have the obligation to make this run smoothly and comfortably for our guests. In so doing, we will also be raising money for our own program. (**Think Orange!**)

Just as when guests are expected in our homes, we want to look our best. Getting our Band home ready


to welcome guests is a very large project, so the Association must do what any good organization does: **delegate, delegate, delegate!** We are reaching out to all parents to contribute their time and effort on one of the following committees:

- Kitchen
- Security
- Gates
- 50-50 Raffle
- Signs and Graphics
- Guides
- Chaperones

We also ask that you make donations of food: hot dogs, hamburgers, chili, ziti, baked goods and soft drinks. This request will be repeated again as the date nears, but

please keep the Band in mind this summer as you do your picnic shopping. When September comes, you'll be given details about when, how and where you can bring your donation.

Please contact Steve Mitchell, the Association's First Vice President, to get on a committee. These lists will also be out at our July 16 meeting in Crawford Park, and at the parent performance on August 29 marking the end of Band Camp.

Your participation will make this year's Home Competition the showcase we want it to be. It will also help it to be as profitable as possible in this most critical fundraising year. 

2002-2003 Band Officers and Section Leaders

President: **Carlos Becerra**

Vice President: **Rich Giorgi**

Field Drum Majors: **Becky Abel and Jon Paul Wegrzyn**

Parade Drum Majors: **John Meehan and Dominick Pace**

Alto Sax: **Sandra Rodríguez**

Baritone Horn: **Dash Teter**

Baritone Sax: **Billy Irwin**

Clarinet: **Ali Conners and Lesley Milliken**

Flute: **Juliet Guarino**

French Horn/Mellophone: **Cindy Rodríguez and Vickie Savanella**

Tenor Sax: **Brian Mitchell**

Trombone: **Rich Giorgi**

Trumpet: **Will Cruz-Griffith and Jenny Ryan**

Tuba: **Bruce Fonseca**


Band History

fundraising efforts and Westchester County and the New York metro area know how exceptional the Band is.

Toward that end, the Association's Publicity Chair is putting together a small press kit to be given to any reporter or news outlet interested in covering our achievement. The demographics of the Band and our school, and our recent history, aren't too hard to find, but as the Band's history recedes into the past a clear timeline of achievements is harder to draw. For instance,

Newspaper and television reports about the Band's trip to the Orange Bowl will help all of us in our let the rest of

we know about the Rose Bowl in 1970. But did you know that the Band played at the 1939 New York World's Fair, or that in the 1960s they played in circus parades with Ringling Brothers as the elephants marched through the streets of New York City? Did you realize that the Band is 70 years old this year?

That's the kind of history that sets this Band apart from any other in the region and it needs to be written down so that it can be shared. As time passes, it becomes more and more difficult to collect these facts. There is a special need to document the years between 1981 and 1990. If anyone out there—parents, alumni or family members—has pictures or anecdotes, please contact Len Savanella at publicity@portchesterhighschoolband.org or at calen213@aol.com. 

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 p.m., Crawford Park—Special Band Association Meeting to discuss Orange Bowl plans. Attendance is important!

August 19-23, PCHS—Music Camp

August 26-29, Crawford Park—Band Camp

August 29, 7:00 p.m., Crawford Park—Parent Performance/Band Association Meeting