



**FROM the PODIUM** Chris Smith, Director of Bands



Hello Boosters,

Change, how do you deal with it? Do you avoid it, do you embrace it or do you just deal with it. Most of our lives are in constant change. As we get older "things" change. As our children grow "things" change. For some it's a change in job or position, for others it's experiencing their children maturing, it may be a new boss or colleague, and yet for others it may be a change in lifestyle due to an illness or added family members through marriage. How we deal change may, and usually does, determine our success.

Next year looks to bring many changes to Ovey Comeaux High School. One of the biggest changes is the transfer of the Performing Arts Academy (PAA) from Lafayette High School to Comeaux. This could have a profound effect on the Comeaux Band Program. The other large change, throughout the district, is the new zoning map for LPSS. This will also indelibly change the make-up of the Comeaux student body. The enrollment will be drastically reduced. This could have a huge effect on the band program, but Mr. Geiger and I feel that with the addition of some members of the PAA and the new zoning the Spartan Band should remain rather consistent in number for the next couple of years with an increase in membership over the next five years.

I would ask that all of the freshman members of the Spartan Band consider applying for the Performing Arts Academy. There will be an extension of the application process in March. As a member of the PAA the student would have band as their major elective each year and also have the opportunity to receive an elective in their junior and senior year that could be any of the following: Music Theory, Music Media, Guitar, Piano, Strings, Dance classes or Theater classes.

I encourage all of our students to embrace the changes that are on the horizon. There may be new students in our program from LHS and there will be members from other middle schools that would ordinarily have attended LHS. Our job is to make all of our students feel welcome and at ease as members of the Comeaux Spartan Band.

We have a few fund raisers coming up in the next few months: March 10th - Catfish Lunch, March 11th - Buick Test Drive, April 29th - Car Show and May 12th - Crawfish Boil Dinner. I would ask that all do their very best to participate in the fund raisers by selling tickets and/or advertising for the events. The success of the various fund raisers undertaken by the band program are the only thing keeping our assessments from increasing yearly.

As to upcoming performances: March 4th - E.D. White Guard Show, March 14th& 15th will be the Large Ensemble Assessment at Angelle Hall, March 18th - Dutchtown Guard Show, March 19th - Rhythm in Bleu VIP competition New Orleans, March 30th is the Comeaux Band Recital Night at LJ Alleman, April 1st - Winter Guard Championships at the Thibodaux Civic Center, April 7th - Heritage Festival in San Antonio and May 6th - Band Spring Concert - Angelle Hall. I encourage everyone to attend as many of our student's performances as possible. Your attendance makes it that much more special for our student performers.

Our next Booster meeting will be on Thursday, March 23rd at 6:30. There will be a brief general meeting prior to the San Antonio trip meeting. See you at the meeting. Chris

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Band Trip	4
Bingo	6
Buick Test Drive	6
Catfish Lunch	3
Contact Info.	7
Dance Trip	5
Lagniappe	2
Large Ens. Assessment	3
Mardi Gras Parades	2
Spin-Like-the-Wind	4
Sponsors	8

**LAGNIAPPE** Scott Geiger, Associate Director of Bands

Boosters,

Somber note: I'm having to say goodbye to one of my dearest friends. Although the day it happens will be very sad, sometimes there are just times you have to not be concerned with what you want, knowing it will be for a greater good. Regardless, we will move on and remember him the best we can. My point in telling you of this moment is not to be a downer, but hopefully as an indicator of what we try to teach ourselves as we continue to grow as people. We go on. The sun rises. There is a greater good to be served, and sometimes it doesn't involve us... that's a hard one. Negating the self. We are both right and wrong when we tell each other that, "No one looks out for you, but you." The fact is that we do have people who look out for us. They help us through. We saw that at the beginning of the year with flooding. People may not carry you through, but they are there to help, even if it's just a little. So how does this all relay to Comeaux Band? Well sometimes we see people struggle through things. It might be a few counts in a dance routine, a toss that's slightly crooked or not done well, someone struggling with parts or scales, these are all times someone is in need. Many times we just allow them to struggle, after all it's their grade or responsibility. How easy would it be to see them after rehearsal and ask if they can go over some parts with you? Sometimes asking to get together to just go over it instead of, "Hey I noticed you were doing this wrong..." can go a long way. That is my lead in to HOW we present ourselves is just as important as presenting ourselves. Let us not forget that a lot of what some people think as being politically correct, often boils down to human interaction, and how we would like to be addressed. How you would talk to your friend at a crawfish boil in your backyard, might significantly differ than an invitation from your senator to dine with them at the governor's mansion. Beyond our self, let us not forget to think and act so, which often leads you to push yourself past what you thought was possible... but that's another article. Scott

**MARDI GRAS PARADES 2017**

The Spartan Band will participate once again this year in the Lafayette Kick-Off parade on Friday, February 24th and the Youngsville parade on Saturday, February 25th. These performances are mandatory for all band members (including guard and dance).



Report time on Friday is 2:45. Students will be fed dinner prior to changing into uniform. Saturday's report time is 9:00 am. Students will need their show shirt, white Dinkles and white socks for both performances. The band will travel to and from the parades by school bus. It is impossible to give an exact pick-up time from Comeaux, but the Lafayette parade is usually 10-10:30pm and the Youngsville parade is usually around 2:30-3:00. Chaperones are needed for both parades. If you are able to chaperone please contact Christy Dew at 303-3489.



## **A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, Krista Sansone**

Krista's article will continue in the March edition of the Crescendo.



## **JUST DANCE, Jennifer Hebert, Instructor**

Jennifer's article will continue in the March edition of the Crescendo.



## **LARGE ENSEMBLE ASSESSMENT 2017**

This year's Large Ensemble Assessment will be held on Tuesday, March 14th and Wednesday, March 15th. The schedule has not yet been posted, but if it is what has been requested and what has held true the past few years: the Symphonic Band will perform on Tuesday, March 14th at some time after 3:30 and the Wind Symphony on Wednesday, March 15th at sometime after 4:00.

The Symphonic Band will wear the blue blazer, white shirt, red tie, khaki pants, black dress shoes black belt and black socks. The student is responsible for supplying the shirt, pants and belt (all from School Time) and the shoes and socks. Blazers and ties will be sent home in a hanging bag on Monday, March 13th.

The Wind Symphony will wear Tuxedos and formal black dress. The tuxedos will be sent home bagged on Tuesday, March 13th.

Please come out and support both of the Comeaux ensembles as they perform at the LMEA District III Large Ensemble Assessment at ULL in the Doucet-Gilfrey auditorium at Angele Hall.



## **CATFISH LUNCH March 10th**

The Spring Catfish Lunch will be held on Friday, March 10th. All students were given 15 tickets on Friday, February 17th. Each ticket is sold at \$10.00, checks should be made out to Comeaux High School. All monies and unsold tickets are due back to the band office by Monday, March 6th. Additional tickets are available through the band office.

Two (2) dollars from each ticket sold will be credited to the student's band ledger. Two (2) dollars will be debited from the Spring Fund Raising Proportion. Please do your best to sell the 15 tickets given to each student.

Mrs. Alyson Trahan will be chairing the Catfish Fund Raiser once again this Spring. Alyson will be looking for help in plating, bagging and distributing lunches on March 10th. If you are able to help at the Catfish Lunch please contact Alyson at 985-688-8215. Thanks for your help and support of the "Spectacular band from Spartan Land."

## ***SPIN-LIKE-the-WIND***, Morrice Boutan, Instructor



Winter Guard season is in full throttle! It has been so rewarding to see how far the members have grown since our first meetings in May. Everyone's skill level has enhanced at a tremendous rate and is looking to only get better as we proceed through the season. The first competition, the Comeaux Show, was very successful; even though neither of our shows was completely finished, both groups got exemplary comments from the judges, great scores, and an even better crowd reaction. The kids were so filled with adrenaline after their performance because of the wonderful response from the crowd. The uproar of applause from the audience makes the girls' hard work and determination feel well worth the effort.

Within the next few weeks we are finalizing our show and putting the finishing touches on both shows. Our "Bleu" Winter Guard team will be debuting their full show and adding on a great ending to their already impactful show. "Elite" will be adding a beginning and end to their show and adding in a prop that is sure to be impressive. The process of writing and designing these shows to their fullest potential has been very taxing on the guard staff, but our members make it fun and worth every moment put into creating their product. I cannot wait to take our show to the remaining three competitions: ED. White, Dutchtown, and Circuit Championships. Don't forget to come out and see the girls perform. I promise you will not regret it!!! Morrice

---

## ***BAND TRIP TO SAN ANTONIO 2017***

The San Antonio trip is set and all is a go. The last payment of \$100.00 will be due on March 3rd. **All ledgers must be in balance by March 3rd.**

The band will be staying at the Crown Plaza - Airport in San Antonio. While in San Antonio the band will visit the River Walk, dine at Casa Rio, visit the Alamo, go to Sea World and Fiesta Texas and enjoy the festival awards dinner at Fiesta, Texas. Breakfast will be provided daily including one morning at the Hard Rock Cafe`.

**Thursday, March 23, 2017** will be the trip meeting. All students who are participating must have one parent/guardian in attendance at the trip meeting. Please mark your calendars now for the trip meeting, Thursday, March 23, 2017 in the school cafe`.

---

## ***GUARD SHOW 2017***

The 2017 Comeaux Classic Guard and Percussion Show was a huge success. A big thank you to Mrs. Tonia Young, for chairing the event for the second year. All ran smoothly and many compliments were passed on to the Comeaux Band Program. This is due to the hard work, dedication and donation of time and energy of member of the Band Booster Organization.

Also, a big thank you to Mrs. Toni Poe and Mindy Portier for their work in setting-up and running the hospitality room. This is a large undertaking and a very important one. The unit directors, judges and circuit administrators were, as always, very impressed with the offerings and kindness given them in the hospitality room.

Mrs. Heather Bourque did a fantastic job chairing the concessions for the guard show. This was Heather's first event as concessions chair and I think she'll do a great job next football season.

Mr. Sostan Babineaux made his famous jambalaya again for the show which was sold in the concession stand and offered in the hospitality room. Mr. Mark Antoine was our griller once again and handled all hamburgers, sausage, hot dogs, and boudin for the concessions stand.

There were many, many, many Boosters who helped in many ways for the show and Mr. Geiger and Mr. Smith are much appreciative of their time and energy. Thanks for all you do for the "Spectacular Band from Spartan Land."

## **A NOTE from the BAND PRESIDENT, Dawson Dew, President**



Dawson's article will continue in the March edition of the Crescendo.

### **RHYTHM in BLEU to NEW ORLEANS**



Well, everything has been planned and set for the Rhythm in Bleu trip to New Orleans to participate in the VIP Dance Competition. The line will be staying at the Best Western Hotel in St. Bernard, LA.

While in N.O. the dance line will visit the Audubon Zoo and Aquarium of the Americas, and the famous French Quarter. They will enjoy dinners at Rocky and Carlo's Restaurant, Craves Restaurant and the Hard Rock Cafe. To round out the site-seeing portion of the trip the participants will experience a "Ghost Tour" of the French Quarter.

**Thursday, March 9, 2017 will be the trip meeting.** All students who are participating must have one parent/guardian in attendance at the trip meeting. Please mark your calendars now for the trip meeting, **Thursday, March 9, 2017.**

Mrs. Barbara Comeaux will be compiling and preparing goody bags for the trip. Please contact Barbara at 298-8774 to see what you can donate for the goody bags. All items can be brought to Barbara at the trip meeting on March 9th.

### **SAN ANTONIO REHEARSALS**

The performing ensemble for the San Antonio trip will be a combination of the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band and Concert Band. As such, there will be the need for extra rehearsals to combine the three ensembles. These rehearsals are listed on the band calendar of events found on the website. They are as follows: Tuesday, March 21st - 2:45-5:00, Wednesday, March 22nd - 6:30-8:30, Friday, March 24th - 2:45-5:00, Tuesday, March 28th - 6:30-8:30, Wednesday, March 29th - 2:45-5:00 and Tuesday, April 4th - 2:34-5:00.

Attendance is mandatory for all musicians participating in the band trip, there will be very few exceptions. Please contact Mr. Smith if there are any questions.

### **HONOR BAND MEMBERS**

The Comeaux Band Program would like to congratulate a few of its members who attained membership in area honor bands.

Member of the Southeastern University Honors Winds were: Allison Boudreaux - Flute, Graham Coleman - Trombone, Dawson Dew - French Horn, Lauren Domingue - Alto Sax and Bryson Dronet - Bassoon.

Participating in the All-South Honor Band at the University of Mississippi were Lauren Domingue - Alto Saxophone and Alex Pipkins - Bari Saxophone.

The McNeese University All-Region Honor Band included: Allison Boudreaux - Flute Rachel Choate - Clarinet, Graham Coleman - Trombone, Nathan - Davis - Alto Sax, Alex Luyando - Tenor Sax, Victoria Martin - Flute and Alex Pipkins - Bari Sax.

Congratulations to these students on their wonderful accomplishments.



## **BUICK TEST DRIVE March 11, 2017**

This year the band program has an opportunity to participate in a unique fund raiser. It requires no sale of tickets or merchandise. In fact, there is no order form or collection of monies. Courtesy Buick of Lafayette will hold a "Buick Test Drive" event at Comeaux High school. The event will take place on Saturday, March 11th from 9:00am - 5:00pm. For every person, 21 years of age or older, who completes a simple survey and does a 10 minute test drive, Buick will donate \$10.00 to the band program. If we have 100 or more participants the donation will be \$20.00 per test drive.

There are very few requirements: 1) participant must be 21 years of age or older, 2) one participant per living address, 3) The survey must be completed (before & after test drive) and the test drive taken to qualify for the donation. That's it, it's that simple.

So, what do we need from our band and Band Boosters? Advertise, and promote!!!! We need to contact as many individuals as possible and ask them to help the band by test driving a vehicle. There's no push to purchase a car, no pressure. This is a promotion by GMC/Buick. A flyer has been posted on the band website, it's also been emailed home a few times already. Please email this flyer and send it out on social media (any social media that you have available to you). We must use the "gorilla" advertising technique to make this event a success.

There will be the need of having a few Boosters at school the day of the event to help in set-up (tents, tables, chairs etc.) and to help guide participants through the process. Mr. Rob Ours is the chairperson for this event. His contact number is 515-0069. If you are able to help in anyway and at anytime on March 11th, please contact Rob. Let's spread the word and get as many people to the test drive as possible!

---

## **BINGO**

The Comeaux Backer's Organization is continuing to sponsor Bingo Sessions at Metro Bingo. Sessions are held on Friday's (8:30pm - 1:30am) and Sunday's (12:30pm - 5:00pm) at the Metro Bingo on the Evangeline thruway toward Carencro.

To work bingo you must first join the Comeaux Backer's. Krista Sansone, our Booster President is also the Vice-President of the Backer's. You can contact Krista at 654-0896 to obtain a registration form. There is no fee to join the Backer's.

Mrs. Nicole Choplin does the scheduling for the Bingo Sessions. After joining the Backer's you may contact Nicole at 224-4442 to schedule sessions. It is important that once you've scheduled a session that you do, in fact, work the session.

Presently sessions pay as follows \$80.00 for a workers & callers and \$160 for a manager. You may train to be a caller or manager and both positions are in high demand. Monthly the Backer's will make a donation to the Comeaux Band for the amount worked. Fifty percent (50%) is credited to the band student's ledger and fifty percent (50%) is credited to the band program. Remember that the amount credited to the band program will be debited from the student's fund raising proportion for that semester.

If your name is not on the Bingo Workers List it should be. This is a great way to earn monies for your band ledger and support the Comeaux Spartan Band! If you have any questions please contact Krista, Nicole or the band office 981-1096.

**CONTACT INFO**

Band Office: 521-7294      100 West Bluebird St., Lafayette, LA 70508

**Chris Smith**

Director of Bands  
cbsmith@lpssonline.com  
337-303-5851 cell

**Scott Geiger**

Associate Director of Bands  
sdgeiger@lpssonline.com  
337-573-5393 cell

**BOOSTER MEETINGS**

March 23  
(Band Trip Mtg.)  
May 18

Meetings begin at 6:30  
in the band room.

**BOOSTER CHAIRPERSONS**

<b>BAND SECRETARY</b>	Kathleen Prather	349-3060
<b>BINGO SCHEDULE</b>	Nicole Choplin	224-4442
<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>		
President	Krista Sansone	654-0896
Vice– President	Christy Dew	303-3489
Treasurer	Stephanie Choate	501-2464
Secretary	Sostan Babineaux	519-6131
Public Relations	Tom Coleman	214-549-1492
Dance Rep.	Barbara Comeaux	298-8774
Guard Rep.	Tonia Young	212-4891
General Member	Kathleen Prather	349-3060
<b>CAR SHOW</b>	Tonny/Kelli Touchet	739-6072
<b>CAR WASH</b>	Margueritte Hoffman	581-0369
	Marla Ours	349-8100
<b>CONCERT GREETER</b>	Stephanie Choate	501-2464
<b>CRAWFISH BOIL</b>	Carey Lavergne	207-9323
<b>CHAPERONES</b>	Christy Dew	303-3489
<b>CONCESSIONS</b>	Jessica Couvillon	517-6825
<b>EQUIPMENT CREW</b>	Clayton Choate	303-6036
<b>FISH FRY LUNCH</b>	Alyson Trahan	985-688-8215
<b>GUARD SHOW</b>	Tonia Young	212-4891
<b>UNIFORM MOM</b>	Mindy Portier	344-8422
<b>HYDRATION-MEDICAL</b>	Heather Moore	852-9814
	Daniel Fontenot	552-7451



## SPARTAN BAND SPONSORS 2016-17

When possible please patronize these establishments and vendors. Without these sponsors the Comeaux Band would not be able to accomplish it's many endeavors. If you're able thank them for their support of the "*Spectacular Band from Spartan Land.*"

*Super 1 Foods*

*3D International Custom Sign & Design*

*Adrien's Supermarket*

*Albertson's Supermarket*

*Congress Cleaners*

*Comeaux Backers*

*Heleaux's Grocery*

*Home Depot*

*Lafayette Music, Co.*

*Little Caesars Pizza*

*Nouveau Photo*

*NuNu's Fresh Market*

*Pizza Village*

*Scott's Drum Center*

*Texas Roadhouse*