

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



Hello Boosters & Students,

The end of March always brings with it the "light at the end of the tunnel." Yes the school year is almost over, but the key word is "almost." There are many event still to come. I caution you to not give up, don't start looking at the end and planning your after school year activities. To do so could mean an unsuccessful end to the current school year.

Some of the remaining up-coming events are: Recital Night, Winter Guard Circuit Championships, San Antonio Trip, Rhythm in Bleu Auditions, Comeaux Band Car Show Spectacular, Senior Send Off, Drum Major Auditions, Spring Concert, Color Guard Auditions, Percussion Line Auditions, Band Crawfish Boil, Band Awards Banquet, End-of-Year Auditions, Graduation and let's not forget EOC testing and final exams. As you can see there's quite a bit left on the agenda for the 2016-17 school year.

That being said, Mr. Geiger and I have begun working on the calendar and handbook for next school year. There will be a few changes for next year, one of the largest being the addition of the Performing Arts Academy to Ovey Comeaux High School. We welcome those students who will join the ranks of the Spartan Band. The calendar for 2017-18 will be posted by May 1st. Summer dates will be emailed home by Friday, May 31st; they will also be posted on the website under calendar.

The May Booster Organization meeting will bring with it the voting on the new board of officers for next school year. Presently those nominated are: President - Toni Poe, Vice-President - Daniel Fontenot, Treasurer - Stephanie Choate, Secretary - Tonya Perry, Dance Rep. - Nicole Choplin, Guard Rep - Margueritte Hoffman, and the Public Relations Officer has no one nominated at this time. The board meets to plan up-coming band events and fund raisers. Board meetings are usually held the second week of each month. If you are interested in running for a particular office or would like more information please email me or call the band office.

I'd like to congratulate the members of the Comeaux Wind Symphony on a very fine performance at the Large Ensemble Assessment. Superior ratings and sweepstakes trophies are wonderful awards and rewards for all of the hard work the students put into preparing for the performance, but the student's excitement of their performance means more to me than any award. When the students know they've made a connection with the audience through their musical performance that's the icing on the cake. Bravo to the Wind Symphony on a wonderful performance.

I'm looking forward to a great trip to San Antonio next week. The trip band will be ready for their performance, the question is, will Sea World and Fiesta Texas be ready for the Spartan Band. Let's make this a wonderful, relaxing, successful trip!

Stay focused and finish the year strong. Look ahead, but don't look past your responsibilities and obligations. Seniors, enjoy these next five weeks, they'll be over before you know it. Here's to a great end of the semester.  
Chris

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

Boosters,

Persistence, it's not easy. Often revered. When you boil down to it, it's all mental. The capability to make yourself keep going, even when you don't want to. Right about this time of year, I'd like to coast to the end. Sure, there seems like a lot on the plate, but a lot of those are performances of a lot of stuff that has been prepared. There's always things to do, but if you pare back all the muck, coasting wouldn't be too difficult. Then I have to remind myself that by coasting, there's a lot of things that won't get done the way they should be. I'm going to have to remind myself of this as my wife has signed us up for a 5k run in Youngsville at the end of April. So we need to remain persistent. Please continue to remember this as you practice, or as you study. Know that your persistence now will help in the future. I'm sure that continuing to practice your scales is not fun, and, for the most part, you feel like you can play them well. My offer will always stand about getting a perfect score on your scales, not making honor band, and buying you dinner ANY place in the world. To even give that a remote chance, staying on top of them at appropriate tempos takes persistence on your part. So continue to push yourself, remain persistent, and know that your future self will be very thankful you did. Scott

## **DANCE & GUARD AUDITIONS**

Auditions for Rhythm in Bleu will take place on Tuesday-Friday, April 25-28. Auditions will be in the girls gym from 4:30-6:30. Audition packets are available through the band office and applications are due in by Thursday, April 13th.

Color Guard auditions will take place on Monday-Friday, May 8-12. Auditions will be held in the girls gym from 4:30-6:30. Anyone interested in auditioning should contact the band office for more information.

## **BAND AWARDS BANQUET 2017**

This year's Band Awards Banquet will be held on Monday, May 15th. The site for the event will be Le Pavillon in Parc Lafayette. Tickets will be available soon and will be priced at \$22.00. All students and family members are welcome. All attending will need to purchase tickets. Students may use their ledgers to purchase tickets for themselves and their family members. Doors will open at 6:30 with dinner served at 7:00. As soon as the tickets are available parents and students will be notified. Also, as soon as the menu is decided upon it will be made available. Dress for the evening is shirt and tie for gentleman and dress or skirt and blouse for ladies. A big thank you to Mr. Geiger for taking the lead on locating a facility that could handle our needs, yet stay within a reasonable budget.



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

Hello April and Band Boosters!



There are No fools in our Band! Our members are smart and determined as well as hard workers. They have put their heart and soul into their music. Our kids have worked so hard this year and learned so much. As our school year draws to an end, I can't help but be a little sad that it is my last year with the Comeaux Band. I have come to love the band members as if they were my own. It was such a joy to be able to experience their joys and help them through their troubles. I try to stay focused on the up-coming fun that we have to look forward to. We have our amazing Crawfish Boil coming up on May 12 and an our trip to San Antonio April 6-9 as well as our Band Awards Banquet. The next two months will be full of new adventures for the band as well as loads of fun. Krista

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything,” Plato

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## **LETTER OF INTENT 2017**

- The Letter of Intent mailing for the 2017-18 school year will be mailed on Friday, March 31st. This form will let the Comeaux Band Program know of your intentions for next school year.
- Plans have already begun by way of band calendar, summer dates, performances, etc. Please be sure to return this form by Friday, April 28th. Should you have any questions please contact or see Mr. Geiger or Mr. Smith.

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## **BUICK TEST DRIVE**



Thanks to Rob Ours for chairing the 1st Comeaux Buick Test Drive. It's our hope that this event can become an annual one for the Band Program.

There were 106 test drives on the Saturday of the event. This will equate to about \$2120 for the band program. While this sounds like a successful fund raiser, and it's nothing to sneeze at, it's not close to what could have been realized. Unfortunately we feel a bit short of our goal of 300 test drives. There at 148 member of the band program and we felt strongly that with support from family members, friends, faculty, alumni and our current Booster Organization, that 300 was not too lofty a goal. The test drive experience, including the survey prior to and immediately after the test drive took on average, 15 minutes to complete.

Next year we must raise our goal to the maximum number of 500 and get more of our parents to participate. This truly is the easiest of fund raisers! Rob Ours did a great job in communicating with Buick and the band directors. Mr. Geiger did a great job of organizing the set-up and we also thank Donald Myers, the District Sales Manager for GMC, for his help in making this event possible.

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



Wrapping up the season is always the hardest part. After months of blood, sweat, and tears that went into the process of creating and perfecting our shows we will be ending our season very soon at circuit championships. The process has been very rewarding for myself and the members, we have learned a lot about how to rehearse and what works best for us as a unit. The growth that has been seen because of this is phenomenal. Elite is now able to pick up on choreography and the detailing of the choreography quicker and easier than ever before. Bleu is now able to achieve things that they never thought they would be able to achieve. It has been such a privilege to watch our first year members grow as spinners throughout the season. The fact that they are now all proficient in dance, flag, and rifle is amazing and will help us in the years to come in growing this program to be the best that it can be.

While we are moving into our last week of the competitive season we are working on consistency and being perfectly confident in every count of our show. Consistency, confidence, and performance quality will be the attributes that will take our performances to the next level. Both groups are expected to score very well at circuit championships and I cannot wait for them to all be on the floor to accept their rewards for their hard work. After championships we will begin the recruiting process and start right back from square one as a stronger unit in hopes of making ourselves better for the upcoming year. Morrice

## ***COMEAX BAND CRAWFISH BOIL 2017***



The 3rd annual Comeaux Band Crawfish Boil will be held on Friday, May 12th. B&L will be the boilers and meals will included 3 lbs. of Crawfish and a potato. Tickets are \$15.00 each. Two dollars for each ticket sold will be credited to the students ledger.

All students will receive 15 tickets on Friday, March 31st. Monies and unsold tickets are due to the band office by end of school on Friday, May 5th. Additional tickets are available through the band office.

Help will be needed, but only to bag the boxed crawfish, collect tickets and deliver to vehicles in the pick-up line. Dinners will be available for pick-up from 4:00-7:00pm on Friday, May 12th. If you are able to help please contact our chairperson, Carey Lavergne at 207-9323. Our goal is to sell 1000 tickets, that's roughly 7 tickets per student. We can make this happen!

## ***RHYTHM IN BLEU DOMINATES IN NEW ORLEANS 2017***

Congratulations to the members of Rhythm in Bleu who participated in the VIP Dance Competition in New Orleans, LA. The line did very well earning high gold ratings on both dances. The Jazz routine won 1st in class and the Hip Hop 2nd in class. The trip was a huge success both on and off the stage. The girls enjoyed the Audubon Zoological Gardens and the Aquarium of the Americas as well as a day in the French Quarter with a ghost tour to round out the evening. Thanks to all those who chaperoned the trip!!

## ***WINTER GUARD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017***

The Comeaux Winter Guards "Elite" and "Bleu" will be participating in the 2017 Louisiana Mississippi Color Guard and Percussion Circuit Championships on Saturday, April 1st. The event will be held at the Thibodaux Civic Center in Thibodaux, LA. Blue will perform at 11:31 and Elite at 4:16. Both units have worked very hard this year and have placed themselves in a position to medal this year. With a good performance on Saturday both Elite and Bleu have the opportunity to place in the top three in their respective classes. Wish the girls luck as they continue to work hard in this last week of Winter Guard season.

## **JUST DANCE, Victoria Domingue, Instructor**



Congratulations to the girls for their stellar performance at VIP competition in New Orleans. Both dance numbers earned the highest scores in their division: The Jazz routine earned 1<sup>st</sup> place and the Hip Hop a close 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The team had a wonderful experience in New Orleans and was able to bond as a team, becoming closer than ever.

The girls worked diligently cleaning and perfecting their routines, and their performance truly reflected that hard work and dedication. What a phenomenal end to our competition season. I could not be more proud of these ladies pushing through these last few weeks sick or not and putting on an award-winning performance. This season has been nothing short of amazing to see how they have faced and overcome challenges and grown as a team.

Now that competition season is at an end, the team is focusing on their skills and bettering themselves individually, as well as, bettering the team. Auditions are quickly approaching, and our focus is turning toward the future and our goals for the upcoming season. Let's make it a great one!

This is also a time for goodbyes. While I am sad to see our seniors go and will miss them dearly, they are all amazing girls and destined to do great things. Thank you for a memorable season and all that you have done.

A special thanks to all of our parents that were chaperones as well as those who drove to New Orleans to support the girls at their competition. Also to Mr. Smith for ensuring that the team had a smooth and stupendous trip. We can't thank you enough for all you do. Victoria

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



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



## **GRADUATION 2017**

This year's high school graduation will be held on Saturday, May 20th. Graduation is held at the Cajun Dome. Comeaux's graduation will be at 4:00pm and will be over by 5:30pm. Report time for all students is 3:00pm. Dress for graduation is shirt and tie for gentleman and dress or skirt & blouse for ladies. No spaghetti straps, sandals, tennis shoes or flip flops should be worn.

Rehearsals from graduation will be on Wednesday, May 17th, Thursday, May 18th and Friday, May 19th. All rehearsals will be from 2:45 - 4:30. All student musicians not graduating are expected to participate in the graduation performance. No one will be excused for this performance. This year's Spartan Band has 30 musicians graduating. All remaining students will be needed to perform the graduation ceremony music.



## COMEAX CAR SHOW SPECTACULAR

The 3rd annual Comeaux Band Car Show Spectacular will be held on Saturday, April 29th. The event will be held in the parking lot of Comeaux High from 10am - 3pm. There is no admission for spectators. Car registration is \$25.00 through April 10th and \$30.00 after April 10th. Vendor registration is also \$25.00 through April 10th and \$30.00 after April 10th. The forms for both registrations can be found on the home page of the Comeaux Band website ([www.comeauxband.com](http://www.comeauxband.com)). Also on the website is a flyer that can be downloaded and emailed to any and all friends. It's important that we get the word out about the car show.



In addition to the show cars (and that could include any motor vehicle), there will be food trucks and entertainment for all. Make plans to come out and spend a few hours enjoying the cars on display and visiting the vendor booths.

There will be need for a few helpers the day of the show. If you are able to help with set-up, registration, or clean-up, please contact our chairperson Kelli Touchet at 739-6072 or the band room at 521-7294. Let's make this the biggest and best show yet!

## 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**

May 18

Meetings begin at 6:30  
in the band room.

**BOOSTER CHAIRPERSONS**

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