

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



Hello Boosters,

So Thanksgiving is almost upon us. The air is a bit nippier, the rain a little less, and at least in the band world, a little less going little less busy. This is not a bad thing, it's actually a good thing for us to be able to relax a bit, think about where we've been and where we're going. Knowing how we're going to get there is always important. The remaining year brings a Christmas Concert, LMEA Large Ensemble Assessment, Rhythm in Bleu competition trip to New Orleans, Small Ensemble rehearsals/concert, Percussion Ensemble rehearsals/concert, Winter Guard Circuit Shows, San Antonio Trip, the Spring Concert and the annual Band Awards Banquet.

I'm super thankful for having such a wonderful group of young people to work with on a daily basis. Although the marching season has ended, and much of the physical work is over, the musical work, the learning to become a better musician never ends. Over the last month of the marching season I sensed a change in our rehearsal etiquette. Students seemed to be more in tune to what's going on around them. The over-all demeanor at rehearsals changed for the better. I take this as a good sign for the future.

There are many people that I am thankful for and at the risk of leaving anyone out I'm going to thank them all. Mrs. Christy Dew, our Booster Vice-President has done an awesome job in setting up chaperones and attending to the needs of our band and boosters during the football season. I am most thankful for her efforts, time and talents. Our Booster President, Ms. Krista Sansone was helpful in setting up meals for the band prior to our festivals. Mrs. Jessica Couvillon, the concessions chair was once again this year phenomenal in handling the football concessions. A huge thank you to the forgotten men of the equipment crew (Clayton Choate, Lee Martin, Kenny Perry, Mark Antoine, and the band managers (Stephanie LeBlanc, Jori Jordan, Justin Walker, Dylan Clostio, Dakota Chilton and Ian Suire). The members of the Booster Board in addition to those mentioned above (Stephanie Choate, Tonia Young, Barbara Comeaux, Kathleen Prather, Tom Coleman and Sostan Babineaux) I am most grateful for, giving their time and energy monthly to serve the Spartan Band. All the member of our Band Boosters who have helped in some way as chaperones, workers or just there for encouragement I thank you for your support. I'm also very thankful to those members of the Comeaux Band Program, who put forth great effort to become the best they can be. It's a pleasure to work with you and watch you grow as musicians, dancers, spinners and young men and women.

As we enter this holiday season let's not forget about those things most important like family and practicing, begin grateful for what we have and practicing, friends and practicing, waking up each morning with a new day ahead and practicing. Yep that's right we need to keep practicing our horns to continue to grow as musicians. Now that marching season is over and there are less requirements as to time for band, mom and dad should hear more of the old horn being practiced at home. Students should look to practice at least 45 minutes five days per week. So parents, if you don't hear the instrument often enough, ask your son/daughter to pull it out of the case and play a little something for you. You, I and all will be happy you did.

Have a happy Thanksgiving and I hope to see everyone at the Christmas Concert on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Chris

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



Boosters,

You just cannot say it enough. I'm not sure it's possible; just being as fortunate as we are to have so many parents that help in so many ways... incredible. Thank you. Again and again and again, thank you. You mean the world to us, your children, and all the students here. I know that some don't always make you feel that way, but just seeing how students react when you're not there... they need you. So, thank you. You are appreciated.

A lot of things are coming up. Honor band. Did your child sign up? If not, why? Talk about being asked to push themselves. What a great experience. You need to let your child know that they need to do this next year. The possibilities it will open up are incredible. What they can say to a band director when going in to play for a scholarship in marching or concert band in college! Making honor band is a HUGE ordeal. It's like getting a raise or promotion each time you do it. Just a little bit more to be proud of, a little more responsibility to be shown to those that see your resume or applications, and a little bit more pride you carry with yourself knowing that you rose to the occasion. So, if your child tries out and doesn't make it? I believe they had that feeling the first time they tried walking. Good thing they didn't have a defeatist attitude then! They need to pick themselves up and try again! Why, because they can learn so much from doing it. It's a lot of pressure when they go in that room and a judge is behind the screen. They're being judged! Isn't that what they will undergo their whole life? Learning how to handle it now, and packing in the pressure will allow them to handle stress later on in college and in "real life". THESE are the valuable life lessons we take from school and band. Handling stress, being on time, work ethic, working with others we don't like, trying to constantly avoid drama that is completely unnecessary. These are things that we all know... don't go away when we get older.

I am looking forward to our future concerts that will be upon us before we know it. Of course we have our Christmas Concert, but not long after we will be at Large Ensemble Festival, Trips, Recital Night, Percussion Ensemble concert, and the Spring Concert... not to mention graduation. Realize graduation is in 6 months from now... and there's about 4 weeks the students aren't in school. Then... well, we start all over again. We continue to learn from each other, grow the organization, and strive to be consistently better. I will finish off my article with a quote from Dean Westman (via Facebook). Dean teaches at Avon High School near Indianapolis. They tied for 1st at BOA last weekend. Dean also is the program coordinator for the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps (where I marched, and who placed first in DCI this year). Dean has taught at Stephen F Austin High School in San Antonio, and currently teaches (and started) the orchestra program at Avon. The program, started 6 years ago in their middle school, and has over 200 kids in just the high school string program. Here's what Dean reflected on after their BOA finish:

*Young and Future Music Educators are always looking for that magic wand to create a world class program. The older I get, the more I see that win, lose, or end up in an historic draw...you wake up, get back to work, and keep pushing kids to grow...and you do it with love and joy in your heart.*

Keep pushing. Scott

## **CONCESSIONS 2016**



Hot Dogs! Hamburgers! Cold Drinks! Get your Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Cold Drinks at the Comeaux Band Concessions Stand. Well, that's over for this year. A huge Spartan Thanks goes to Mrs. Jessica Couvillon for chairing concessions once again this year. This marks the end of Jessica's reign as Concessions Chair. A big kudos you to all who have worked concessions this year. You're an amazing group and certainly know what dedication and service mean. What an example you set for our students!

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

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



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

Congratulations to the entire Band on an incredible marching season!!! This year's half-time show was so very entertaining and Rhythm in Bleu along with myself and Mrs. Victoria Domingue thoroughly enjoyed watching the show develop as the season went on. So many entertaining aspects and creative details added to the overall effect of this show making it quite fun to watch!!! We are so proud to be a part of such an amazing group of musicians, spinners and dancers, and of course, quite lucky to have the incredible staff we have been blessed with. Thanks to all of you for your support of the dance line this year. Your encouraging words and complimentary remarks directed at the girls following each performance really makes a difference in their confidence and therefore in the quality of future performances as well...which leads me to the next topic I'd like to share with you.



Just as the band will begin working on Concert Band performances and the color guard on Winter Guard season, the dance line is about to begin rehearsals for their spring competition in New Orleans, in March of 2017. They will bring three different styles of dances to the competition: hip hop, jazz, and contemporary/lyrical dance. The girls did a top notch job of learning, mastering, and performing a different routine each week this past season. It gave them the training they needed to improve on the time it takes for them to learn new choreography in the future. Combined with strict technical instruction and fast learning, this team has the potential to do very well in each category of the competition. Mrs. Victoria and I are very excited to begin working on these routines and preparing for the competition.

Finally, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to express my thanks to all of the parent volunteers that made this marching season a success. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving everyone! Jennifer



## **REHEARSALS**

What's a band that never rehearses as a full ensemble, not a very good band!

When rehearsals are scheduled for any ensemble in the Comeaux Band Program (Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Color Guard, Dance Line, Percussion Line, Small Ensembles, Percussion Ensemble, Marching Band) students are expected to be in attendance if they are members of the ensemble. The directors/instructors work very hard to keep in mind time demands on students. It is expected that students/parents will make every effort to schedule other appointments outside of scheduled rehearsals. It's impossible to reach your potential and be successful when everyone is not at rehearsal. Rehearsal is where the real work happens.

## **END-of-MARCHING SEASON PARTY**

Many thanks to the wonderful moms who generously donated cakes, cookies and other goodies to our End of Season party on November 4! The students had a wonderful time and appreciated the treats. Thank you also to the moms and dads who helped to set up and clean up, and to Scott Geiger for the entertainment.



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



The past few months proved to be worth all of our hard work and determination. I cannot explain in words how proud Courtney and I were of the guard at the Louisiana Showcase of Marching Bands performance. The color guard showed a wide range of skill, performance quality, and focus. The performance, in general, was very exciting and I'm sure that the girls had fun performing the show that they have worked so many hours on perfecting in front of such a large crowd at Cajun Field. The season ended with our color guard receiving a superior rating, and the guard was very happy and proud of this accomplishment.

After such a great ending of marching season, it is going to set us up for a great start to our winter guard season. This season will be very eventful! The teams were set last week, and right now we are perfecting the techniques we learned earlier in the year. Next month we will start on actually constructing our winter productions. Our Bleu team will be performing to "Colorblind" from Glee, sung by Amber Riley. The song is about someone taking away our positivity and regaining it in the end. All of the kids on the team knew the song already and they were excited to find out it would be their show. Our Elite team will be performing to "Purple" by Fatai. This song is a more sophisticated; it's a lot about empowerment. The show will be focused around the Surfinia Purple Vein Pertunia, which is one of the strongest and independently fragrant flowers. It starts off very soft and pretty and then gets to be very intense and dramatic by the end of the selection. I loved seeing the student's reaction to this, they were immediately intrigued from beginning to end. I really cannot wait to get started on writing these shows. We have a lot of big plans to play around with that will set our shows apart from any other. It excites me knowing that our members are also excited to learn. This will be a season to remember for our Comeaux High School winter guard programs.

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

The San Antonio trip is set and all is a go. The next payment will be due on January 13th. The cost of the trip will be slightly less than originally stated. An email will be sent to all participants with the new payment amounts.

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.

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2016**



The annual Comeaux Band Program Christmas Concert will be held on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Bayou Church on Kaliste Saloom Rd. The concert will begin at 7:00pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

Featured will be the Comeaux Wind Symphony and the combined Symphonic and Concert Bands. The ensembles will perform medleys of Christmas, some very well-known others more obscure.

If you can help in promoting the concert please let us know. We will have flyers available after the Thanksgiving break if you know of a business that may agree to help us advertise our student's performance.

Bring the family and a friend to the concert. It's always fun to play to a "packed-house." If everyone brings a friend the Bayou Church will be filled and all will enjoy a great beginning to the Christmas Season. See you on December 12th.

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

Hey Comeaux Band!



I'm sure most of you all are glad that the weather is finally cooling down! I hope you are all continuing to work on your honor band music. Remember, scales are worth more than your prepared pieces, so really try to nail your scales.

I think we can all step up our work ethic when it comes to playing as an ensemble. The Christmas concert is quickly approaching and we really need to focus in on what needs to be done to make the concert a success. If you have not started practicing your parts then you are way behind schedule. We should be coming to rehearsal ready to RE-HEARSE, not PRACTICE. These two words mean two different things. Practicing is learning your own part, and rehearsing is taking your learned part, and learning how your part fits in with everyone else. When rehearsing, think about tone, blending, balance, etc. Also, please invite your friends and family to the Christmas Concert.

Keep up the hard work, and it will really pay off! Dawson Dew, Comeaux Band President

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

The Rhythm in Bleu trip to New Orleans to participate in the VIP Dance Competition is well into the planning stages. There are 17 students, 14 chaperones and 3 director/instructors participating.



- While the trip is not completely planned the total cost looks like it will be less than expected. As soon as the trip is complete and the price set all will be notified. The next trip payment is due on Thursday, January 13th. The amount will be forwarded to participants as soon as it is finalized.

- 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.

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## **FUND RAISING PROPORTION**

The fund raising proportion (\$100.00) is due on Thursday, December 1st. Funds raised in the various fund raisers through the semester that benefit the band program will be debited from the \$100.00. Families are responsible for the difference. Please refer to the band handbook, page 31 for more information. The proportion will be debited from the student's band ledger. Please be sure that your son/daughter's ledger is in balance.

**CONTACT INFO**

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

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**BOOSTER MEETINGS**

January 19  
March 23  
(Band Trip Mtg.)  
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*