

# BOOSTER BYTES

## Booster Happenings



What an amazing band year this has been. And the truly great news is that we are just halfway. We have seen excellent performances from our tenured Upperclassmen, and eager Freshmen. Our parents have continued to step up and accomplish incredible things and all the while having tons of fun and sustaining and building great friendships. At the recent Jazz and Winter concerts it was like a homecoming, as we ran into folks that we

haven't seen since marching contest season came to a dramatic close at OBA or the football season ended with a playoff flourish in Jenks.

This organization has much to be proud of this year from our third place finish at OBA to great accomplishments in CODA and All-State auditions and huge congratulations to Grant Bingham for his selection to the Music for All National Festival Honor Band. Grant we can't wait to hear

all the stories from Indianapolis.

Are you keeping up with everything that is going on? Make sure that you bookmark [www.bulldogband.com](http://www.bulldogband.com) for the latest news and happenings. We are also on Facebook, become a fan of the Edmond Memorial Band.

## Did You Know??

Did you know that ...?

- SAT takers with coursework or experience in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal and 41 points higher on the math than students with no course work or experience in the arts. ~ *The College Board Profile of College-Bound Seniors National Report*
- The very best engineers and technical designers in Silicon Valley are, nearly without

exception, practicing musicians. ~ *"The Paradox of the Silicon Savior," Grant Venerable*

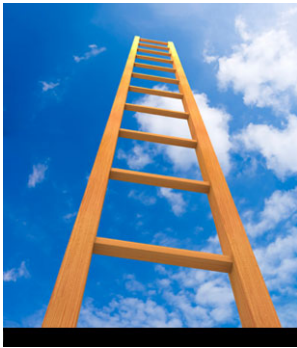
- Music is one of the seven intelligences identified in the brain, and is the only one that activates all seven intelligences simultaneously. Thus students who participate in music courses exercise more of their brain than in any other course they take in school.

- The nation's top business executives agree that arts education programs can help repair weaknesses in American education and better prepare workers for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. ~ *"The Changing Workplace is Changing our View of Education," Business Week, October 1996*

### Upcoming Events:

- Feb 8<sup>th</sup> – Booster Meeting 7:00 in the Band Room
- Feb 10<sup>th</sup> – Final Spring Trip payment due

## Why does the band need my support?



The goal is to accomplish 4 things:

- ♪ *Success in Society*
- ♪ *Success in School*
- ♪ *Success in Developing Intelligence*
- ♪ *Success in Life*

As we read on the previous page there are many benefits to music and performing arts education in the schools and we are really lucky to partner with an administration that supports these activities. Many of you are aware that the board does much more than provide meals for contests and constantly plead for volunteers. One of our key functions is to partner with Ms. Feroli and the Band Staff to make sure that our kids are supported to a standard of excellence that is virtually second to none.

At a recent gathering of a handful of parents and Ms. Feroli the subject of "Our Mission" came up, and this is an appropriate time to let you know what we are working on. We agreed that our mission is simple and drives to creating an environment that accomplishes 4 things:

1. Prepare our children to achieve *Success in Society*.
2. Allow them to attain *Success in School*.
3. Give them an opportunity to drive *Success in Developing Intelligence*.
4. And nurture them to have *Success in Life*.

Each of these tenets is a collective expectation between the Booster Board, the parents,

the staff, and the administration. This is great news. Especially at a time when arts budgets are being slashed across the country and arts education programs are the "first to go".

One important note is the support of our administration for the hard work of Ms. Feroli and her staff. Did you know that Dr. Bendick was given a budget this year that was 10% less than the previous year, but the amount that was allocated to the Orchestra and Band stayed constant from the previous year? Are you also aware that it takes upwards of \$65,000 a year to run our outstanding program, of which less than 10% comes from the school, another 40% comes from the assessment that we collect and the balance (more than \$30,000) is raised through fundraisers and community activities? Many marching programs of our caliber operate in a significantly different manner, from participation based on audition to requiring assessments in excess of \$500. This is one of the keys that make our program different. We welcome all participants that wish to be part of the Bulldog Band; we also are not willing to price the experience out of the ballpark for our families. As a result we need to band together to work harder, think creatively and promote a sense of community within our

organization. You will hear more about all these efforts as we continue to build the Bulldog Band program to be a World-Class organization for the students, the parents, the staff, the administration, and the community at large.

Over the coming months you will hear more about our mission as we drive to creating a clear, and concise mission statement for the organization as well as establishing some short-term and long-term goals. In the meantime please take advantage of this opportunity to chat with one of the board members or band staff about your views or ideas to make this an even more beneficial program for our performers.

We would like to take a moment to thank everyone for their hard work so far this year as we continue the concert seasons and prepare for the spring trip, ensemble contests, Winter Guard and plenty of other events. We also want to remind everyone that the hard work is not over, we still have a **significant** amount of money to raise to meet our needs for the balance of the year and to prepare for the coming marching season. Please stay open to helping us meet our goals so that we can continue the world-class program and success that we have all come to expect. Thank you for your continued support.