

Notes From the Conductors Podium

It is difficult to believe we are approaching the end of an entire semester of school! In just a couple of weeks students and staff will be on Winter Break and begin preparation for semester exams in January 2007. The band staff and I want to thank each student and parent for all of their hard work and sacrifice, which contributed to the successful Kings Marching Band season that just concluded. Each band student, parent and staff member owe a special thanks to Mr. Dave Thompson for the countless hours of preparation that he put into the McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago. Students, parents and staff had a very memorable experience thanks to Dave's hard work!

The Kings Concert Band is currently preparing for the annual Holiday Concert on Monday evening, December 18 at 7:00 PM in the Kings Auditorium. Ensembles scheduled to perform are the Kings Saxophone Ensemble, the Kings Percussion Ensemble and the Kings Concert Band. The concert will certainly get us all in the Holiday Spirit as we head into our much needed Winter Holiday.

Congratulations to the following students: Molly Ryan, John Shumar and David Powell who were successful in their auditions for one of the three District 13 Honor Bands. They will all participate in the OMEA District 13 Honor Bands. The weekend rehearsal schedule will climax with a concert on Sunday afternoon, January 14. Congratulations also to David Powell who will participate in the Ohio All-State Band in Cleveland from February 8-10.

The Kings Band Department is pleased that both of our award winning winter ensembles, the winter guard and the winter drumline, have begun preparations for their competition seasons. These rehearsals will culminate with performances at the WGI World Championships during the month of April. The guard competes April 12-14 and the drumline from April 19-21. Local competition schedules for both groups will be available on the Kings Music Association website. <http://kingsmusicassociation.org/main.html>

The Kings Concert Band will also be in concert on Thursday, February 1 at 7:00 PM in the Kings Auditorium. March is a busy month because it is the annual OMEA Music in Our Schools Month. Additional concert dates will be discussed in future news articles. The award winning Cincinnati Youth Brass Band will compete at the annual NABBA Championships in Louisville, Kentucky from April 13-14. Many Kings brass players participate along with students from 17 area high schools. Greg Mills is the conductor. The Cincinnati Brass Band and Buddy Rogers Music sponsor the group.

May you each have a safe and blessed Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! Members of the Kings Band Department hope to see each of you at many performances over the next several months!

Greg Mills
Director of Instrumental Music



*Annual Holiday Concert on Monday evening,
December 18 at 7:00 PM in the Kings Auditorium*

From the Presidents

Happy Holidays to all KMA families! This time of year marks the end of marching band season but a new beginning for the excellent winter music programs. Winterguard and Drumline are hard at work preparing their shows and if you've been to a basketball game, you've heard the awesome pep band. Jazz Band has concluded their try-outs and is rehearsing as well. For KMA, the beat goes on as we do all we can to support the students and staff involved with these activities.

If you went to Chicago, I hope you agree that one of the best moments of the marching band season was seeing our band coming down the street. The kids did a great job – sounded good, looked good and made all of us proud. Thanks to parents, staff and students for making the Chicago trip a huge success. A special tip of the band hat to Dave Thompson for the excellent job he did arranging it all for us.

With all the publicity surrounding the opening of Great Wolf Lodge, how great that our band has a part in the opening ceremonies. Thank you to Barb Garich for thinking of this opportunity months ago and contacting Great Wolf. All of us appreciate her and Mr. Mills making it happen.

After the holidays, KMA will be busy planning for next year. This is a good time to consider what volunteer job (or jobs!) might interest you. Nominations for Board positions will be taken at the January meeting on the 8th. Please don't hesitate to contact someone who is working in a position to find out more. Volunteer jobs that are being vacated by senior parents already have things in place for next year, as that parent has done the job for several years. If you're interested, please ask – you might be surprised to find that it could be the right thing for you. A slate of officers is nominated in January, then voted on by the membership in February. As you recall, other volunteer positions and chairmanships are chosen at the time of marching band sign-ups. However, if you know now what you'd like to do next year, please let us know. Please give us a call over Christmas break to find out more. We'd be glad to talk it over.

To Mr. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Maegly and Mrs. Reeder – thank you from all of KMA for all you do every day for our students. We hope you have a fun, relaxing holiday season – especially relaxing! To all our friends in KMA, have a wonderful holiday. Hope to see you on Jan. 8.

Pat and Mike Cope



Mike's Me!



The Mike's Car Wash sale wraps up this Thursday! Please return your money (\$80) or any unsold coupons to Jennifer Lalli or to the black mailbox in the bandroom.

Also students are needed to sell any unsold coupons at Landen Kroger on December 16 & 17. Call Mrs. Lalli to volunteer, 398-5383.

Guard Update!

Winter Guard is off to a terrific start! We have 16 lovely girls spinning and dancing, anticipating another fun and successful season for Kings.

Our designer this year is Jonathan Schwartz, and he has already unfurled his innovative ideas. Show music is "Stairway to Heaven." New this year, we will have a digitized tarp instead of painting it ourselves. The tarp will be smaller and lighter, making it easier for the girls to roll up and carry. The picture on the tarp will be the Vatican Steps - very cool!

Jonathan has worked with the brilliant minds at Fred J. Miller to design a beautiful uniform. The prototype should be in soon. The girls are very excited about it, as it is feminine, yet is designed to be easy to move and dance in. Flag designs have also begun.

The first few seconds of the show is already on the floor, and the girls can't wait to perform what they know at the Campbell County Preview Show on January 20th and hear the judges' initial thoughts and comments. After that, competition season begins in earnest the first weekend of February and of course culminates at WGI Finals in Dayton the weekend of April 12-14.

We will have several fund-raisers this year, including Avon and Yankee Candle sales, but our biggest fund-raiser will be a vacation raffle. Stay tuned for more details on that!

The girls and staff will be working through the holidays on writing and drill design. We can't wait show everyone our 2007 show!

~ Denise Manderfield

Redbook Corrections!

Please contact Sherri Holzman at holzee@cinci.rr.com if your phone number or email address changes.



Happy Birthday!

December

- 5 - Megan Lang
- 26 - Sam Cox
- 29 - Andrea Acus
- 30 - Kevin Gentry

January

- 8- Ali Walker
- 10 - Jerin McIntosh
- 13 - Carly McMakin
- 15 - Daniel Powell
- 16 - Sam Blumer



District Parent Council

At the November District Parent Council, curriculum specialists Angie Thompson and Frank Wright presented a very informative discussion on Adequate Yearly Progress, the important component of the No Child Left Behind Act.

In a nutshell, Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, tracks the reading and math test scores of students in various sub-groups. It sets minimum passing rates for each test in each grade. If one school on one test does not meet the goal, the entire district has not met AYP.

The sub-groups include racial groups, economically disadvantaged students and learning disabled students. If a school has 30 African American students, for example, that constitutes a sub-group. Thirty economically disadvantaged students also constitutes a sub-group. A school must have at least 45 students with disabilities to constitute a sub-group. Some students may fall into more than one sub-group.

In Kings Schools, two sub-groups did not meet AYP last year. At Columbia, 67.7% of the economically disadvantaged students passed reading; the goal is 68.3%. At the junior high, 42.5% of the students with disabilities passed the math test; the goal was 47.4%.

What this means is that Kings is at risk of losing its Excellent rating from the state, which we've had for five consecutive years. If one sub-group does not meet the AYP goal in this spring's tests, the highest rating Kings will have is Continuous Improvement, even if it meets every other indicator set by the state.

How is it possible that Kings could meet every state indicator but still drop two ratings? The state expects a district to have at least 75% of students pass any given proficiency test. At Kings, we average about 90% of students passing proficiency tests. In fact, more than 60% of students score in the accelerated and advanced ranges. AYP breaks students down into subgroups so that schools can be sure that those who are economically disadvantaged, learning disabled and in racial minorities are learning at much the same rates as their peers.

Mr. Wright and Ms. Thompson outlined several steps the district is taking to help students achieve on the tests. Each student's scores are tracked and shared with their teachers. The teachers know exactly what questions students got right and wrong and can work with the students on their weak areas. Intervention specialists and tutors are also utilized. Aligning the curriculum to subject matter on the tests is constantly being done, and preparing students for the tests is a year-long process. Students who passed the tests by three or less correct answers are also targeted for intervention.

Another important fact to know is that Columbia and the junior high are targeted because this is where all the students in the district come together for the first time. There are not enough students at the K-4 elementary schools to make up sub-groups.

The other interesting fact is that every year the goals get higher; in 2014, the state and federal governments expect 100% of students to pass their achievement tests. For more information on AYP, contact any building principal, Mr. Wright, Ms. Thompson or Mrs. Blair.

~ Denise Manderfield, DPC Chair

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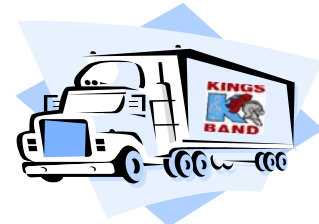
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Spotlight on Kings Band Alumnus

Mike Anderson **Kings Class of 1997**

This is a special spot light... one of our own needs some help. Mike Anderson was a member of the KHS Marching Band Class of 1997. He has been battling Muscular Dystrophy most, if not all of his life. His health has deteriorated to the point where he needs a respirator to breathe.

Many of our students know Mike's mother. She is employed by the Kings Local School District in the cafeteria at KHS. She is currently on leave of absence so she can take care of Mike's needs.

The family is in need of support. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season. If you would like to contribute funds, gift cards, etc. you can put them in the KMA mailbox, clearly marked for *The Anderson Family*. We will make sure it gets to them right away.

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KMA would like to focus the spotlight on another Kings Band Alumnus each month. If you know a Kings Band Alumni member, please encourage them to go to the KMA Web site and download the Alumni Profile form (under KMA Info and forms) and return it to us via the mail or email to Sherri Holzman at holzee@cinci.rr.com.

**Mark Your Calendar
and Join Us!
KMA Meeting
Monday, Jan. 8
7:00 pm
in the Choir Room**

**Please forward this newsletter to your son/daughter.
The information contained in each newsletter is for
BOTH parents and students!**