



# Pride News

The Pride of Herndon Newsletter

## Herndon Receives Honor Band Status—Third Year Running

The Herndon High School Symphonic and Wind Ensembles continued their tradition of excellence at the Virginia State Assessment evaluation on March 20 and 21, with the Wind Ensemble garnering an overall superior rating and Symphonic receiving an excellent rating.

Honor Band status is awarded to schools whose marching band and wind ensembles achieve an overall superior rating at the VBODA assessment and Virginia State Assessment respectively.

Senior Christine Horting, first chair trumpet, explained the talent of individuals, work ethic, and contributions to the ensemble as a whole that have led to the band’s success.

“We were able to get honor band for the past three years through a combination of talent and hard work. We have quite a bit of raw talent to begin with, then we practice to finesse our abilities... We understand that music is about the ensemble, not the player,” Horting said.

First chair saxophone, senior Laura Mister echoed the spirit of family that encompasses the ensembles.

“We are all just one big group of friends that love each other,” Mister said.

As director Kathleen Jacoby was out on maternity leave, interim director Stacey Kropaczek took over, preparing both bands for the competition.

Kropaczek praised the work on the part of the students and the support from the community.

“I’m going to miss coming to Herndon everyday, and I will definitely miss the kids. I can only hope other

schools are filled with such entertaining, helpful, driven people.”

For state assessment, bands perform a prepared program for three judges who grade in seven categories in areas such as intonation, rhythm, and balance. Bands then have seven minutes to scan a piece for sight reading they perform for the same judges.

But it is the students who take away much more from the experience than competition and a score, as the Pride’s seniors reflected on their experiences over the past four years.

“When I go to college, I will be bringing my confidence and leadership skills that the Pride of Herndon has taught me,” said Mister.

Horting echoed this sentiment, and reiterated the gratitude she feels over the love of music she has nurtured through her band experience.

“I will always remember that music is for enjoyment. It is imperative that you love every note...I will always remember how our band would become one force of sound on the stage, feeding off each other’s energies. It doesn’t matter what you do with music after high school. It just matters that you find peace in music.”



### All-State News

Three members of Herndon’s Wind Ensemble will participate in the Virginia All State Festival.

Page 3

### Indoor Guard Achievements

Herndon’s Indoor Colorguard achieved success in competition this season.

Page 4

### News and events

Drumline Takes Honors

Upcoming Events

Page 5

***HHSBPA Executive Officers*****President:** Robin Handy**Vice-President:** Mina Philips**Treasurer:** Dee Witmer**Assistant Treasurer, FCPS Accts:** Bruce Friedman**Secretary:** Cindy Rea

**HHSBPA**  
P.O.Box 1293  
Herndon, VA 20172-1293  
www.herndonband.net

***HHSBPA Board*****Communications Coordinator:** Vickie Thompson  
Newsletter: Sally Toner, PR: Jennifer Loudenslager**Drumline Representative:** Patti Adams**Guard Representative:** Debbie Eastham**Hospitality Coordinator:** Yesmin Mack/Carlene Cicchetto**Marching Coordinator:** Tim Barton/Dennis Handy**PTA Liaison:** Suzy Orr**Transportation/Chaperone Coordinator:** Rhonda Reeves-Long**Uniform Coordinator:** Rebecca Phelps**Volunteer Coordinator:** Joanne Fogleson**Webmaster:** Bob Gonnella

## From the HHSBPA President

Hello Band Families!

Happy Spring to you all! While we were all huddled in our respective caves, deep in hibernation, Herndon Band was busy making music! As you will read in this quarter's newsletter, Winter 2014-15 was a very busy and rewarding season for our band. We certainly have a lot to be proud of as a band community.

In the coming months, the HHSBPA will be working on our annual budget and filling various board positions

for next year. Our program is dependent upon strong parental and student support to keep it running. Please consider volunteering for anything you can fit into your schedule. It will pay off in the long run for your student as well as the band community.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring and Pyramid Concerts!

Regards,  
Robin Handy, President HHSBPA

## A Message from the Interim Director

Hello Herndon Band Families,

This year has been full of curveballs – VMEA, a new mom, a new director, and plenty of crazy weather. The students should be very proud of how they handled the last few months. I learned very quickly that this is a very self-sufficient group of students, but who are also grateful for constructive criticisms. They truly want to improve and show that just because VMEA is over doesn't mean they will slack off.

Everyone told me I was being thrown into the fire, taking a long-term sub job at a high school in Fairfax County. They were quite correct, but Herndon has been the gentlest, most helpful fire I've jumped into. I didn't know what to expect, but I could not have asked for a better place or better people with which to begin my career. Thank you to all of the band parents; you've made it so easy to focus on the actual music part of this job. And thank you to the HHS band students; I had a blast and I hope I was able to give you a little bit of new perspective. I can't wait to visit again and see how far you've come!

Congratulations to all!  
Stacey Kropaczek



## Herndon sends three to All State Festival

Nine representatives from the Pride of Herndon represented Herndon High School in All-District Band, with three members advancing to All-State auditions. All three will fill spots in the state's top high school ensembles at Christopher Newport University on April 9-11

Students participating in All-District Band February 5-7 at Chantilly HS were Jacob Reeves and James Adams on percussion in the Wind Ensemble. Carey Rice (B flat clarinet), Aimee Toner (flute), Timothy Viado (oboe), Simon Fogleson (tenor trombone), Braden Cuttler (tenor trombone), Angela Phelps (trumpet), and Sonali Sheelam (percussion) participated in the Symphonic Band. Shennan O'Day (euphonium), Kevin Archambeault (E flat clarinet), and Ronan O'Day (tuba) served as alternates.

Two juniors, Jacob Reeves on percussion, Aimee Toner on flute, and freshman James Adams on percussion earned their position in the All-State Band by competing in a field of over 1000 students from across the state playing every instrument in band and orchestra. Reeves and Adams competed against 73 percussionists to rank 4<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> overall, while Toner obtained a ranking of 13 out of 65 flutes competing.

This year will be Reeves' and Toner's second appearance in All-State Band. They both represented Herndon at last year's festival, which was held at Virginia Tech.

"Going back a second year as one of the principal players is exciting. I hope to look at music in a different way with the help of the conductor. Last year, our conductor focused on rhythmic accuracy and the quality of sound," said Reeves, of the opportunity to return to the ensemble.

His classmate Aimee Toner echoed his excitement about working with new directors. Dr. Anthony Maiello from George Mason University will lead the orchestra, Dr. Lawrence Stoffel from California State University, Northridge will lead the symphonic band, and Dr. Damon Talley from Louisiana State University will conduct the concert band.

"I'm excited to meet the new director and see the kind of program he might choose," she said.

Freshman James Adams reflected on the pressure of his first All-State competition and his excitement over being chosen to play in the concert band.

"There was obviously noticeable competition. The actual music, I'm looking forward to it. But I'm more looking forward to getting to see the people who make the bands, the orchestra, getting to see how good they are, and getting to be friends with them."



## Welcoming a Cub to the Pride



Amy Lynn Jacoby, born December 31, 2014 at seven pounds, two ounces. And, in the words of Ms. Jacoby, she "dominated her 15 minute hearing test in 2.5 minutes. Just saying."

## Winter Guard Places at Scholastic Regional

The Herndon High School Winter Guard took home honors on Saturday, Feb 28, placing third overall in the Scholastic Regional A2 class at South County Secondary. They moved up four spots from their last competition, where they placed seventh at Mount Vernon HS.

This year's show is called "Scarecrow" and is based on the song of the same name by the group Alex and Sierra. Coach Laura Flyte expressed enthusiasm about this year's routine.

"Our Scarecrow show depicts a band of scarecrows coming to life and performing through the night to become scarecrows again at the finale," Flyte said.

"It is an upbeat, happy program, full of energy, and is getting a great response," said parent representative Deb Eastham.

Eleven schools competed in the competition, and ten students from Herndon were able to participate. Three of the seniors on the team added their experience to the event, having worked in collaboration with Oakton's guard members last year.

Colorguard combines dance, music, theatre, and equipment (flags, rifles, and sabers) into a show. Winter Guard is the Colorguard performing on its own in a gymnasium. The sport has grown to include groups from Canada and the United Kingdom.

Flyte expressed pride in the growing program at Herndon.

"Achieving third place out of 11 at our second

competition is something these kids should be incredibly proud of...The team should be recognized for their outstanding dedication to a sport that is so unknown to the general public."

She also praised team members for their fundraising efforts for upcoming competitions.

The Winter Guard competed on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Freedom HS on March 21, at Broad Run HS, and the AIA Circuit Championships on March 28 at South County HS where they placed second, sixth, and seventh respectively.

The Winter Guard and its leadership, students, coaches, and parents, are optimistic about future competitions, given their improvement in recent meets.

"Moving up so much in the rankings is even more impressive in those conditions. It is a real tribute to the focus and dedication of this group of young people and that of their instructor," said Eastham.



## Trombonist finalist for Governor's School

Junior Simon Fogleson brought further accolades to the Pride of Herndon by advancing to the final round of qualification for the Virginia Governor's School for Visual and Performing Arts. Students from across the state apply yearly, with only 200 chosen in the categories of theatre, dance, visual art, and instrumental music. Fogleson, first chair trombone for the Herndon Wind Ensemble, will be notified by April 15 of his final status. If he is chosen, he will be the third instrumentalist in two years from Herndon High School to participate in the program.

Fogleson advanced to the final round in a process that began in November and includes academic performance, teacher recommendations, essay, and

an in person audition. He decided to apply when he heard about the experiences of last year's participants.

"I know they had a great time last year. I heard about the program, and it sparked my interest," said Fogleson. He is excited about the prospect of a summer program geared towards the performing arts.

The program will be held, along with the Virginia Governor's School for the Humanities, at Radford University from June 28-July 25.



## Drumline garners honors at AIA Championships

The Herndon High School Winter Drumline was the PSRA division Bronze Medalist at the Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA) North Championships at Robinson High School.

The Drumline turned in two outstanding performances that day and placed 3rd in Finals with a score of 82.300. Despite all the weather-cancellation challenges the group has faced this year, the kids have never given up, striving to improve and working as a team all the way to the end. Congratulations to Mr. Adams and especially to all the students for their hard work, patience and perseverance!



### Upcoming Events

**Apr 22 –  
Disney World**

**May 15 –  
Pyramid  
Concert**

**May 27 –  
Spring Concert**

**Jun 9 –  
Jazz Band  
Performance**

**Jun 17 –  
Graduation**

## Jazz band performs at Chantilly festival



Congratulations to Brett Lemley and the HHS Jazz Band who performed at the Chantilly Jazz Festival on March 28. The ensemble participated in a clinic following the event.