



A few words from our principal...

Hello Comet Families,

Can you believe this is the last quarterly newsletter that you will be receiving this school year? This is an exciting time of the year. Lots of events are taking place, ceremonies, and opportunities to honor our students. While it seems like a lot of attention is being given rightfully so to our seniors, this is also an important time to respond and reflect on our underclassmen.

I am sure that you have heard that Maryland Education is #1 in America. Baltimore County Public Schools are consistently receiving many honors. Dr. Hairston at the Southwest Area meeting this week recognized Catonsville High School as one of the top 500 premier high schools in America. Just think of that distinction- it is very powerful. This includes all of our students in every program that we offer here. The rigorous instruction that takes place in our classrooms on a daily basis is phenomenal. We are very proud of your students and enjoy the opportunity to support them.

Our renovations are moving ahead! Please be patient as the necessary changes take place. As I'm sure you know during a renovation things must get worst before they get better. Some of our traffic patterns may need to be adjusted as different areas of the campus are being impacted. We have many wonderful improvements that will be taking place and I know that the students will benefit greatly from them.

Best Wishes for the remainder of the year!

Mrs. Deborah Bittner

And now for our PTSA president...

It has been a wonderful year at CHS. This fall, I transitioned in as President just as the freshman transitioned in from middle school. You venture in with unsure footing and then you begin to make your way. Catonsville High School offers great support systems to get you started. Just as our freshmen were supported by the CHS staff and their advisors, I, too, received a lot of support on the PTSA from staff, the students, and the community. One of our greatest new successes was the "going green" of this quarterly newsletter and I appreciate everyone's help to make it a smooth progression. This year the PTSA also introduced the Online Giveaway, Homecoming Picture Scopes, Saturday SAT prep classes, a flu shot clinic and electronic recycling. We are sure to continue these activities next school year. We are proud that these events supported student programs to include, Future Educators of America, Rising Scholars, Mix It Up Week, It's Academic, Future Business Leaders, and Model UN. Please remember to watch the website and eschool news for important events to support your student's class, raising money and paying dues will be essential to a fabulous junior and senior year packed with extracurricular activities and a very safe and fun After Prom! Thank you.

Alicia Brady
Catonsville High School
PTSA President 2008-2009

SENIORS CLASS OF 2009



This will be our final edition. Mr. Brannon and Ms. Phillips would like to thank the parents that have helped us during the past four years. They really have appreciated your support.

Prom tickets will go on sale *April 27th* for \$20.09. There are still students that haven't paid dues (\$50) and must do so before they are able to purchase a prom ticket. Even if you have earned a free ticket, you must pay dues in order to receive it. The prom will be held at the **Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards on May 16th from 8 to 12pm**. Directions will be given out when prom tickets are purchased. Be sure to sign up for the **After Prom Party** when you get your prom ticket. Also be sure to return your permission slip for the event. Many students have been asking about Balfour orders. As these come in they have been distributed to the students.

AFTER PROM PARTY SIGN UP

The **After Prom Party** will be held at **Dave and Busters at Arundel Mills Mall**. Sign up will be April 20th - May 1st in the cafeteria during all lunch periods. There is a \$10 "*refundable*" deposit required in order to guarantee that you will come. You will receive the \$10 back when you leave Dave and Busters. Parent permission slips are also required for the student and their date even if they are 18 years or older. We must have emergency contact information for everyone attending the After Prom Party. Permission slips can be obtained from Ms. Carol Philips or in the Office. Please let us know if you require special arrangements to attend the After Prom Party. Even if you are not going to Prom, you can still attend the After Prom Party. It's a lot of fun and there is a lot of food and door prizes!! Students and their dates are to check into the school after the Prom and bus transportation will be provided to and from Dave and Busters. No student will be allowed to enter Dave and Busters if they do not ride the bus. No student will be allowed to leave Dave and Busters once we are there. Please contact **Rita @ 410-744-7557** or **Barbara @ 410-978-2966** if you need more information.

PTSA PROM/GRADUATION GIVE AWAY WINNERS



The winner of the Prom Package Give Away was Sean Coleman and the winner of the 8 Graduation Seats and Video Package was Terry Bock. The PTSA would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations to put these packages together: Paul Rodberg with Reliable Limousine Service, Delegate Steve Deboy, Delegate Jim Malone, Councilman Sam Moxley, Senator Ed Kasemeyer, David's Bridal, Men's Warehouse, Blue Iris Flowers, Candle Light Inn, Lifetouch/Prestige Portraits, Bertamini's Hair Studio, Catonsville Hair Company, the Class of 2009 and 2010, Bob Miller, Mrs. Bittner, Kirby Spencer, and Barbara Carson. We would also like to thank everyone who supported this fundraiser by purchasing tickets.



Senior Citizen Prom

The senior citizen prom will be held

Sunday, April 26 1 – 4 PM
CHS Cafeteria

Music by Zim Zermal Orchestra

This annual event is co-sponsored by the CHS PTSA and Student Government Association. It is free to seniors and includes music by the Zim Zermal Orchestra, snacks, and a chance to interact with some of the high school's finest students. For additional information please contact Ken Sachs, SGA advisor, at ksachs@bcps.org or by calling the school at (410) 887-0808.

**JUNIORS
CLASS of 2010**



The **Junior Prom** will take place on **Saturday May 2nd from 8PM – 11PM**. The theme is ***Under the Sea***. Dress is semi-formal (Tuxedo required for guys and appropriate formal evening wear for girls) Tickets will be on sale from April 20th – 29th and will cost \$25 for a single and \$45 for a couple. Guests from other schools are permitted with certain restrictions. Juniors who have not paid their dues are required to do so when they purchase their tickets. Dues are \$60 (\$15 per year) and must be paid in full. If this is financially prohibitive for a student they can see Mr. Long or Mr. Hipsley and we will work with them to make alternate arrangements for payment of dues.

We are also looking for parent volunteers to help chaperone the prom. If you would be interested in assisting please contact Mr Hipsley or Mr. Long at mhipsley@bcps.org or rlong@bcps.org

The senior Prom for the Class of 2010 has also been set. The Senior Prom will take place on May 15, 2010 at the Hilton Baltimore (the new one next to Camden Yards).

**From the Pupil Assistance Team:
Summer Advice for Parents and
Guardians**



The close of the school year is coming, and that means your teen likely will have free time...time that should be channeled into creative, positive activities. For a young adult, learning to manage time in a productive, worthwhile fashion may require some help and guidance from you.

Summer is, indeed, a time to relax and to reflect, but participation in structured activities such as sports camps, arts camps, volunteer work, part time employment, or

even summer school for remediation or advancement purposes can mean the difference between a teen's summer of promise a summer of potential problems. *Active = Happy*. Parents/Guardians need to be aware of how, where, and with whom their teens are spending their time. Good parenting means caring about the safety and well being of your child. Always ask the four important questions: Where are you going? Who will you be with? What will you be doing? When will you be home Insist upon answers from your teen and remember an important element of parenting: Trust, but verify. In any scenario, an ounce of prevention is worth that pound of cure.

For parents of seniors, "Senior Week" in Ocean City requires your particular attention. Certainly, know with whom your child will be staying; absolutely, know the address and phone number of the residence; for sure, have a contact person in Ocean City (the rental agent, a close friend of your child, a family you know...) whom you can contact should your teen's cell phone go unanswered to your calls. In particular, review the rules of the rental house—explicitly offered in the rental agreement. Bear in mind that you, as a co-signing adult, will shoulder the financial brunt of any damage incurred to the property by your child, the roommates, or visiting friends; legally, you are still the parent.

For some, fun in the sun includes "partying," and for many it is the first time to spend independent time away from their families. While most students make responsible, wise decisions, sadly, some do not. Get together with the parents of your child's OC house-mates prior to senior week to be assured that your dos and don'ts are identical. Gather the circle of friends with their parents to discuss expectations, limitations, and options. In particular, stress the importance of trusting instincts and of watching out for each other: Ride the OC bus as opposed to using the car; travel with a buddy or in groups, never alone; keep strangers out of the residence; intervene if a friend is about to make a bad choice. Regrets make for bad vacation memories.

We wish every family a wonderful summer, one in which communication between parent/guardian and child is open and honest.

**Congratulations to your newly elected
2009-2010 SGA Officers**

Daiyann Colbert – *President*

Dominick Weinkam – *Activities Vice
President*

Laura Gevarter – *Student Advocacy
Council Vice President*

Sophia Adams – *Communications Vice
President*

Mix It Up Week



In the wake of two consecutive successful *CommUnity Days*, Catonsville High School recently held Mix It Up Week, an experiment aimed at bringing diversity awareness to the forefront student body, faculty, and staff. The event began March 9 with a kick off assembly, and ran through Friday the 13. The project, spearheaded by multiple school organizations, including the SGA, PTSA, and administration was devised in order to help the entire school population to celebrate and recognize the diversity that already exists inside the building. In order to bring this diversity to the surface, a number of activities were planned that required the cooperation of both students and teachers.

Some teachers decided to involve their classes in the multiple activities provided, including a group of activities known as Root-Branch Workshops. Introduced at previous *CommUnity Days*, this series of activities allowed students to identify their comfort zones and then expand to find other people with whom they could identify.

CommUnity Day, a daylong field trip hosted at the Bloomsbury Recreation Center the past two years, generated the interest for a longer event that allowed for larger groups of the school population to share experiences with fellow students from different academic levels.

Among the activities that allowed students to share their respective cultures were International Dress Day, where students and teachers were encouraged to represent their heritage through their wardrobe, and Mix It Up at Lunch, an activity where students sat with people with whom they

didn't seem have much in common during their lunch period.

Despite losing their free lunchtime for the sake of diversity, many students made the sacrifice.

"I think sitting with different people at lunch was a great way to meet new people and find out what interested them," sophomore Laura Bruns said. This activity allowed students to converse in a less formal environment, contributing greatly to the success of the week.

The implications of this week reach further than simply recognizing the diversity of the school. There are changes taking place in society and the community at large that require an educated and open population. For example, *Newsweek* predicts that by 2050, the United States will be a "majority-minority country" which means that there will be more people from smaller ethnic groups than any one population.

In light of these changing demographics and the success of Mix It Up Week, it would come as no surprise if more County schools begin to organize their own diversity activities.

"I think the power in this week is unlimited," claimed SGA Advisor Ken Sachs. "Diversity, when well managed, is the strength of an organization, but when not well managed, can tear it apart."



FEA and the Class of 2011 will be hosting a Catonsville night @ Oriole Park 7:05pm on Friday June 12, 2009. Come see the Baltimore Orioles take on the Atlanta Braves. Tickets are \$15. Please see Mrs. Phillips to support FEA or Ms. Walters to support the Class of 2011

FEA



Future Educators of America

The FEA chapter at Catonsville High School is a very active club. We have about 15 members in our group. We sold fall mums, poinsettias, key chains and CHS 100th Anniversary items to raise money for our club. Our service project was Operation Joy in which we shopped and filled 15 bags for the needy. In February, Zoe Dell, Lisa Musacchio, Carlie Mazer, Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Sohn attended the 20th Annual National FEA Conference in Denver, CO. The PTSA was instrumental in helping us fund our trip and we greatly appreciated their support. We made a scrapbook of our club's activities and won 2nd place at our local FEA Conference that was held at Notre Dame College. Each week, several students go to Relay Elementary School and help the second graders with reading. Our final project is to prepare for Teacher Appreciation Day.



The Spanish Club will hold its final meeting in May, the date to be announced via morning announcements and notices throughout the building. We will be electing officers for the upcoming year. Additionally Andrés Cabrera will be presenting a magic show. Andrés is well known as a magician, and he would love you to know that he is available to perform at birthday parties and weddings. He has recently been hired by Pizza Hut to entertain patrons with his magic tricks.

The Spanish Honor Society Induction Ceremony is the same evening as the French (see above). The following students were invited to become members: Kimberly Buckheit, Lauren Burk, Jenny Chang, Sophia Choudry, Oron Coleman, Gavin Coombs, Leigha Crowell, Alexander, Czajkowski, Katlyn Dash, Kerry Doring, Chris Espinal, Jaime Fawcett, Charles Hoffmaster, Sean Konig, Whitney, Luu, Kati Phelps, Maria Randlett-Tydings, Alexander Ryan, Stephen Sweeney, Katherine Thomas, Brenna Thurston, Katerine Votta, Alexandra Wallace, Margarita Waters, Abby Wilson, Lauren Yachera, Abby Martin, Ashley Bush, Jay Figueroa.

World Language Department News



During the April French Club meeting we made crepes and Kent Brinks talked about his experiences while traveling in France. It was interesting and delicious! The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12 and will be our annual Mille Bornes and Mancala event.

The French Honor Society is pleased to invite the following outstanding students to become members: Grace Hoccheimer, Sarah Holland, Sarah Klimek, Vrindarani Pani, Françoise Mandengue, Dan Nguyen, and Sharon Miyagawa. The induction ceremony will be held on April 29th at 7:00 P.M. in the library. Parents and friends are invited to attend.

Senior Members of both Societies are asked to be present to receive their graduation Honor Cords.



We also would like to offer our congratulations to Mrs. Angela Williams on the March birth of her baby girl Charlotte Veronica and wish much good luck and good health to Mrs. Rebecca Hope on the upcoming birth of her baby due in May.

ART DEPARTMENT



The Art Department is gearing up for "exhibit season". Art work by CHS students will be on display at a number of different venues around the metro area this spring. Including the Congressional District Competition at the Walter's Art gallery on May 23rd, The Catonsville Women's Club, The Baltimore County Senior Show at Goucher College on May 28th, Security Square Mall on May 14th, The BWI Art Show on April 25th as well as on-going exhibits at the Maryland State Department of Education and the Baltimore County Executive's Office. And, of course our own end of year retrospective *Showcase '09* at the CCBC-Catonsville "Q" gallery June 8 – 15. The National Art Honors society induction and art reception will be held on Thursday, June 11th.

Over twenty CHS seniors and juniors are currently working on their Advanced Placement Portfolios for submission to the College Board in May. Portfolios are divided into three categories. *Breadth* – 12 Digital images of artworks that are a survey of what the art student has created in art over a span of time. *Concentration* – 12 Digital images of artwork that is separate Breadth art and are connected by a common conceptual theme. *Quality* – 5 actual artworks to send to the College Board. These hard copies can come from both Concentration and Breadth.

The National Art Honor Society, headed by Windy Spiridigliozzi, sponsored the 15th annual Edible Art Show. As always, it was a great success and was featured in the April 8th edition of the Catonsville Times.

Our New York City field trip was great success. Society members visited SOHO and Chinatown, the Guggenheim Museum to view the latest Catherine Opie Photo show and ended the day with the Mel Brooks Broadway production of *Young Frankenstein*.

The CHS art department is excited to be able to offer AP Art History for the 2009-2010 school year. Al Grosso will be teaching this class.

Senior Sydney Lynch is this year's recipient of the Computer Training Education (CTE) award. Sydney will represent Catonsville at the awards dinner at Martin's West on April 29th. Way to go Syd!

Congratulations also go out to our Terrific Photography teacher, Jeanette Dove and her crack stage crew for their set construction for CHS' Spring Musical *Pippin*.

The Social Studies Department would like to congratulate the following seniors for their outstanding achievements:

Michael Appau was one of 2 students selected to represent the state of Maryland at the 47th Annual United States Senate Youth Leadership Program which was held in Washington, D.C. from March 7-14, 2009. In addition to receiving a \$5,000 scholarship from the Hearst Foundation, Michael spent a week at the U.S. Senate meeting and listening to some very important people including President Barack Obama and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Michael will attend Georgetown University this fall. **Danielle Barcak** received the Character Award on the state level from the Daughters of the American Revolution at a luncheon at Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center on March 27th. In addition to this great honor, Danielle will compete at the national level for the National DAR Character Award. Danielle will attend Yale University in the fall. **Emily Peightel** served as a Student Page at the Maryland General Assembly for two weeks – one in February and one in April. In addition to the duties she had to perform, she learned a great deal about the workings of the state government and the passage of legislation. Emily will attend the University of Maryland, College Park this fall.

Mr. Eric Eiswert accompanied a group of his G/T ninth graders to the Loch Raven High G/T Model Congress on Wednesday, April 15th where the students wrote, debated, and approved legislation in this wonderful congressional simulation. Congratulations to the following students who did an outstanding job: **Anna Dottle, Olivia Nicolaus, Alyssa Judson, Calvin Stokes, Tyler Farrell, Brittany Holtzner, Brandon Holtzner, Drake Lentz, Reiter Boldt, and Luke Land.**

**Catonsville High School
Comet Booster Clothing Order Form**

Item	Cost	Size
HOODIE / NAVY (gold in hood/gold script appliqué)	\$35	S M L XL 2XL
HOODIE / GRAY (navy block letters)	\$35	S M L XL 2XL
HOODIE / NAVY (gold block letters)	\$35	S M L XL 2XL 3XL
HOODIE / GOLD (navy block letters)	\$35	S M L XL 2XL
HOODIE / GOLD (navy block letters)	\$35	S M L XL 2XL
SWEAT SHIRT / NAVY (gold block letters)	\$28	M L XL 2XL
SWEAT PANTS/NAVY (gold block letters)	\$25	S M L XL 2XL
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT / NAVY (gold block letters)	\$15	S M L XL 2XL
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT / WHITE (navy block letters)	\$15	S M L XL 2XL
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT / GREY (navy block letters)	\$15	S M L XL 2XL
SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT / NAVY (You know you're from Catonsville...)	\$ 5 (sale)	XL (limited qty.)
FLANNEL LONG PANT (Catonsville Comets)	\$20	S M L XL 2XL
MESH SHORTS (gold oval logo)	\$10 (sale)	S M L XL
MESH SHORTS (Catonsville Comets)	\$10 (sale)	S M L XL 2XL
BASEBALL CAP / GOLD (Catonsville)	\$15	QTY__
VISOR / NAVY (Catonsville)	\$15	QTY__
FLEECE STOCKING CAP / NAVY (Comets)	\$8	QTY__
FLEECE EAR BAND / NAVY (Comets)	\$8	QTY__
FLEECE GAITER CAP / NAVY (C)	\$8	QTY__
GOLF UMBRELLA / NAVY & GOLD (Catonsville)	\$20 (sale)	QTY__
COMETS WINDOW STICKER	\$ 2	QTY__
COMETS SPIRIT SCARF (Catonsville)	\$15 (new)	QTY__
DRAW STRING GYM SACK (Catonsville)	\$10 (new)	QTY__
Zipper Hoodie w/Sherpa Lining (Catonsville Comets)	\$50 (new)	S M L XL XXL
Ribbon Shorts (Navy Catonsville Comets)	\$24 (new)	S M L XL XXL
Short w/Madras Plaid (Catonsville Comets)	\$24 (new)	S M L XL XXL
Navy Comet t-shirt (distressed Catonsville Comets)	\$15 (new)	S M L XL XXL
Sports bra (Catonsville Comets) Female sizing	\$25 (new)	S M L XL XXL

All clothing items are unisex/ mens sizing unless otherwise noted.
Some sizes are limited and may not be available at time of order.

Please mark the items, enclose your payment with the order form. Orders with payment in an envelope marked "Booster Club" may be left in the CHS office or mailed to the address below. Orders will be filled after receiving payment.

ORDER SOON FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY!!!!

Name: _____ Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone No.: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: COMET BOOSTER CLUB.

Can this order be left at Catonsville High School for pick up? STUDENT / STAFF
NAME: _____

Debbi Elliott, 5 Magruder Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228 Phone: 443-860-9565
E-mail: debchipelliott@yahoo.com

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