

*I'm a friend
of music*



Music Note

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Fall 2011

President's Message

Happy September to all of you. With a new school year comes a lot of potential and a lot of musical projects to anticipate. So I invite all of you to take part as often as possible in the smorgasbord of music and talent that the Baldwin School District has to offer. The students will get down to business and begin working hard immediately, after all, Band Day is only weeks away. Following closely on its heels is the Senior High School's musical production which this year will be "Fame". Don't miss these events! Band Day is really inspiring since the students merely have weeks together to prepare --- and every year they amaze us. The Musical is always great, and it should not be missed. It is such a great idea to bring young elementary school students to these events in particular. Once the young students experience these events, they begin dreaming, and planning to participate when they get older. That is where their journey will begin.

I hope many of you were able to take advantage of the summer music program that has been implemented. What a wonderful opportunity---the kids get to receive musical instruction to keep from getting rusty over the summer, and they are able to occupy their time doing something very constructive and motivating. Most of all, they are doing something they love. If you have not been a part of this yet, look into it for next summer. It will be very well worth it.

I look forward to this year with all of you and I always enjoy seeing you all throughout the year. Please come and participate. Most of all, consider joining Baldwin Friends of Music. We really depend on membership to accomplish all of our goals. Truthfully, there is really only one goal: to directly encourage the music students and facilitate their musical education as best as possible. Your membership dues help us fund scholarship awards and recognition awards. They enable us to help provide meals during extended rehearsals for the musical productions. But there are so many more things we would like to do for the students. Please join us. We desperately need your help if we are going to help the students.

It has been proven that students who participate in music perform better academically. It is just a fact. And if you would like more proof, just look at the Top Ten Graduates each year. The majority of those students are involved in music in some capacity---some of them are even involved very heavily. So encourage your children to become a part of the music education that is available to them in our district. It is one of the best things you can do for them. We at Baldwin Friends of Music will be right there with you, encouraging them all the way. It's just what we do.

I look forward to seeing you. Baldwin Music is just ----- well---- the best!

Natalie Crowe, President

Please Donate Baked Goods

Baldwin Friends of Music will be holding a Fundraiser at the intermission of the BSHS Musical "Fame" We need baked goods donated in order for this to be a success. The bake sales will be held at the Friday and Saturday evening performances. We also need help selling and serving. If you are able to donate or assist us at the sale, please call Natalie Crowe at 377-0207 or fill out this tear off and mail it to me at 631 Stanton Ave. Baldwin. You may also contact me via e-mail. My e-mail address is: natashap6@verizon.net.

Name: _____

I am able to donate baked goods. Fri. 11/17 _____ Sat. 11/18 _____

I am able to help sell and serve. Fri. 11/7 _____ Sat. 11/18 _____

Cadenza from the Director

After completing 45 years of distinguished teaching in the Baldwin School District, our esteemed music colleague **Mary Ellen Janson** retired this past June.

When she was first hired in 1966 Ms. Janson was assigned as a “string specialist”, teaching at eleven elementary schools and Harbor Junior High School. After a number of years passed and the district had gone through reorganization Ms. Janson was reassigned to Meadow Elementary School where she taught instrumental classes including band as well as string instruments. She eventually taught at the High School on a part time basis, sharing her time with both Brookside and Meadow, and was then permanently assigned to Baldwin Senior High School on a fulltime basis in September, 1983.

Ms. Janson explains that in the early 1980’s, her students expressed a desire to rehearse on Saturday mornings. That commitment is what gave birth to the present HS Chamber Orchestra program. The Chamber Orchestra still exists having been converted to an honors course which is now taught during the school day. The curriculum involves advanced concepts and the performance of advanced repertoire.

Ms. Janson has made it her motto to teach High School students that it is critically important to discover what you enjoy doing, and to just do it. She spent her career living that motto – as it became her way of life and sustained her throughout her teaching career. She dedicated most of her life to the students of the Baldwin School District, teaching since 1966 and completing 45 years of service. She is a teacher who put the care of her students ahead of all personal criteria. Throughout her career she continuously created opportunities to teach character, discipline, creativity, responsibility, and of course music. She began the district jazz and marching program on the elementary level and added layers of depth and dimension to the High School String program. Participation in chamber concerts, recitals with top North Shore string ensembles, performances at Avery Fischer Hall, the Evening of Enchantment Concert Series at the Dicapo Theatre in Manhattan, and countless field trips and performances at famous, historical music venues have all been a regular product of her work. Most important however, Ms. Janson extended herself completely to her students throughout her career. Her work often included evening hours and vacation weeks in order to provide students with every opportunity to succeed. Ms. Janson additionally completed years of volunteer service chairing All-County Festivals and serving as an All-State Adjudicator and NYSSMA Major Organization Judge. Currently this past year, she served as the Chairperson for the Division V -- 11th and 12th grade, All-County Orchestra arranging for maestro Stephen Rogers Radcliffe, the music director of America’s largest youth orchestra training program, to serve as conductor.

This past June 3rd, in our HS Auditorium, the Baldwin District paid tribute to Ms. Janson with a special concert featuring all of her orchestral ensembles, as well as a finale performance of a specially assembled Alumni Orchestra. Ms. Janson is a person with the strongest and most complete moral fiber and the district was indeed blessed with the care that she provided to generations of Baldwin students.

A new school year is upon us and there are a number of items of interest to share.

- The Baldwin Summer Music Enrichment program took place at the Middle School and all music students, grades 3 – 12 (September, 2011) were provided the opportunity to register. The Baldwin Friends of Music sponsored the program and registration took place from April 1 through June 24, with the program running from June 27 through July 15. Students attended bi-weekly small group lessons and full ensemble sessions over a three week period. Parents were invited to attend their child’s last lesson to learn how students were to practice to prepare for music classes this fall. Thank you to the Board of Education for their support of this program. Instrumental classes included instruction on all the instruments of the band and orchestra as students were grouped according to instrument and level and placed in lesson groups to provide growth and enrichment experiences.
- Very shortly, you will be able to logon to the Baldwin District website and look for the Fine & Performing Arts webpage. The webpage is to be launched at the beginning of this school year and will include links to a calendar of performances and exhibits, program highlights and information, individual teacher webpages, and of course a link to the latest issue of the Baldwin Friends of Music Newsletter. The website has been designed to include readily available up-to-date information.
- The High School Musical Theater program will be presenting **FAME** on November 17 – 19. The Broadway Show *Fame* takes place at the High School of the Performing Arts in New York City. The story takes the audience through the highs, the lows, the romances, and the ultimate triumphs of the school’s star struck pupils, with their quest for success. This past spring announcements were posted throughout the Middle School (for 8th graders) and High School, and auditions and callbacks were held in the closing weeks

of the school year. The cast list was posted and cast members took home scripts this summer to begin studying their characters and learning their songs. During the first full week of September dance auditions were held for additional students who wish to perform. Students interested in performing in the orchestra should see Ms. Roof, and those interested in working on the stage crew should see Mr. Peritz, Mr. DeAngelis, or Mr. White. Mr. Forman will once again direct the production and will be assisted by vocal director Ms. Simko, music director Ms. Roof, and choreographer Ms. Lupo. After-school meetings began the second day of school and rehearsal schedules were distributed to all participating students.

- The District Elementary Performing Group program began on Wednesday morning, September 14. Selected students from all seven elementary schools met at Baldwin High School to rehearse with the District Elementary Band, Orchestra, or Chorus. Rehearsals are held on a weekly basis beginning at 7:45 a.m., and last for 45 minutes. Students are then bused to their home school. The teachers for the program are: Mr. Magnani – District Elementary Band, Ms. Ferguson-Koci – District Elementary Orchestra, and Ms. Benedetti – District Elementary Chorus. Parents are asked to please use the small parking lot outside the high school music rooms as the drop-off point for all elementary students. The music rooms and auditorium exterior doors are open and accessible from this parking lot, and music teachers will be available to receive students. Using this parking lot as a drop-off point avoids the High School main entrance traffic, and additional security personnel will assist with traffic patterns. Informational letters were mailed home to accepted students in August.
- There are a number of music students who had outstanding recent musical achievements:
 - Three Baldwin High School choral students attended the New York State Summer School of the Arts at Fredonia: senior – Fatima Cadet-Diaby, junior – Nicholas Kelliher, and junior – Leron Wellington.
 - High School sophomore, Kevin Cheong, violinist, attended the NYSSMA Summer School of the Arts at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.
 - Gregory Sisco was selected by a rigorous portfolio application as one of twenty Long Island Scholar Artists for the 2011-12 school year. The L.I. Scholar Artist program sponsored by the Long Island Arts Alliance was established to select highly qualified students in music, visual arts, dance, theater, and media arts; and recognize them for their accomplishments. Greg's story will be featured in Newsday and on Newsday.com, and he will be presented to the public in a Gala recognition event to be held at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts. There are only two senior "arts" students selected per month for this high honor from all of Nassau and Suffolk counties.
 - Audrey Garcia was selected by a rigorous portfolio application and named as one of twenty recipients on Long Island of the Scholar Artist Award of Merit. A profile and photo of Audrey along with the other Merit winners for the Scholar Artist program will appear in Newsday this fall.
 - Connor O'Neill – trumpet, Max Glickman – percussion, Daniel Sager – percussion, Jeremy Hogu – French horn, Audrey Garcia – euphonium, and Gregory Sisco – alto saxophone were all selected by rigorous audition to be members of the 2011-12 Nassau Suffolk Performing Arts Wind Symphony.
 - Lisa Tang – clarinet, Jill Bellovin – bassoon, Mathew Goberdhan – alto saxophone, Taylor Zambrano – bass clarinet, and Skye Hamilton-Carranza – oboe were all selected by rigorous audition to be members of the 2011 – 12 Nassau Suffolk Performing Arts Concert Band.
 - Senior Gregory Sisco was selected by audition for membership in the NYSSMA All State Music Festival, as an Alto Saxophone player in the All-State Wind Ensemble.
 - Senior Jeremy Hogu was selected by audition for membership in the NYSSMA All State Music Festival, as a French horn player in the All-State Symphonic Band.
 - Junior Jazmin Montalvo was selected by audition for membership in the NYSSMA All State Music Festival, as a violinist in the All-State String Orchestra.
 - Senior Joelle Dupiton was selected by audition for membership in the NYSSMA All State Music Festival, as an Alto singer in the All-State Women's Chorus.
 - Senior Audrey Garcia was selected as a first alternate, by audition for membership in the NYSSMA All State Music Festival, as a euphonium player. .
- Band Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 29^h. The Band Day performance features the District Elementary Band, Middle School 6th Grade Band, Middle School combined 7th and 8th Grade Band, and the High School Band. Students will begin preparations for this special event in early September.
- The High School welcomes Ms. Muir to the string orchestral program, grades 9 – 12. Ms. Muir (formally Ms. Schwenk) previously taught the grade seven and grade eight string program at Baldwin Middle School. We look forward to the next generation of the High School Symphony and Chamber Orchestras.

(continued next page)

A very special thank you is extended to the Baldwin Friends of Music. This organization has supported our students and program for many years. The district music department is very appreciative of the work that the Friends of Music accomplishes as they consistently advocate for our students and program and help to make sure that both are fairly treated. Please consider becoming a member of the Baldwin Friends of Music. Your \$10.00 annual membership fee is utilized to support goals which include purchasing refreshments for our students as they rehearse before and after school, providing music scholarships and awards of recognition, supporting program initiatives, and serving as a civic voice for the perpetuation of school music studies here in Baldwin. The Baldwin Friends of Music Executive Board is an elected group of representatives consisting of dedicated parents who meet several times per year to work out the logistics of their effort. All Baldwin parents are welcome to assist at our meetings, however, if you cannot attend meetings your \$10 annual membership dues will provide the means for success. Thank you in advance for encouraging the Friends of Music to continue to provide for our Baldwin students.

Ed Chiarello

Director of Fine & Performing Arts

Baldwin School District

A Few Important Dates

Baldwin Friends of Music meets four times a year. All are invited to attend. The meeting dates are:

Sept. 20

Oct. 18

Feb. 7

Apr. 16

All meetings are held at the Baldwin Senior High School in the choir room and all meetings begin at 7pm.

Don't Forget

Band Day will be held on Oct. 29. at the halftime show of the Homecoming Day Game.

Baldwin Senior High School Musical ----- "Fame"

Nov. 17 --- 4pm.

Nov. 18 --- 7:30pm

Nov. 19 --- 2 & 7:30pm.

Help support your child in the music program by joining the *Baldwin Friends of Music*.
Membership is \$10.00 per family, per year. Join now for this school year!

Please make check payable to *Baldwin Friends of Music*.

Send to Terry Kelliher: 460 Seaman Ave., Baldwin, NY 11510. Phone: (516) 867 – 9583

Membership information 2011—2012

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

#Children _____ Grades _____ Schools _____

When you join Baldwin Friends of Music

Baldwin Friends of Music 's main objective is to advocate for our music program in the Baldwin School District and to help our music students district wide. We provide meals at the High School and Middle School extended musical rehearsals and refreshments after the Memorial Day Parade and Band Day. Our priority is to provide scholarships for deserving, qualifying students in the district. ***Please be aware that when you are not a member of Baldwin Friends of Music your child is not eligible to receive these scholarship awards.*** Please consider joining. The membership fees is \$10.00. If you have a student in the music program, you really should be a member of Baldwin Friends of Music. The membership fees make up a large part of our funds. Without them, we cannot provide the things we would like to do for our students and our musical groups. ***Each year, we pay out \$1500 in scholarship money*** for the Gene North Scholarship alone. We rely on donations to help keep our scholarships active. Your membership will be greatly appreciated. The funds we receive from members and fundraisers are used directly for the students. So please help us help the students. ***Thank you very much.***

Baldwin Friends of Music
c/o Baldwin Union Free School District
960 Hastings Street
Baldwin, NY 11510



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