



High Tech Times

A bimonthly newsletter of the Parent Faculty Association



Monmouth County Vocational School District

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Principally Speaking December 2007/January 2008

We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology. *Carl Sagan*

While the implied message here is relatively clear, I think the teachers and students of High Technology High School might beg to differ. Certainly Mr. Sagan's contributions to the world of science are immense, but he never had the distinct pleasure (as I have) of witnessing our research teams in action; where students are continually being pushed to the limit of understanding the data they are gathering and to drawing conclusions about the outcomes. The world around us is vast and still mostly uncharted, but I wouldn't be surprised to one day see a High Tech graduate make a significant contribution to the world of science in much the same way Sagan's work, *Cosmos*, did two decades ago. In fact, with an Intel winner as an alumnus and two more Siemens semi-finalists this year, there is every reason to believe that the process has already begun.

Our goal as educators and parents is to foster and nurture the curiosity and commitment that these young men and women bring to 'work' every day. While we all have every right to be proud of the job we've done to this point, we must never lose focus on the ultimate accomplishment: preparing the next generation to be mature adults who are problem solvers, effective communicators, socially responsible, and contributors to the world around them. At such a formative time in their lives, keep in mind that praise and encouragement for their effort in the process is often more significant than the final product. In recalling this time of their life/education, some of history's greatest achievers sing the praises of those who encouraged them to never give up and to never accept any less than their best work. We would be remiss not to do the same.

On a practical note, the HTHS website (<http://www.hths.mcvsd.org>) continues to improve in its appearance as well as its information (thanks to the computer club) ... but we're not done yet. We are adding and updating information constantly and hope to have some new features soon, including slide shows of students in action and video clips as well. Be sure to check the calendar for the most up-to-date information concerning school events. The homepage currently displays information about MRSA, with links to relevant websites as well as some documents you can download. There is also a new opportunity for High Tech alumni to reconnect through <http://www.hthsalumni.org>. If any of you know a graduate from HTHS who has not logged in as a member of the "Alumni Channel" yet, pass the word on.

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff at High Technology High School, I wish you all the blessings and good cheer that come with this season. Let us always remember to be thankful for what we have (especially FAMILY), and to actively seek ways to reach out to help those less fortunate. God bless you all and Happy 2008 (I can't believe that ... wasn't it just yesterday we were all preparing for Y2K?).

Daniel D. Simon, Sr.
Principal

P.S. Keep your eyes out for January's Asbury Park Press "Day In The Life Of ..." special edition. I think you may recognize the subject of that particular issue ...

Co-Presidents' Letter

Fall is finally here. The weather has finally started to stay cold and the days are getting shorter. Holiday spirit is in the air. What better way to celebrate the season by supporting HTHS! Here are a few ways to support the PFA AND enjoy the holidays:

- Our annual Classical Music night will be on December 7 at 7pm. Please come and hear the angelic sounds of our children. This is a lovely evening that puts everyone in the holiday mood. Also on this night we hold our Super 50/50 raffle drawing. Please do not forget to send in your money for the tickets. If you want more raffle books you may contact Jayne Kelly on the BBS for them.
- On December 11 we will be holding our Barnes and Noble fundraiser in two locations- Freehold and Holmdel. Books and CDs make the perfect holiday gifts! The more books and CDs that are purchased, the more money Barnes and Noble will donate to our school. We are hoping that by using 2 locations, more of you will be able to participate in this event. Please support these fundraisers. You don't need a voucher—just tell the cashier you are supporting HTHS PFA!
- Also don't forget about HTHS clothing! Even though you may not be able to get them by the holidays, you can give a nice certificate and provide the actual clothing in Jan. Order forms can be downloaded from our website or contact Linda Risdan on the BBS for more information.

Big thanks to the hospitality committee for doing an great job with the Information Sessions.

Don't forget to sign up for spring driver's ed. Forms can be downloaded from the HTHS website or contact Debbie Shields on the BBS with any questions.

From all of us on the PFA Board, we wish you a MERRY, HAPPY , HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Michele A. Schultz-Robins and Jean Primavera
PFA Co-Presidents

NEWSLETTER NOTES

High Tech Times is published six times a year by the HTHS PFA. It is available through the HTHS website www.hths.mcvsd.org. It can also be found on the BBS; look in the *PFA-HTHS Conference* and click on the *Old PFA Newsletters* folder at the top of the window. You might find the web or BBS version useful for printing out copies of forms, leaving your printed copy intact.

If you would prefer to "go green" and get *High Tech Times* as a PDF file via email instead of paper mail, please contact us via the BBS.

~ Dianne Thompson and Laura Tiano

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Mark Your Calendar:

Classical Music Night 2007



This year's Classical Music Night is set for 7:00 pm on Friday, December 7th. The evening will feature wonderful performances by talented HTHS students. Pianists, strings and some surprises await! A new feature this year will be our Art Corner, highlighting some of our talented VISUAL artists.

Plan to take some time from the holiday rush and join us for a night of music!

Parents can contact Shelley Ziegler on the BBS or at 732-935-9646 to volunteer their baking and cooking skills. Help with set up and clean up is also needed.

PFA Membership

Thanks to those who have joined or renewed their membership in the PFA. Currently 94% of HTHS families are members of the PFA. If you are not sure of your membership status, you can send a note on the BBS or call Karen Rock at (732) 367-5751 with any questions.

We are pleased to report that once again **100% of our faculty** are members of the HTHS-PFA!

Enclosed with this newsletter is an insert of additions and revisions to the Student Directory.

Thank You, PFA

Thank you to the PFA for providing the Spanish and French classes the opportunity to see two culturally educational and entertaining shows at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank on November 15th..

*Sra. Kelly, Dra. Cava,
Madame Semoc-Morris*

Fundraising Corner

Super 50/50 Drawing: Friday, December 7th

This year's Super 50/50 tickets were mailed to every family the end of October – the winning ticket may be sitting on your kitchen counter right now. Don't forget to share the fun with friends and family – anyone can be a winner!!

The drawing is set for December 7th at Classical Music Night (no need to be present to win.)

Tickets will be available at the door on Dec. 7th. All tickets **must be returned** on or before this date. For more tickets or information please contact Jayne Kelly at 848-459-4868.



Barnes and Noble – Freehold AND Holmdel: Tuesday, Dec. 11th

This year, you have more shopping choices! High Tech PFA will receive up to 20% of all sales made on December 11th at **either** the Freehold store or the Holmdel store. What a great deal!!! Make a huge dent in your holiday shopping and stop for a snack at the café. We'll get credit for all of it if you just mention High Tech High School at the check out counter! No voucher needed!

High Tech volunteers will be on hand at the Holmdel store to personally wrap your purchases from 9 AM to 11 PM. To volunteer to wrap books, please call Carol Rech—even one hour will help! Tell friends and family to shop at the Freehold or Holmdel Barnes and Noble on Dec. 11th—don't forget to tell the cashier you are supporting the High Tech HS PFA!

HTHS Clothing

We're now taking orders for HTHS logo items. Please go to the HTHS website and download an order form. All orders should be sent to the PFA mailbox in the school office.

If you would like to volunteer to help with fundraising, please call Susan Carlson. Your help is greatly appreciated

Education Support: Driver's Education Course

The PFA at High Technology High School is again organizing an after-school Driver's Education Course, which will be held from 2:45-4:45pm on the following dates: Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12, 19, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14 (15 classes). There are only eleven openings left for the January session so get your registration forms in soon! It is likely that one will also be held next fall. You can download registration forms from Public Announcements on the BBS or at the HTHS website. Be sure to mail your registration to me instead of returning it to school. Priority will be given to students who are already 16 or will be turning 16 before next September. ***This year, Coast Driving School has kindly donated a full tuition scholarship for the January class for a student who would not be able to attend without financial aid. See Mr. Simon to apply.***

Judging by the phone calls I have received from parents, there seems to be some confusion about the process of getting a license. Students who are 16 can get a driving permit that allows them to drive only with an adult. At 17, they can get a provisional license, and then a full license at

18. Taking a 30 hour course, such as the one being sponsored by the PFA, can give you a price break on your insurance. It is not required, but will probably more than pay for itself because you are likely to get the discount each year until your child turns 21, depending on your carrier. To get a permit at 16, students must take a six-hour behind-the-wheel class from a driving school. This can also save you money on your insurance each year until age 21. A behind-the-wheel class is also not required, but if it is not taken, the student has to wait until the age of 17 and still must drive with an adult for at least six months before getting a provisional license. Below is a link to the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission for more information: <http://www.state.nj.us/mvc/Licenses/EarlyBird.htm#a1>

If you have any questions, please contact me at 732-747-7180. I can also be reached via the BBS.

~Debbie Shields, PFA Driver's Ed. Coordinator

Art and Gift Auction

Save the date! The PFA's biggest annual fundraiser is April 25th, 2008.

This is an enjoyable evening to socialize, snack on great hors d'oeuvres and buy some beautiful artwork while supporting the school's PFA Scholarship and General Fund. This event is SO BIG and raises SO MUCH money, that plans are already well underway!

Once again, the event will include the themed gift baskets. Some current ideas include: *Travel, Digital Photography, Dinner Out, Technology, Music, Sports and Theatre*. Last year, the baskets were so popular, they raised over \$4,500 for the PFA! Of course, this doesn't happen without your help...

At this time, we are looking for tax-deductible cash donations (please make checks payable to HTHS-PFA) and gift cards from your favorite stores. We can then shop for items to complete the theme. If a few families donate \$50 or \$100 each, that will buy quite a nice item to bid on, be it a TV, large grill or weekend away! Please consider going in on it with friends and co-workers.

Your continual and generous support is very much appreciated! **Please return the form below with your donation to the PFA Mailbox, HTHS, P.O. Box 119, Lincroft, NJ Att: Art & Gift Auction.**

The next meeting of the Art & Gift Auction Committee will be on December 12th at 7pm in the HTHS MPR. Please join us if you'd like to help us plan this wonderful and profitable event. For more information and/or questions, please contact Alison Wollman at 732-544-9448 .

Please accept my donation of: \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other for the 2007 Art and Gift Auction.

Please list my name/business as _____ in the program.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Student News

Congratulations to the following members of the Class of 2007 who were invited to participate in the **2007 National Merit Program's** College Plans Reporting Service:

Semi-Finalist

Dalton, Sage
 Gayen, Sujoy
 Jackson, Thomas
 Kossey, Michael
 Lu, Peiruo
 Ranganath, Praveen
 Sherbert, Matthew
 Supnekar, Neil
 Tobias, Raymond
 Wang, Yinuo
 Wei, Angela
 Yau, Patricia

Commended

Andreatch, Steven
 Bastelli, Joseph
 Cardone, Patrick
 Chambers, Brian
 Chao, Eric
 Corcoran, Jennifer
 Ebinger, Eric
 Goldsmith, Kerry
 Hagen, Shawna
 Jagendorf, Alexander

Kim, Junho
 Lau, Kwendy
 Loelius, Charles
 Maziarz, Caitlin
 Meisenhelter, Stephen
 Meyer, Joseph
 Ng, Amanda
 Oakes, Bryan
 Piccoli, Christopher
 Reilly, Katherine
 Roache, Kelly
 Sauer, Franz

Schambach, Lauren
 Shell, Brian
 Shum, Andrew
 Thompson, Elizabeth
 Waldman, Abraham
 Yu, Rebecca
 Zakhalyavko, Mariya
 Ziegler, Brandt
 (Some not listed)

Congratulations to the newest members of the **HTHS National Honor Society!** These students were inducted into the NHS on Nov. 15, 2007.

Avantha Arachchi
 Anthony Bakshi
 Joseph Bastelli
 John Benedict
 Maxwell Blodgett
 Steven Castellano
 George Corsi
 (Some not listed)

Gianna Darbin
 Thomas Deahl
 Nicholas Durante
 Jay Feldman
 Shawn Flanders
 Geordie Folinas
 Jonathan Gabor
 Tanay Gavankar

Shawna Hagen
 Donald Husa
 Spencer Lindeman
 Joan Liu
 Matthey Lucchesi
 John Mueller
 Amanda Ng
 Joseph Nugent
 Joshua Pang

Lucas Pasch
 Lindsey Rappleyea
 Kevin Ridsen
 Jacob Robins
 Daniel Sherwood
 Raymond Tobias
 Damara Viray
 Mariya Zakhalyavko
 Jason Zukus

The Environmental Club is collecting used printer cartridges as a fund raiser. All monies received are given to various environmental causes at the end of the year. Any used cartridges can be placed in the labeled box outside of room 170. Thank you!

Ms. Grunthner
 Environmental Club Advisor

Alumni Day is Jan. 4 and the senior class will meet in groups with HTHS alumni during 5th period. Alumni will share the inside scoop on the first year of college, things you can't live without, getting along with roommates, time management and earning \$\$ part time, workstudy and great jobs on campus as well as other vital info! Plan to be there!!

Mrs. Tice

Congratulations to Franz Sauer and Andrew Shum who were named as semi-finalists in the 2007-08 Siemens National Competition in Math, Science & Technology.

NanoDay @ Penn

In October, the Nano/Bio Interface Center of the University of Pennsylvania sponsored a day of education and outreach programs for the Penn community as well as regional high schools. Congratulations to our HTHS students who competed: Jay Feldman, Jason Zukus and Jeff Hart with Franz Sauer taking 1st place in 12th grade.

Musicians in Concert

While HTHS does not have its own music program, many students have found a place to participate. Taking part in the Colts Neck Community Band are students Lindsey Rappleyea, Elizabeth Thompson, Patty Thompson and Charmian Wu. The next concert is February 7.

(Student News continued on page 6)

Student News

The Technology Student Association has 98 members for the 2007-08 competition year. Students are thinking about their projects/problems right now. The State Conference is tentatively scheduled for April 3 with Nationals at Disney World in FL the end of June. The Junior Class won the penny wars. Can tabs are still being collected for Ronald McDonald House—the container is in the MPR near the vending machines.

Holiday Shopping?

Remember the PFA's "no work fundraisers"

- **SchoolPop.com:** Shop online at over 250 merchants, and up to 18% of every purchase comes back to our school - at no extra cost to you. Go to www.schoolpop.com, click "Join" to register, and choose High Technology High School (**Account #0241489**) to receive credit for your purchases.
- **QSP Reader's Digest:** We earn 50% of all gift purchases and 40% of all magazine purchases. Go to www.QSP.com and follow directions to register. Our **GIFT** account number is **710317075** and our **MAGAZINE** account number is **425011118**.

Career Day 2008

The PFA is proud to sponsor Career Day the first Friday in May each year. This is an opportunity for our students to attend presentations by a variety of speakers in the fields of technology, engineering and architecture, science, law, medicine, research and the arts, just to name a few! It is a chance for them to learn more about a field of interest or explore an area they know nothing about. Based on student feedback, we'd like to find the following speakers for May 2, 2008—astronaut, environmental or aerospace/aeronautical or software engineers, nuclear physicist, lawyer, video game designer, artist, author or journalist, and police officer. To volunteer or suggest a speaker, please contact Jane Rappleyea on the BBS, at jdr409@yahoo.com or by phone at 732-946-4887.

A Brief Guideline to the PSAT, SAT, and ACT

For many years the PFA has offered SAT practice tests and PSAT prep courses as a service to our students and is considering a practice ACT in the spring. In order to make the most of these opportunities, it is helpful to understand these tests.

The PSAT: The PSAT is a test to familiarize the student with the format of the SAT. It is given in October and the scores from a student's junior year are used to qualify for the National Merit Scholarships.

The SAT: The SAT is the most commonly used college admissions and scholarship qualifying test, assessing the student's aptitude in reading, writing and mathematics. It tests reasoning and verbal abilities and includes a mandatory essay. Each time you take an SAT test, the scores are added to your permanent SAT record and a copy is sent to the student, the high school and to the colleges and scholarship programs you choose. The SAT and the SAT II's (subject tests) cannot be taken on the same day. Not all colleges require SAT II's.

The ACT: The ACT is an alternative to the SAT accepted by many colleges (particularly those in the Midwest and South). It has 4 sections: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning with an optional Essay and is given several times a year. It is an achievement test, measuring what you have learned in school.

What should my child take? When? General guidelines: Practice makes perfect; however, after a certain amount of practice, you are unlikely to perform better (law of diminishing returns). According to many college admissions officers, they rarely find that taking these tests more than twice (officially) makes a significant difference in a student's scores. Exceptions might be if a student were sick on the day of the exam or if the first exam was taken before the student entered high school.

The PSAT: For most students, the first "test that counts" is the PSAT taken in October of their junior year of high school. All sophomores at High Tech do take the PSAT and a practice test is offered in Sept. each year prior to the official test date. HTHS PFA offers a PSAT prep course in September.

The SAT: Students should take an official SAT during their junior year. Often this is done by March to allow for retesting in June or in the early fall. Practice tests are useful if the student has never taken the test or has done some type of significant preparation since last taking the test. But—beware of overtesting! Don't burn-out! Extensive SAT prep courses are available.

The ACT: The ACT is used as an alternative to the SAT. Almost all colleges will accept either one, although they may prefer one over the other. Check the college websites. The ACT can be taken more than once and students can choose which scores they wish to send.

Registration: The simplest and quickest way to register is on-line by setting up a student account at either www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org respectively. Or students can pick up a paper booklet in the guidance office and complete the slower, but equally valid paper registration form while supplies last.

THE PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION (PFA)

PFA Executive Committee

Membership on the Executive Committee consists of the elected officers and the chairperson(s) of each standing committee. For the School Year 2007-2008, the Executive Committee consists of the following members:

PFA Executive Board Members 2007-2008

*Co-President	Michele Robins	732-918-9054
	Jean Primavera	732-531-0405
Vice-President	Susan Carlson	732-528-1419
*Corresp Sec	Gail Folinis	732-974-9375
*Recording Sec	Kathy Woolston	732-303-0535
*Treasurer	Jackie Francisco-Sapienza	732-530-4991

*Hospitality Co-Chairs.....	Penny Mueller	732-280-2261
	Barbara Chao	732-758-9359
	Lin Jagendorf	732-792-1123
	Mary Ellen Castellano	732-671-8485
*Membership.....	Malu Felizardo	732-294-0471
	Karen Rock	732-367-5751
*Newsletter.....	Dianne Thompson	732-747-9324
	Laura Tiano	732-292-0555

PFA Committee Members 2007-2008

*Alumni Support Chair.....	Bill Warshauer	732-728-9002
*Ed. Support Chair.....	Jane Rappleyea	732-946-4887
Practice PSAT/SAT	Linda Kern	732-223-5376
Driver's Ed Course	Debbie Shields	732-747-7180
Career Day	Jane Rappleyea	732-946-4887
Global Enrichment	Dianne Thompson	732-747-9324
*Fundraising Chair.....	TBA	
Super 50/50	Jane Kelly	848-459-4868
Barnes & Noble	Patty Friedhoff	732-280-3574
Art & Gift Auction	Alison Wollman	732-544-9448
Clothing Sales	Linda Risden	732-389-4633

*Parent-Student		
Activities Chair.....	Shelley Ziegler	732-935-9646
Classical Evening.....	Shelley Ziegler	732-935-9646
Annual Picnic.....	Victor/Laurie Olefson..	732-219-0709
Post Prom Party.....	Ellen Cahill	732-870-6842
*Scholarships & Corporate		
Grants Chair	Joan Dale	609-259-2032
Senior Luncheon Co-Chairs...	Michele Robins	732-918-9054
	TBA	
*Tech Support.....	Jayne Kelly	848-459-4868

* Indicates positions that may vote according to bylaws.

HTHS Annual Donation Option 2007-2008

Your ANNUAL DONATION can make a huge difference in your child's educational experience at High Tech. This replaces many of the smaller fundraisers! Please consider this option!

If you are interested, please complete this form and return it with your check to the PFA Mailbox in the office or mail it to:

HTHS-PFA, Attention Jackie Francisco-Sapienza
P.O. Box 119, Lincroft, New Jersey, 07738

I/We choose the single annual donation of the recommended \$100.00 or more. Enclosed is our check made payable to HTHS-PFA. I/We understand that we will receive the information on the other fundraisers because of the method the PFA uses to distribute them. We can ignore this information with a clear conscience or participate if we choose to do so.

Parent/Guardian

Date

Student's Name

Class of 2008
Class of 2009
Class of 2010
Class of 2011

Yes, my employer will match this gift.

Name of Employer: _____

Your annual **tax-deductible** donation goes to Scholarships and the PFA General Fund, which historically supports the Post-Prom Party, education grants, trips, newsletters, directory and hospitality events. Contact Jackie Francisco-Sapienza at 732-530-4991 or email via BBS with any questions.

HTHS CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2007

- 1 Sat SAT Testing (Home Schools)
- 3 Mon PFA Meeting (7 pm) - *All are welcome!*
- 7 Fri Classical Music Night, Super 50/50 Drawing,
PFA General Meeting (7 pm)
- 11 Tue Barnes and Noble Fundraiser
- 12 Wed Art & Gift Auction Committee Meeting (7 pm)
- 14 Fri SGA Event (6:30pm)
- 19 Wed MP 2 Progress Reports Mailed
- 24-31 Mon-Mon School Closed - Winter Holiday

JANUARY 2008

- 1 Tue School Closed
- 4 Fri Alumni Day (11:30 am)
- 7 Mon PFA Meeting (7 pm) - *All are welcome!*
- 10 Thu Freshman Parent Tea (7 pm)
- 18 Fri SGA Event (6:30pm)
- 19 Sat HTHS Admissions Test (9 am)
- 21 Mon School Closed—Staff Day
- 23-25 Wed-Fri Midterm Exams (Tentative)
- 26 Sat SAT Testing (Home Schools)
- 28 Mon End of MP 2
- 31 Thu MP2 Report Cards Mailed

FEBRUARY 2008

- 1 Fri MCVSD 9/10th Gr. Dance at BTHS 6:30 pm
- 4 Mon PFA Meeting (7 pm) - *All are welcome!*
- 7 Thu Sophomore Parent Night (7 pm)
- 15 Fri SGA Event—Valentine Dance (6:30 pm)
- 18 Mon School Closed—Staff Day

2007-2008 Student Directory Update

A *Corrections & Additions* page is included in this newsletter.
Please insert it in your copy of the Directory.