



celebrating
80 Years!

Community Link

John Bapst Memorial High School

September 2008 | Volume V, No.1

FROM THE
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Notes from a Happy New Year

At the outset—sometimes it feels like the onset—of the new school year, some of us adults find ourselves just exhausted by afternoon or evening. Would that we had the energy of our students!



Mel MacKay

But it's been a great beginning, and in the first month of the 2008-09 school year the student body has been amazing. The

Student Senate under President Katie Clark '09 and Vice President John Pearson '10 has been meeting to organize the election of freshmen, discuss the dress code, and plan presidential debates and a mock election. The Student Environmental Action Committee is planning a world hunger observance and an Earth Day program. The National Honor Society undertook the fall Honors Assembly and began the new year's selection process. In a game in which the rain never stopped, the football team played an overtime home opener that felt like a playoff game. The seasons for field hockey, soccer, cross-country, and golf teams are well underway, and the fall comedy, "Acting Can Be Murder," directed by Melissa Avery-Burns, has been advertised, cast, and launched for an opening on the weekend of November 7. And new clubs have formed—a Film Club and clubs representing the right and left of the political spectrum.

Something else is new this year. In the section of the *Student-Parent Handbook*

continued on page 4

PRIDE IN THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE

By Lyndsey Brozyna '09

It was the fifteenth of August at approximately 9:30 p.m. (Eastern China time, of course). The diverse crowd screamed an unintelligible mix of cheers for their respective teams, as the stinging rain unrelentingly soaked the various flags and painted posters visible all around the stadium. Since the security guards had confiscated my umbrella on the grounds that it was too large and could be used as a weapon, I, too, was dripping from head to toe. The scattered jerseys on the huge field below me zigzagged in ornate formations in attempts to finally end this seemingly endless game; we'd been in the stadium for five hours, and the referees had held the game off for nearly three hours because of the torrential downpour. Despite the excitement of the atmosphere, just about everyone present was ready to go home and take a hot shower.



Shannon Brozyna and author Lyndsey Brozyna at the 2008 Olympic Futbol Field

Just as the 30-minute overtime buzzer was about to ring its end, the U.S. women proved their superiority over our neighbors to the north and scored — finally! We had won. The enthusiasm of my fellow American fans was overwhelming. Despite the smeared face paint and waterlogged signs, an endless sea of red, white, and blue cheered on our pride for our team and our country.

The scene I described above details one part of my experience at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Shanghai. While most of the events were held in China's capital, my sister and I were lucky enough to catch one of the quarterfinal games in women's "futbol" taking place in my dad's hometown. We also somehow managed to get front-row seats. Needless to say, the view was incredible — words are inadequate to properly describe it, really. We sat directly in front of the family of the U.S. player who kicked the winning goal in that 1-1 overtime game against Canada, catapulting the team to the semifinals, and, eventually, the final game in Beijing, where they defeated Brazil to claim yet another gold medal.



Be Who You Are. Become All You Are.

At Bapst, I've never felt like I needed to change myself to fit in. Katherine Greenlaw '09

John Bapst has allowed me to, and helped me to, develop my own opinions as well as helped me mature as a student and as a person. Fred Lear '10

It has challenged me to push myself in all areas. Casey Hull '09



“From the Simply Miraculous to the Miraculously Complex”

Mitch McCarthy Delivers Fall Convocation Address

English teacher Mitch McCarthy, who begins his 20th year at John Bapst Memorial High School, delivered the 2008 Fall Convocation address. Although addressed to the student body, its message is applicable to everyone, young and old alike. Following are excerpts from Mr. McCarthy's address. On July 29, Mr. McCarthy and his wife Sarah welcomed the birth of their daughter, Maisie Spangler Presbrey McCarthy.

I know that the birth of a child may seem a strange thing to compare to a new year of high school, but like many of you, I find myself on the threshold of a new phase of my education, a phase for which I may not be completely prepared, whose learning curve may be precipitous at times, and in which my progress may be assessed frequently and perhaps sometimes unsparingly.

Despite my personal weaknesses and lack of practical preparation, I am a parent now, and I have no choice but to overcome—or at least to mitigate those weaknesses—and to learn from experience those things for which life has not yet prepared me. Whether I like it or not, I will be a role model for my daughter. Maisie will imitate me in language, in facial expressions, in physical gestures, and even in dietary preferences. As she gets older, she will look to me for all kinds of social cues, for her values, for her morals, for her ethics, and perhaps even for her musical tastes. Indeed, I will be under great scrutiny, sometimes when I least suspect it. I must every day endeavor to be a better father and a better husband than I was the day before. I must repair my mistakes, not for my sake, but for hers and for the sake of my fledgling family. I must be more cognizant than ever concerning how my behavior affects others. I must commit to learning from my new experiences in ways I never have before. After all, the commitment that comes with parenthood is not a sacrifice, though some may couch it in those terms; rather, it is a choice to embrace a world of worries, unknowns, and wonders; and *that* choice—and the corresponding commitment to meet new challenges daily—makes parenthood not unlike your high school education.

Yes, I too, have gone back to school, and my new professor is only one month old. Despite her youth, she has taught me the value of wonder. Is it not a wonder that two cells, invisible to the human eye, could contain all the material necessary for creating the eight pound nine ounce creature that first drew breath on July 29th of this year? Is it not a wonder that from those two tiny cells millions of variegated cells would arise, and those cells would be as disparate as nerve and sinew, as muscle and bone, as skin and the cones of the inner eye?

My daughter Maisie is both miraculous and mundane. She reminds me every day that we are each the product of a kind of miracle and that even the curve of the nail of her tiny pinkie finger is worthy of wonder. She also gives me pop quizzes every once in a while, and she recently gave me a major exam that I failed horribly. If you think taking a test in a quiet room is hard, try changing a onesie (one of those pullover garments with snaps on the bottom) while a baby writhes and squalls unhappily beneath your hands on the changing table.

So, now the question becomes “What does this baby stuff have to do with all of you?” First of all, you are more miraculous now than you ever were as infants. You have gone from the simply miraculous to the miraculously complex. Think of all the things you have learned, mastered, and accomplished. You were born an empty canvas of vast potentialities, and now you are a subtle and varied work of art, though you will never really be completed. Experience will sharpen your contrasts and deepen your subtleties; some changes are inevitable, and not all of them will be for the better, but all are part of the landscape of your life. You have this in common with every person in the room, and the adults are no exception. Feel free to marvel at your fellow miracles today and every day, and, as such, remember to show each and every one of us the respect we deserve.

Secondly, if a man of 42 years can have the fires of his curiosity stoked by a child of four weeks, then surely you can have your curiosity re-ignited by all the things you can learn this year. Let your imagination, your capacity to marvel, your innate sense of wonder be engaged – or re-engaged – not just by what you study in the classroom, but by the many possibilities of enquiry that extend beyond the classroom. If what you learn inside these walls stays inside these walls, then we are all just wasting our time. Carry your knowledge, your curiosity, and your developing skills into the world beyond this building. Only out there will you regularly reap the rewards of your education.

Finally, I implore you to measure your academic progress by the increase of your knowledge, the burgeoning of your intellect, and the deepening of your curiosity and wonder—not by grades or standardized test scores. The miracle you are cannot be quantified by a test score, a quarter average, a GPA, an SAT score, an AP score, or your class ranking. I encourage you to learn for yourself and to pursue beyond the curriculum the things that interest you the most. I urge you to dwell on that which fascinates, captivates, and elevates you. I urge you to have a great year.



Exploring Technology - Both the Fun and the Practical

By Michael Murphy
Technology Teacher and Technology Club Advisor

In 2007-08, the John Bapst Technology Club's second year, club members engaged in projects from the fun to the practical. They held two school-wide game events: a DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) tournament open and free to all and a Wii Guitar Hero tournament that doubled as a fundraiser for the group.

On the practical side, the Technology Club tried its hand at building an interactive white board using software and instructions found online. The process took about three weeks, and in the end the students had constructed what would normally cost from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for 90 percent less than the retail cost. It is currently being used in one of the computer labs, and plans are in the works to roll this technology out to other classrooms as well.

This year the Technology Club has decided to write a multi-player computer game. The game is currently in its design phase, and its development will involve about a dozen members of the club. Other club projects involve robotics and building computers for the physics lab.

In the Advanced Programming class, an experienced group of students have decided to build a more robust interactive white board as a class project. The students are using a Nintendo Wii remote controller and intercepting its signals so that it can be treated like a mouse for the computer. If successful, this project will make lectures using a projector very easy for the teacher to control. When the project is complete, students hope to publish their work and make it available for free on the Internet as well as put out a promotional video on YouTube.

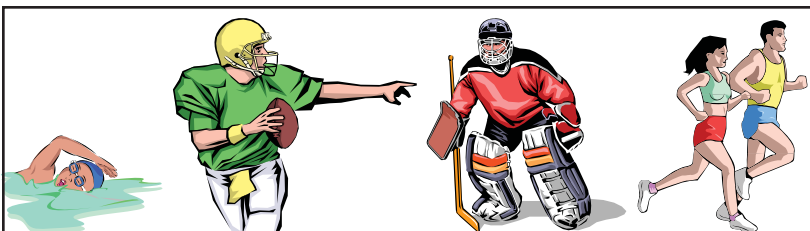
For the first time, students in the Computer Programming class are being given the option to take the AP Computer Science exam at the end of the year. Computer Program-

ming is a two-semester sequence of courses that are meant to introduce students to the field of computer science and to prepare them for the more intense course of study offered in Advance Programming. By the end of the two semesters, all of the students will have taken part in a complete software development project and will have learned many of the foundational principles in Computer Science.

In the Computer Media class, students are exploring various media tools on the computer, including web development and image processing as well as audio and video processing. In this class, students also explore sound effects, video effects, and video editing techniques. By the completion of the course, students are expected to produce a good quality film or video project.

New this year to John Bapst is a Filmmaking Club. A large core of extremely motivated students are exploring all aspects of filmmaking, from screen writing to acting to editing. The goal is to create a large school-wide production or host a film festival of short films.

Department Chair Kevin Champney explained recently that the goal of the Technology Department is "to have a cohesive curriculum, one that builds sequentially across the disciplines, reinforcing and expanding upon the skills that are introduced in the ninth-grade technology class." Referencing the school's recently updated Technology Plan, he added, "We aim to help students become flexible users of technology that can move back and forth between different applications with ease and develop solid critical thinking and troubleshooting skills. Not only do we try to provide a technological foundation for every student, but we also try to provide opportunities for those who have a real interest in the subject by providing advanced classes and opportunities outside the classroom to explore the more creative aspects of technology."



2008-09 SPORTS SEASON PASSES

Season passes are good for all John Bapst home, non-playoff games in football, hockey, girls' basketball, and boys' basketball.

Student Pass - \$25

Adult Pass - \$50

Family Pass - \$140 (two adult and two student passes)

To purchase your season pass, contact Athletic Director Rick Sinclair at 947-0313, extension 157.

For a family of four attending all home football, hockey, and basketball games, the savings would be \$220 when buying a Family Pass. Admission to home, non-playoff games in all other sports is free.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

October 14: Noon-3:00 and 3:30-6:00 p.m.

October 15: Noon-3:00 and 3:30-6:00 p.m.

October 16: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Parents wishing to schedule appointments should return the registration form sent home to all families, call 947-0313, or email conferences@johnbapst.org.

JOHN BAPST

Maine's 2007 AP High School of the Year

Celebrating 80 Years of Achievements



The Trip of a Lifetime

By Lydia Horne '08

This summer turned out to be a little different than I had originally planned. I missed at least a dozen movies as they passed through the theater, allowed a whole season of fashion trends to slip away, and was shocked to find the Jonas Brothers dominating the radio. I can't complain. After all, I was in Japan.

The opportunity to travel to Japan presented itself when Ms. Campbell interrupted class to tell me that she



Ayaka, author Lydia Horne, and Kasumi

had found a program I might be interested in. It turned out to be a home-stay experience where I would be in Japan for six weeks with a host family. The organization is Youths for

Understanding, and it was through them that I received a full scholarship from Toyota. I found out that I was going at the end of May and would be leaving by June 13. After experiencing the stress of getting ready, flying was almost an enjoyable experience (if you exclude the two-hour delay, the missed flight connection in Chicago, and the ten-hour flight to Tokyo).

I stayed with my host parents and two younger sisters in a small suburban area. My youngest sister, Kasumi (12), took me to elementary school, where I was two feet

taller than everyone else, very different looking, and very English-speaking. Kasumi also brought me to Kendo class every week where I got beaten up with bamboo swords in the sweltering humidity. Ayaka (15) took me shopping in the largest city that I've ever been in, and together we visited her friends' houses. I ventured into high school alone, but my homeroom class quickly adopted me, even though I was hopeless with the electronic dictionary. The Japanese have three alphabets.

Japanese culture turned out to be built on similar principles to American culture. Now, I have a family in America that I love and a family in Japan that I love.

By the end of my six weeks, I loved Japan, but I was also ready to come home. I don't think that I've ever been happier to see a "Welcome to Maine" sign in my life. Returning to Maine meant leaving behind the friends and family that I had discovered in Japan. Of course I did tell my host family that I would try to come and visit them after college. It would be a shame to disappoint them.



Kasumi, Lydia, and Ayaka

John Bapst Benefits from Hannaford "School Dollars"

John Bapst is participating in Hannaford Helps Schools, a program where parents earn three "school dollars" for every four participating products they purchase and then direct those "school dollars" to benefit the school of their choice. Visit http://www.hannaford.com/hhs/pdfs/hhs_letter.pdf or the John Bapst web site, www.johnbapst.org, for more information.

Notes from a Happy New Year - continued from page 1

entitled "Behavior and Discipline Policies," the John Bapst Code now appears. Our thinking was simple: if we're going to outline many of the ways student behavior can go wrong, shouldn't we begin by proposing a positive code of conduct?

The list of positive expectations expressed in a positive tone is meant to be a portrait of John Bapst in miniature: friendliness, helpfulness, respect, tolerance, understanding, honesty, and integrity are ideals the school has embraced from the beginning. The code also

mentions "a focus on learning opportunities," "support of the efforts of others," "dependability and timeliness," and "care of school facilities."

All of this activity is typical John Bapst—busy, self-motivated students engaged in challenging coursework and in a broad spectrum of activities. By the time you read this article, faculty and staff will have caught their breath, though we're under no illusions about catching up to our students.



Faculty and Staff Share Summer Experiences

John Bapst science teacher **Beth Campbell** was selected to attend the 2008 National Marine Educators Association annual conference as a sponsored educator. The conference was held the week of July 21-24 in Savannah, Georgia. Her sponsoring organization was the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence - Ocean Systems (COSEE - OS). COSEE includes a network of 13 centers nationally whose goal is to advance ocean science education. COSEE-OS is the center at the University of Maine and is primarily funded by the National Science Foundation.

John Bapst mathematics teacher and new Dean of Student Affairs **Elizabeth Wood** attended a workshop in Philadelphia from July 6-12 that was specifically geared towards her new role at John Bapst. Ms. Wood was one of the 24 workshop participants who came from independent schools across the country.

In April, John Bapst Mathematics teacher **Brendan Murphy** was selected as Maine's 2007 Presidential Award

winner in mathematics. Every two years one high school math teacher and one high school science teacher from each state are selected for this award. The PAEMST (Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching) is the highest award a math teacher can receive. This summer, in addition to a week-long visit to Washington D.C. where he received the PAEMST, Mr. Murphy also presented six week-long Advanced Placement Summer Institutes to help prepare teachers to teach AP classes, ran two AP Calculus institutes, three AP Statistics institutes, and a Pre-AP workshop. Two presentations were in Seattle, one was in Vermont, one was in Toronto, and two were in Maine.

In October, Mr. Murphy will travel to Swaziland with the College Board to present at the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA) yearly conference, where he will conduct Pre-AP Mathematics and AP Calculus work with middle school and secondary school teachers from throughout Africa.

New Security Procedures to Be Implemented September 29th

By Peter Zelz
Director of Finance and Operations

Effective Monday, September 29, students, parents, and visitors will be able to enter John Bapst through two doors: the administrative entrance and the handicapped accessible entrance into the foyer. Both of these doors, located on the front (Broadway) side of the building, will be unlocked from 6:00 - 8:45 a.m. and from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. The new locks are equipped with a buzzer, intercom, and camera. When the doors are locked, individuals wishing to enter the building will ring the buzzer and identify themselves. During the school day, visitors should stop by the Administrative Office before proceeding elsewhere in the building.

Homecoming 2008: Celebrating 80 Years of John Bapst

"Remembering the Decades"

Throughout the 2008-09 school year, John Bapst will celebrate its 80th anniversary. But nowhere will that celebration be more evident than during Homecoming 2008 when individual classes will participate in remembering - and honoring - the decades of students who have walked these hallowed halls. Faculty, staff, students, parents, grandparents, alumni/ae, and all future students are welcome - in fact, encouraged - to join in the celebration.

Visit the John Bapst web site, www.johnbapst.org, for more details on all Homecoming 2008 events.

Homecoming 2008 Class Themes

Class of 2009 - The 1960s and 1970s

Class of 2010 - The 1980s and 1990s

Class of 2011 - The 1920s and 1930s

Class of 2012 - The 1940s and 1950s

Open Forum Planned for November 3

A Parents' Association Open Forum with Head of School Mel MacKay is scheduled for Monday, November 3. The Forum will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the John Bapst Library. Further details about the Open Forum will be sent home to families in October.

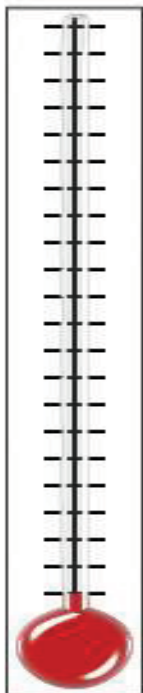




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The John
Bapst Annual
Fund: Helping to
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 1

Senior Parent Night (6:00-7:30 p.m.)

October 4

Homecoming and Tailgating Party

October 7

Ninth-grade Parent Night (6:30-8:00 p.m.)

October 13

Columbus Day (No School)

October 14 and 15

Testing Days (Early Dismissal)

October 14, 15, 16

Parent-Teacher Conferences (See page 3.)

October 21

1st Solo & Ensemble Night (6:00 p.m.)

October 31

1st Quarter Ends

November 3

Fall Open Forum (6:30 p.m., in the Library)