

# Nathan Hale News



of family, alumni and staff and friends. The publication of the Nathan Hale High School Foundation.

## Annual Fund Kickoff

NO. 16 SPRING 2006

### Nowhere Men Concert at the PAC January 28th

Where were you when you first heard the Beatles? I can so vividly remember my mother urging me to watch them on the Ed Sullivan Show in February 1964 and telling me why they were called The Beatles ("hear the beat?"). The



*Nowhere Men band members George Meyers and Rick Bartelli.*

Nathan Hale community got to re-experience Beatlemania LIVE thanks to the Nathan Hale Annual Fund Committee and THE NOWHERE MEN, the premier north-west Beatles tribute band who brought us I want to Hold your Hand and many more wonderful Beatles songs

during the first ever and very successful Annual Fund Kick-off benefit event held on January 28. The NOWHERE MEN's recreation of the Beatles in the Nathan Hale PAC that night brought together many



*NH Jazz Combo band. Photos by M. D'Asaro.*

generations of Nathan Hale High School supporters clapping, singing and

swaying to tunes that have stayed popular for over forty years!

The evening also showcased our very own Jazz Combo who played before the concert in the PAC foyer AND we got a sneak preview of NH Production's spring musical, MOBY DICK! The Musical, during intermission. The musical will run the first 2 weekends in May, be sure to see it. All

in all, it was a grand evening! See you next year.

Special thanks go to NOWHERE MEN band member and NHHS dad George Meyers, KUOW's Steve Sher who hosted the evening, teacher Brain Coon, parent John Howell and all the NH students for reminding us about the benefits to Nathan Hale from the concert.

### Annual Campaign Update: With the School Budget Battered, You're Riding to the Rescue

The Nathan Hale community is again being asked to come to the financial rescue of our School by pledging to the Annual Campaign – and you are responding with heroic

generosity! As of this writing, donations ranging from \$5 to \$5,000, received from 263 families, alumni and friends, have resulted in \$88,912

being raised for Nathan Hale students' 2006-2007 school year. Many, many thanks to all of you who have made your pledge to the Annual Campaign.

We have more to do and need your help to put us over the top. With the final \$31,000 needed to reach the Annual Campaign goal of \$120,000, we ask every Nathan Hale community member to consider if they can afford at least \$10 a month to pay for educational excellence at Hale. For the price of two coffee drinks and a scone, enough money will be pledged so that students can continue to benefit from one of the best educational experiences offered in Seattle.

Check out the "Excellence List" and be very proud of your pledge dollars at work. Then please use the enclosed envelope

to make a contribution meaningful to you. All amounts are welcome. Now you've joined a community of people who are saying "we support academic excellence" for every child at Nathan Hale.

It's a sad fact that there simply is not enough money coming from the school district to pay for the education we'd all like our children to receive. But together, we can make a better future for all of our kids. And again, many, many thanks. Please email Chris Rylko, at [c.rylko@worldnet.att.net](mailto:c.rylko@worldnet.att.net), if you have any questions.

### Nathan Hale: Be Proud of Your School's All-Around Excellence

Parents who send their child to Nathan Hale know the benefits of an educational system that's unique among Seattle's high schools. It's a system founded on common vision among staff, collaboration and inclusiveness. All students have access to rigorous and relevant curriculum and are encouraged to do honors level

work. In our small learning communities and mentorships, students are known well by teachers who care about their choices and performance. And the results? **As you'll see from below, Nathan Hale students are impressive in every category.**

- WASL test scores among the highest in Seattle
- The greatest improvement by demographic group in WASL Reading test scores

*The Annual Fund Kickoff Concert with The Nowhere Men raised \$9790 towards our goal of \$120,000*

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- Honors Chemistry taken by 150 Juniors students – out of a class of 250 total students
- Advanced Math enrollment – 120 taking pre-Calculus; 90 taking Calculus; 60 of those in AP Calculus; and 26 taking AP Statistics
- Sports participation is the highest of any high school – over 50% of students
- Community service hours total 23,000 for the Class of 2005
- Graduation rate: over 80% pursue post-secondary education



## NH School News

### Note from the Principal

With the arrival of spring we know that it means Spring Fever with incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-graders looking towards high school and registering for classes, 10<sup>th</sup>-graders taking the Washington Assessment of



Student Learning (WASL) in March and April, our 11<sup>th</sup>-graders looking at SATs, ACTs, college visits, and Advanced Placement exams, and

our 12<sup>th</sup>-graders salivating at life beyond high school and pursuing work, college, internships, travel, service, and other exciting opportunities. For staff it is a “time of two minds”: working in this year while budgeting and staffing for next year. All in all, feverish behavior!

Although it has been in the news that the **School Board is now providing funds for a 6-period day, we need to be clear: while that money helped and will not be turned down, it does not “fully fund” a six period day.** We remain committed to providing academic access to students, but clearly, without the support of Nathan Hale’s Foundation, we would not be able to offer the rigorous, relevant, and accessible curriculum that we know benefits our students and our learning community has come to expect. As NHF supporters, you

have enabled us to purchase replacement novels, classroom maps, world language workbooks and more. The Annual Campaign helped balance our budget so that we can meet the staffing ratios for the Small Learning Communities, keeping our Academy classes between a 23-24:1 ratio, and still have paper to write on and pens to write with! Further, with the funds from the Annual Campaign combined with the “6-period day” funds, we find ourselves in the enviable position, for the first time in three years, of not needing to make large budget cuts to accounts used for supplies, copies, professional support, learning inquiry, etc. in order to maintain our committed and knowledgeable staff. Don’t get comfortable—we still need your support—but at least the turnip isn’t bleeding out!

Within this good news, we welcome our rising 8<sup>th</sup>-graders to their high school experience. We have students arriving from 36 different schools, 22 of which are considered private or independent. From the public schools, we have pulled strongly from Eckstein, Salmon Bay, Whitman, and Summit K-12. As a result, our learning community continues to be enriched with a strong and rich diversity of learning styles, experiences, and involvement. All of which, with the Foundation’s ongoing support, will continue to complement the achievement and success that students from Nathan Hale experience and take with them beyond these walls.

*-Lisa Hechtman, Principal*

## NH Foundation

### Note from the President

I’m continually amazed by our Nathan Hale Community. Your response to the Spring campaign is incredible. Equally important are the Foundation’s twin goals of community building and raising funds for Nathan Hale. We are gratified, humbled and down right happy at the response from you, our donors. Thank you! \$50,000 of what has been raised is already working for the school. With your continued support we will reach our \$120,000 goal. I am also happy to report that funds raised from our Fall events have gone to work in our classrooms (Fall Reception Book Fund) and the PAC (Performing Arts Festival). Please see the insert for staff notes of thanks.

Please keep those dollars coming - they are really needed. Supplementing District funding has become a way of life for our public schools. We are fortunate with your response - every dollar you provide leverages those received from the District and provides important flexibility needed to maintain reform elements put in place through years of hard work by our teachers.

We have high expectations for our community, we have equally high expectations for our students, the center of our community. The list of accomplishments in this issue is impressive. Excellent work by our students and staff - well done!

Turn now to the Benson Scholarship and a challenge. In every graduating class a dozen or so graduates are selected to receive the Nathan Hale Patriot Award. Last year, the first ever Benson Scholarship was awarded. With this award, came a challenge: a challenge for others in the community to provide similar awards. Our hope is that eventually all Patriot Award winners would receive some help to pursue their dreams. Perhaps a class of alumni, or successful graduate would consider this gift to the future. We hope so.

I close with thanks to our committees who made and are making this Foundation year so successful: the Foundation Board, Carol Driver and the Annual Campaign Committee; Gabi McCarthy and the PAC Festival Committee; the Plaque/Engraving Committee, Publicity Committee and the Fall Reception Committee. Thank you - you make everything possible. If you want to help with any Foundation activity, please let me know. And one last thing - Fall Reception is scheduled for Oct. 28th.

Yours in public education,  
Steve Reynolds, President



**Nathan Hale News is published by the Nathan Hale High School Foundation, 10750 30th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125 [www.nathanhale.org](http://www.nathanhale.org). President: Steve Reynolds, Vice President: Becky Roe ('69), Secretary: Rena Ferretti, Treasurer: Alice Lanczos. Please send articles as e-mails to [steve@apl.washington.edu](mailto:steve@apl.washington.edu).**



# Spring Calendar



## Celebrate and Acknowledge the Nathan Hale Staff With One Month of Tributes!!!

The Nathan Hale Foundation has sponsored "Tribute Day" to provide an opportunity for parents, students, friends, family and the community to recognize and thank Nathan Hale staff for everything they do for our benefit. Due to the overwhelming number of tributes, we expanded it last year, to "Tribute Week", celebrated in conjunction with National Teacher Appreciation Week. This year, our goal is even loftier: "Tribute Month – **Five Tributes a Day for the Entire Month of May.**" You're invited to celebrate our terrific teachers and staff at Nathan Hale High School by recognizing their efforts, their kindness, their abilities, and their dedication.

Please send a message for any teacher or staff member you would like to recognize to the Nathan Hale Foundation. The Foundation will share your message school-wide through the Daily Bulletin for the entire month of May. It will also share your message on the Nathan Hale Foundation website. Our goal this year is to have at least 5 tributes appearing per day, for a total of 150 tributes. We know you are asked many times over the year to make financial donations. Tribute Month is a way for you to make a different kind of donation: a most heartfelt, genuine, and sincere expression of thanks, appreciation and gratitude for those who dedicate themselves daily to make such a difference in the growth and development of our students. It is both free AND priceless.

Again, we will be using the internet to make it even quicker and more convenient for you to make a tribute. Visit [www.nathanhale.org/events.htm](http://www.nathanhale.org/events.htm) and follow the instructions. **Please send your message via the website link** or send to the Nathan Hale High School Office **by Friday, April 28, 2006.** Please contact Cindy Gok or Brian Wong at 206-522-9267 or 206-790-7813. Thank you for taking the time to let our staff know how much we appreciate them!

### 2006 Graduation Friday June 16th, 6:30

*Dear Elaine, Our department does very much appreciate the hard work and generosity of the Nathan Hale Foundation Book Committee. The donated books will be very useful to us. -NH Special Ed Department*

*Dear NH Foundation, I am writing to express heartfelt gratitude to the foundation for supporting the Horticulture and Biology programs at NH. We have begun using the donated books and look forward to receiving the haplo-typing kits next week. Many students will benefit from these materials. Thank you, Jessica Torvik*

*Dear NH Foundation, Thank you for the book purchases for the Child Development program here at Nathan Hale. The books will be a great resource for the students as they discover the joys and challenges of the various developmental stages. It is such a great way for you to help make a difference. -Thank you C. Kegley*

*Dear NH Foundation and Local Community, Thank you for your generosity.*

*Our brand spanking new Performing Arts Center is a beauty to behold. A four hundred fifty seat house, three quarter fly, computer guided stage lighting system, amps in a sound system that can blow a hole in the roof, chimes, microphones, spare bulbs, stands galore and a lighting infrastructure that can handle approximately 280 lighting instruments. What a gift! What opportunities! But not enough lights, not enough lighting instruments, only twelve lights in place when school opened.*

*Foundation efforts have led the way in rectifying this situation as a majority of the funds raised during our October 1<sup>st</sup> Grand P.A.C. Opening have gone towards new lights and the gels that are used to color those lights in our theatre. We have nearly doubled the number of lighting instruments in the space as our efforts continue in the establishment of our arts center and center for learning here at Nathan Hale.*

*The Performing Arts Center is a space where anything can happen. Theatre, music, classroom demonstrations, discussions, guest speakers, rehearsals, rap, original scores, more rehearsals, film, lighting design and grand opportunities for learning have all taken place in our PAC.*

*Mike Linett, PAC Manager*

### Tango With a Twist! Get Your Dancing Shoes On!

The Seattle School District budget allocation for Nathan Hale's Music Department is \$0.00. Hard to believe, but true! Music Boosters is a parent group dedicated to fundraising to assist with basics such as instrument purchases and repair, and sheet music, and some of the extras like supplementing travel costs and funding additional learning opportunities within the classroom. Nathan Hale Music Boosters Spring Fundraiser "Tango With a Twist" is planned for **Saturday April 22nd** from 7-10:30 at **Nathan Hale High School**. This is your chance to learn to Tango and Swing Dance, listen to live music, and bid on delectable desserts! Ticket costs are \$10 for adults, \$5 for Students/Teachers. For more information contact Chris Ingersoll [c.inger@comcast.net](mailto:c.inger@comcast.net)

### Moby Dick! The Musical

Nathan Hale Musicals invites you to join us at the Nathan Hale Performing Arts Center the **first two weeks in May** for the student production of **Moby Dick! The Musical**. A cult hit in London and a rock opera for the ages will have it's Northwest Premier at Nathan Hale. You won't want to miss this. All shows start at 7:30 PM at the Nathan Hale Performing Arts Center. (10750 30th Ave NE) \$12 Adults, \$6 Students and Seniors. For more information, visit [www.halemusicals.org](http://www.halemusicals.org).

*Nathan Hale School Foundation  
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***Nathan Hale Class of 1966  
Announces it's 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
September 22-23, 2006  
For more information contact  
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