

Nathan Hale News



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

Fall Reception 2006

NO. 18 Winter 2006

Coaches, Classrooms, and Community - the three themes inspiring our Fall Reception. The evening brought together coaches from every decade of Nathan Hale's existence, raised needed funds for classrooms and books, and gathered our community in celebration of our coaches and support of our school. Hosted at the Sand Point Country Club by a large committee of volunteers, it was a special evening. A silent auction, skillfully put together by Pam Generaux ('67), started the event off with over 60 items going to bidders. With special words describing the impact that coaches have on the lives of our students, Principal Lisa Hectman then introduced teacher and coach Gary Case as emcee. Consider these names: Bone, Burt, Case, Coleman, Comisky, C. Davis, E. Davis, DeCano, Hogle, Hopkins, Knott, Latvala, Lee, Manahan, Newton, J. Ringen, V. Ringen, and Whitney. Coaches are teachers, mentors, and friends to our students. Their impact is immeasurable and this October evening was a fitting tribute for what they do. Next, live and paddle "fund-a-need" auctions followed the celebration and with the evening winding down, wines from around the world, having been available for tasting, were sold at auction. Celebrating coaches, supporting classrooms and building a strong, supportive community, the receptioners headed into the evening with their winnings (one a Chihuly painting). What is on the teacher's list? Here are some

examples: 300 Pocket Constitutions, 25 biology texts, 160 copies of Catcher in the Rye, 15 copies of Game Programming for Teens, eight art texts, modified classics for ESL, - the list goes on.



(Left to right) Coaches Hopkins, Coleman, Comisky, Newton (background) DeCano, Latvala, Case, Bone, Ringen, C. Davis, Hogle, V. Ringen, Knott, E. Davis, Lee, Whitney.

With the help of our many volunteers, and your generous support, we reached our fund raising goal of \$15,000 at the Fall Reception. Thank you all and please plan to join us next year for another great event.

Annual Fund Update:

Few words adequately describe the impact 369 donor families and friends made on the Nathan Hale students this year, except "PRICELESS!". These community members contributed over \$112,000 in support of educational excellence at

Nathan Hale for the 2006-2007 school year by pledging to the Annual Campaign.

Donations to the Annual Campaign are crucial for the following reasons:

- Our school's budget has decreased by over \$600,000 over the past four years;
- These budget cuts force Principal Hectman to choose between paying for teachers or educational supplies;
- Annual campaign dollars are critical in helping keep teachers on staff and pay for teaching tools.

There's still time to make a tax-deductible contribution for this year. An envelope is included for your convenience. Donations made after mid-December will be used in next year's campaign.

Speaking of 07/08, we again kick off the Spring campaign when the Beatles-tribute band, Nowhere Men, returns to the PAC on Feb. 10th for an evening of rock-and-roll. Stay tuned for details. Meantime let's twist and shout out a *Thank You* for this year's campaign.

"The strength of the United States is not the gold at Fort Knox or the weapons... that we have, but the sum total of the education and the character of its people." - Claiborne Pell

Chris Rylko

Performing Arts Festival

The Performing Arts Festival on Nov. 18th raised \$4336.50 through donations and the sale of refreshments. A huge **Thank you** to all of the volunteers, performers, tech students, and audience members who helped make the Festival a very special day. Larry Ullman, Language Arts teacher at NH and lead singer of the Blues Troubadors, describes the atmosphere at the Festival perfectly:

"When I first saw the PAC I dreamed that it would serve a communal purpose. The Festival was exactly the kind of event I had envisioned. I left Saturday's performance craving another helping."

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Note from the Principal
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As a high school community fall semester is the time that we are receiving the notification of our previous spring test scores and success of our students. For example, in April, Nathan Hale juniors and seniors took approximately 280 Advanced Placement exams with many achieving scores of 3 or better in subjects ranging from English literature to Physics. Our average SAT and ACT scores were also above average, with our students taking the new SAT essay portion in stride. Also, our students' **WASL scores** continue to show success. Over 65% of our population met or exceeded state standards on three assessments (the state was at 51% and the district at 55%). 210 students (88.9%) met or exceeded the reading standard; 90.2% in writing (we lead the district); 65% in mathematics; and 48.2% in science.

In our full-inclusion program that holds high expectations for all students and embraces the small learning community and Coalition of Essential Schools philosophies, we welcome the additional funding from the Foundation that support students meeting standards. For example, with your contributions, we are able to purchase enough novels so that all of our students at each grade level are reading the same novel at the same time. The richness of that experience allows teachers to collaborate across disciplines, providing various "hooks" for students to make connections to language arts, social studies, health, and science. Your contributions allow us to make science come alive as students examine their own DNA, or for 11th and 12th graders to investigate their copies of "pocket constitutions" in pursuit of social justice.

Lisa Hechtman, NHHS Principal



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Performing Arts Festival

cont. from page 1

"As a teacher I so value seeing our students expressing themselves artistically, as opposed to just consuming and processing information in class. Is there a way we can make our daily classes as energized as this Festival experience?"



The Blues Troubadors" (from left to right: Mr. Ullman, Mr. Molette, Mr. Sylver, all teachers)

"The talent, confidence, dedication and preparation of each of the student performers was truly inspirational. I didn't just feel deeply, I felt like getting up there and singing and dancing with them."



Charles Wicklander on the piano, Evan Strauss on base, and Eve Smason-Marcus, vocals.

Mr. Ullman did actually get up on stage to sing the blues with Mr. Molette, and Mr. Sylver, check out our website for pictures of this and other memorable events at the festival. Also, it is not too late to donate to the cause! See www.nathanhale.org/festival.

Gabi McCarthy, Festival Coordinator

NH Foundation

Note From the President

Fall events ride on the hundreds of hours of work by volunteers. Let me begin with a huge thank you to the Fall Reception and Performing Arts Festival committees. These events raise much needed directed funds for the school while creating a supportive and enjoyable community experience. Both were attended by wonderful friends, families, and Nathan Hale staff members. A special thank you to Gary Case and the coaches who were able to come to the Reception and Gabi McCarthy and the student and staff performers at the Festival. You made these events truly special. Thank you all.

I often hear parents say that they're surprised they are needed in high school. Your students say they don't want you around - school is their deal. But in fact, for public schools to be successful, you are needed, more than ever. That need extends to our alumni and local community. Whether you take the time to be a volunteer tutor, a school leader at Site Council or PTSA, help with the Foundation, sports, music, radio, or one of the other many roles, there is much to do. We hope you will find your niche. Building community is an important aspect of what we do. And we need your help. In the small town where I grew up, life revolves around the high school. If you've jumped in to volunteer thank you; if you've been to an event, thank you; if you've attended a game or a play or a performance, thank you. Thank you for being a part of the Nathan Hale community.

The Foundation has had a good year. Thank you to our annual fund donors (and if you haven't yet donated, there's still time!). Carol Driver and Marsha McGillivray are planning next year's campaign. This will kickoff on Feb. 10th with a concert in the PAC. Please join us. Other ongoing initiatives include alumni and business outreach. A core of alumni will be building a communication committee. If you would like to take part, please let me know.

Yours in public education,
Steve Reynolds

2 As a heads up, we need our alumni and learning community supporting Schools First! in the February vote. Nathan Hale is a major part of the Building for Excellence (BEX III) levy. We hope the capital levy will allow us to design a school whose form enhances our function allowing us to continue our focus on high standards for all students. Members of the Foundation were part of the design team that brought us the wonderful Performing Arts Center, and we look forward to the

Alumni News

Of four reunions this year, we've heard from '66 and '96. For the others check their web sites.

Please note that the Class of '78 and '79 hold a joint picnic in the summer. Other classes are welcome, e-mail Ric Wraspir at Fourwaspir@cs.com.

Class of '66, Still Rockin' & Rollin' at their 40th reunion Sept. 22nd & 23rd. Friday night kicked off with burgers at Dick's. The main event was Saturday at the Nile Golf & Country Club. Guests of honor were Joan Northfield & Kenneth VanDyke. A big "Thank You" to Pam (Field '67) and Guy Genereaux for taking pictures. Claudia Clark-Attebery, 206-789-0615



"A 40th-reunion to remember - Nathan Hale Class of 1966 at the Nile Country Club, Sept. 2006"
Photo by Pam and Guy Genereaux

Class of '76: <http://www.nathanhaleclassof1976.com>

Class of '86: <http://nhclass86.googlepages.com>

Class of '96: The 1996 class reunion held at Café Amore in Belltown on October 21st was a tremendous success. Plans are already in the works for our next big reunion. If you would like to be included next time, please contact Lincoln Webbeking webbeklv@u.washington.edu.

Fall Athletics Update

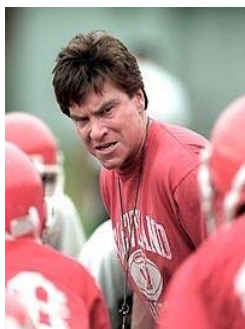
Many of our students who excel academically also excelled on the athletic fields. We had one of the richest fall athletic experiences in some time: every sport experienced playoffs. The quality of our student-athletes show with several being in

the running for academic awards. Further, volleyball coach Gene Burt and football coach Hoover Hopkins were voted "Coaches of the Year" by their division colleagues and Emerson Davis received Athletic

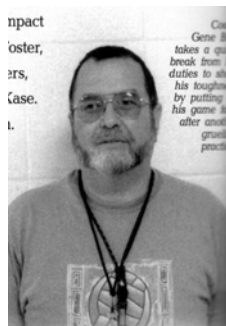
Director honors. How do we do overall? More than 58% of students participate in at least one sport. That's up nearly 6% in the last two years. Congratulations to our coaching staff.



Emerson Davis



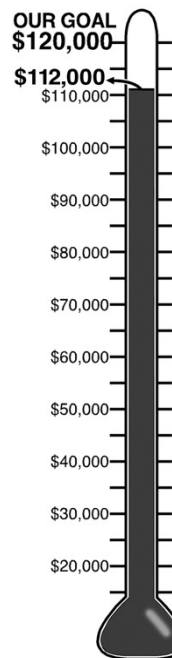
Hoover Hopkins



Gene Burt



Nathan Hale Foundation
Current Fund Raising 2006
Thank You Donors!



*School, Alumni, Families, and Community Making a Difference for Students at
Nathan Hale High School*

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