

Mounti**E** News



A Publication of the SVHS, JCIB, and SVTA PTSO

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From the PTSO President

Dear PTSO Members:

These first months of the 2007-08 school year have been incredible. The PTSO has been busy increasing the visibility of the organization and helping improve the educational experience of all students.

The year started in the summer with a membership drive at Registration. All parents were offered a free PTSO magnet with contact information for each of the three schools. I hope the magnet is in a place of honor on your refrigerator. Also during the summer, several PTSO members offered a helping hand to the Athletic Booster Club as part of the All-Sports Cleanup.

Next, the PTSO hosted a delicious Back-to-School Breakfast. We appreciate the delicious dishes that you provided in order to make this event a success.

On the first day of classes, we welcomed faculty and staff with a puzzle mirror or magnet to let them know that they are an integral and important piece of each student's education. On Monday, August 20 free bottled water was provided to those in attendance at Open House. Remaining water was donated to the SVHS Band for the Jamboree held on Saturday, September 22.

The PTSO provided popsicles to the band during a sweltering afternoon of practice, purchased an advertisement in the All-Sports program to show support for all athletics, and placed PayDay candy bars on the lockers of the varsity and junior varsity football players and cheerleaders in celebration of Homecoming.

At Homecoming, we offered smiles and peppermints to alumni and encouraged them to get reconnected with their Alma Mater. **Also at the game, we collected donations for the children of Coach Vickers. Coach Vickers, who recently passed away, was a beloved social studies teacher, assistant football coach, and girl's softball coach. More than 275 dollars has been collected to-date. Thanks to all who have given. We will continue to take donations through December 1. Send your donation marked Coach Vickers to the PTSO box. Make checks payable to SVHS PTSO. All donations will go directly to the children.**

Food was provided on Monday and Tuesday, October 22 – 23 for the Heritage Panel. I would like to offer special thanks to Kim Munford and to everyone who sent brownies, cookies, and fruit.

The first general meeting of the year was held on Monday, October 22, with a presentation about helping students pass the Graduation Exams and improving their scores on the ACT and SAT. We appreciate the efforts of Donna Boger, Vice President – Programs, in organizing this informative meeting. We also appreciate Assistant Principal Angela Belrose, Counselor Cindy Tarrant, and Principal Jane Baker for their efforts in making the meeting a success. Notes from the meeting are available on the PTSO website at www.shadesvalley.com/ptso under the Programs tab.

New guidelines for awarding PTSO funds have been developed. All faculty and staff who are members of the PTSO are eligible to apply. Grant requests were due on Friday, October 19. The Grant Committee will review the requests and determine the award amounts. Applicants will be notified by **November 12, 2007**.

Jennie Phillips, Vice President – Membership, is finalizing the information for the PTSO Directory. She has done an incredible job. We have over 250 PTSO members, including 34 faculty and staff. We truly appreciate all who have joined and hope you will encourage others to get involved.

Please check the website for future meeting dates and times. The board meetings are open to everyone. I continue to receive positive feedback. Feel free to let us know what we are doing right and what we need to do better. I consider it a privilege to serve in the PTSO.

PTSO Smiles,

Patricia Hansen

PTSO

From the Principal

Wow! The beginning of the school year has been fast-paced and challenging. We welcomed 120 new students, increasing enrollment to more than 1,250. This means that our school has grown by more than 150 students in the past two years.

We added several new members to the SVHS/JCIB faculty and staff. These professionals are continuing the academic excellence of the teachers who have gone before them. If you have questions concerning your student's education, please do not hesitate to contact the teacher, Angela Belrose, Instructional Assistant Principal, or me. We will be glad to answer your questions or address your concerns.

Since Shades Valley met and exceeded Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the previous school year, we are no longer required to submit a Continuous Improvement Plan to the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE). For exceeding the goal, we received an award of \$20,000 from ALSDE. This money will be used to provide an additional computer lab for students.

We have six students from JCIB named semifinalists in the 2008 National Merit® Scholarship Program and six students named semifinalists in the 2008 National Achievement® Scholarship Program. We are proud of their academic accomplishments.

Our academic teams are in full swing. The math teams competed at the University of Alabama. The BEST Robotic Team competed in Auburn. The Scholars Bowl teams continue to do well in their competitions. The award-winning magazine, *Counterpane*, is accepting submissions from students and will be printed in the spring.

Our athletic programs are thriving. The football team continues to show progress through a strong work ethic. These young men make me proud every week as I witness their efforts on the field and in the classroom. The volleyball team competed in the state playoffs. This team has shown tremendous improvement during the

past two years. The cross-country team competed in the Jefferson County Tournament this week with a second place finish in the boys division and a fifth place finish in the girls division. Go Mounties!

Our fine arts department continues to shine. The marching band has received numerous honors at local and out-of-state marching festivals. The Theatre Academy opened their season with two huge successes, *Fools* and *Pump Boys and Dinettes*. Their next production, *Time Dream*, will be performed November 8 – 11 with shows nightly at 7:00 p.m. and a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday. The show will be adjudicated on Saturday, November 10 by representatives from the International Thespian Festival. We are hoping for a packed house at this performance. Call 205 379-5350x257 for reservations or purchase tickets at the door.

On a sad note, we continue to keep the family of Mickey Vickers in our thoughts and prayers. Coach Vickers passed away unexpectedly this month. He was a single parent of four children, three of which attend Irondale Community School. Our staff, along with the PTSO, is accepting contributions. It is our hope that we can be of some service to the family. Please send your donations, marked Coach Vickers, to the school office or to the PTSO box. All donations will go directly to the children.

Visit www.shadesvalley.com for the latest school information. A special thanks to Ian Barnes for keeping the website current.

If I can be of service to you or your family, please call me at 379-5350 or email me at janebaker@jefcoed.com.

Sincerely,

Jane Baker

Important Dates

Veteran's Day – Schools Closed	Monday, November 12
Inclement Weather Days – Schools Closed	Monday, November 19 & Tuesday, November 20
Thanksgiving Holidays – Schools Closed	Wednesday, November 21 - Friday, November 23
PTSO Board Meeting	Monday, December 3

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YOU are Invited to Visit the LIBRARY

The library at SVHS/JCIB/SVTA has great new resources to offer. SourceAide is providing an online aide for proper citing in research papers. This service is being made available free of charge for one year. Students are encouraged to visit <http://shadesvalley.sourceaid.com> to set up an account. The initial setup must be done on a networked school computer. However, after your account is established it can be accessed from any computer with internet service.

Another tool available is Poetry for Students in e-book format. This popular resource is used more than any other reference material in the library. Now, students can access the e-format from home or any online computer by visiting <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/birm1416>. A password, which has been provided to all students, is required. Ask a librarian or friend if you have misplaced or forgotten the password.

For pleasure reading check out our expanded collection of fiction books. Our students are enjoying the new selections and are returning to ask for more books by the same authors.

Visit the circulation desk for student-written book reviews. It is interesting to read the student's personal comments and find out whether or not they recommend the book.

Parents, take a few minutes to visit the library. Enjoy the different displays on various topics, introduce yourself, and share your favorite book. We look forward to meeting you in the library.

Mrs. Brooke, Mrs. Parker, and Mrs. Roe

GRADUATION EXAMS ASSISTANCE

All SVHS/JCIB/SVTA students have access to www.usatestprep.com. This website provides diagnostic exams, study guides, crossword puzzles, and other resources to assist in preparation for the Graduation Exams. If desired, the website will also email test scores to teachers.

For access:

www.usatestprep.com

- Click on **member login** at the top right corner
- Enter user id: **shadesvalleyal**
- Enter password: **newton45**
- Click on **I agree**
- Click on **subject tabs** for specific information

Please contact the Counselor's office at 205 379-5350 or the Community School at 205 379-5373 if your child needs individual tutoring. The Community School is located on the 2nd floor of SVHS and can provide a list of available tutors for hire. In addition, some school organizations offer free tutoring to students before and after school.

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A Little Bit of This and A Little Bit of That But Important Nevertheless

* Operation Christmas Child *

Sponsored by First Priority

Shoe Boxes Due November 9, 2007

Information for filling a shoe box is available on the poster in JCIB
or visit www.operationchristmaschild.org.

You may also see Laura Hansen or email laurakhansen@gmail.com.

NHS Tutoring

The JCIB National Honor Society is offering one-on-one tutoring.



To schedule:

- Email jcibnhs@gmail.com
- Sign the sheet on large poster
- Send a Facebook message to the JCIB National Honor Society

Fruit Bowl

Sponsored by NHS

November 19 - 23

Bring apples for Alabama and oranges for Auburn to help your team score a victory in the fight against hunger.

Drop boxes are located in the hallway outside of the JCIB office.

Email jcibnhs@gmail.com for more information.

Fruit will be donated to **Magic City Harvest**,
a non-profit, food recovery program.

Visit www.magiccityharvest.org for more information.

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French Honor Society

J'ai besoin d'aide!

Thursdays

7:15 a.m. until the first bell

Students receive five bonus points and should arrive prepared to study.

Student Collects One Thousand Books for Literacy Project



As part of an independent literacy project, **Kearney Smith** collected over one thousand books, videos, and recordings for donation to the Trussville branch of the Jefferson County Library Cooperative. Kearney has used local library resources for as long as he can remember and hopes that the donated materials will be loaned by the library or resold to raise funds. Kearney is a junior at the Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School.

Boo at the Zoo

An annual fundraiser for the Birmingham Zoo, Boo at the Zoo welcomed high school volunteers to help with the event. Among the 2007 costumed volunteers were Kirstin Sockwell, Savannah Leach, and Samantha Kirby of JCIB.



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Congratulations Dr. Shields

Dr. Catherine Shields has been awarded a grant for the **Teacher Take Wings Individual Project** by the **Junior League**. The grant will be used to purchase Ready-or-not Baby Simulators. Grant recipients were honored at a reception at Princeton Medical Center on Monday, November 5, 2007.

NEWS from the Academies . . .

Congratulations BEST Robotics Team

On Saturday, October 20, the BEST Robotics team traveled to Lee-Scott Academy in Auburn. The team worked hard for six weeks to construct a robot in preparation for the competition. In addition to designing and building a robot, the team competed for the **BEST** award. This award is presented to the team that best embodies the concept of Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST). The winner is determined by a team's diversity, exposure to and use of engineering processes, sportsmanship, teamwork, creativity, positive attitude, enthusiasm, and school and community involvement.

The team experienced challenging problems with the robot but excelled in other areas. They received the **BEST Table Display Design and Construction Award** and third place in **Team Spirit and Sportsmanship**. Cynthia Thomas received the **Teacher of the Year Award**. These honors are an excellent example of what can be achieved when working as a team. Congratulations!

SHADES VALLEY THEATRE ACADEMY PRESENTS

Time Dream November 8 – 11, 2007

A new musical by Roy Hudson and David McNeel

Time Dream is the third production for the Theatre Academy this year. The first two productions, Neil Simon's *Fools* and *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, were incredible. Both showcased the amazing talents of the student actors and costume, scenery, and lighting designers. We hope you will join us for *Time Dream*. Call 205 379-5250 x257 for reservations or purchase tickets at the door. Performances are held at 7:00 p.m. nightly with a 2:30 matinee on Sunday.

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Ea\$y Money

Funds earned through the **Bruno's School Bucks** and the **Target Take Charge of Education** programs are given directly to the school. Shop to help our schools!

Bruno's School Bucks Program

The **Bruno's School Bucks program** is one of our fundraising efforts for the 2007-08 school year. This program allows the **school** to earn up to **\$1,500** per semester by submitting **green grocery receipts** from **Bruno's**.

Please send your receipts to the school in an envelope marked **PTSO – Bruno's School Bucks Program** or drop in the collection box in the office at each school. You may also mail the receipts to: **PTSO, Shades Valley High School, PO Box 101512, Irondale, AL 35210**. Thank you for your support!



Take Charge of Education

When you sign up for the **Take Charge of Education program**, Target will donate up to 1% of your **REDcard** purchases to the eligible K-12 school of your choice. Schools use these funds for anything they need, from tubas to test tubes, and the money really adds up. Visit Target.com/tcoe to sign up today!

PTSO Fundraising Ideas

Do you have an exciting, new, or different fundraising idea?
If yes, send your ideas to ptso.svib@gmail.com.

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