

View From The Hill

A Publication of the City Honors School PTSCO

November/December 2011

=====VFTH Update=====

A reminder that PTSCO is producing this simplified version of the *View From the Hill* newsletter as we develop a new web-based *VFTH*. Any coaches, club coordinators or parent leaders who have dates, good news or event announcements should submit them to bisantz@buffalo.edu by December 22.

=====Upcoming Events=====

November 18 & 19: CHS presents "The City on Stage 2011" Musical Scenes
November 18: Last Pelion community garden workday
November 19: Open House for Prospective Students and Families 9AM-Noon
November 24-25: NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Holiday
November 25: 15th Annual CHS Alumni Thanksgiving Party (7-10pm-21 & Over)
November 30: Early Release Day (11am for ALL GRADES)
November 30: Parent Teacher Conferences (call to schedule starting Nov 21)
December 3: PTSCO Holiday Bazaar (11am-2pm)
December 14: Early Release Day (11 AM GR 5-8, 12 Noon GR 9-12)
December 14: CHS High School Winter Concert 7PM
December 15: PTSCO Meeting 6:00 PM
December 15: Auction Meeting (7:00 PM following PTSCO meeting)
December 16: Middle School Holiday Hop at St. George's Church 7 PM
December 20: CHS Middle School Winter Concert 6:30 PM
December 21: Faculty & Staff Appreciation Breakfast
December 26-January 2: Winter Recess. School resumes *Tuesday* January 3.
January 29- Kleinhans Community Concert- CHS MS Band & Orchestra

=====Snow Closing Information=====

It's that time of year again! For official school closings, including weather related events, please remember to tune to WBEN NewsRadio 930 AM, the official station for school closings.

=====The City on Stage Musical Revue=====

This Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19, the CHS Players will be presenting their second annual "The City on Stage" Musical Revue at 7:00 pm in the CHS Auditorium. Featured will be scenes from over 15 Broadway Musicals by our middle and high school singers, and our high school band and orchestra. General Admission Tickets are \$5.00. There will also be a basket raffle and refreshments for purchase. Please join us for a great evening "Off-Broadway" at CHS and support our Music Department students!

=====CHS School Colors=====

Dr. Kresse reminds coaches and parents that our official school colors are American Cardinal Red and Silver. If you are ordering supplemental CHS gear, please do not let the vendor box you into using tomato red or goodness forbid, maroon (Cardinal falls somewhere between these two colors). Think of Stanford University's red if it helps. We recently worked with the district's athletic uniform supplier to correct the color of our uniforms. Uniforms in the proper cardinal and silver have begun to cycle into our athletic program. Thank you to Mr. Kudla for his efforts to rectify this situation. Please contact one of our administrators or Mr. Kudla if you need samples or Pantone color system numbers for vendors. Go Centaurs!

=====Chiron's Corner School Bookstore=====

The good folks at Chiron's Corner bookstore remind parents and faculty that the bookstore is the very best place to do your holiday shopping. Cross items off your list, spread some CHS pride and support the school all at once! New City Honors gear in the store includes winter hats, sweatervests, t-shirts, tree ornaments and a line of girls/women's apparel. CHS letterman jackets can also be ordered out of the bookstore. The store is open from 7:50-8:20 and periods 1,4,5 &7 daily. We are working on a new bookstore section to our website which we hope to launch in the spring. Thank you to Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Luongo and our STARS students for all of their dedication to Chiron's Corner since the reopening of our building last year! Proceeds from the school store go to the CHS student activity fund and the STARS program.

=====CHS Open House for Prospective Students=====

Spread the word to prospective CHS students and families: Tour CHS on November 19, 9AM to noon. This event is for students and families currently in the application process or considering participation next year. Presentations regarding our school and program are given at all admissions testing sessions in the fall. This open house is a relaxed opportunity to walk through the CHS physical complex. Students, parents or faculty who would like to serve as docents should sign up outside the IB Office or send Dr. Kresse an email. Docents are encouraged to wear CHS clothing so visitors can identify you as someone who can answer questions.

=====Parent Teacher Conferences Coming Up!=====

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, November 30. This will be an 11:00am early release day for all students allowing our school to now provide conferences both during the day and evening. Please call the main office starting Monday, November 21 to schedule appointments with your child's teachers. Daytime hours for conferences will be 12:15-2:30. Evening hours will be from 5:00-7:00pm. Once again, to ensure that parents have the best opportunity to obtain their highest priority conferences, appointments are limited to two per family. However, teacher appointment schedules will be posted outside classrooms on conference day. If a teacher has an unfilled appointment slot, parents may meet with a teacher during that time. Parents are reminded that anytime during the school year they feel they need to

conference with a teacher, they should contact the teacher to arrange for a meeting in person or by phone. Proactive communication between faculty and parents is one of the keys to working together to support student success.

====Community Garden News====

The final workday of the year for the CHS Pelion Community Garden will be Friday, November 18 from 12:00 to 3:00pm. The goals for the day include: Completing the crushed limestone pathways and learning zone areas, edging the walkways with plastic or metal edging material, spreading remaining soil/compost, and other tasks. Due to the use of tools and heavy lifting associated with this day, we are requesting only adults and grade 11/12 students to assist in this particular workday. Students from Daemen College and Medical Campus employees will also be pitching in once again. Permission slips for grade 11/12 students to participate in this workday are available outside the main office. Parents: Come on out on November 18 and see what all the excitement is about! Parent volunteers should RSVP to Sally Guzdar at sguzdar@yahoo.com. More information on Pelion Community Garden is available at www.cityhonors.org/page/community-garden/ View regular updates on the progress of the garden by becoming a Facebook friend of 'Pelion Community Garden'.

====Holiday Breakfast for Faculty & Staff====

PTSCO is seeking breakfast items, baked goods, and beverages for the faculty and staff appreciation breakfast scheduled for December 21. Drop off items before school that morning. Volunteers for set up & clean up are also needed.

====Holiday Bazaar====

Yes, it's time to start thinking about holiday shopping! The date is set for Saturday, December 3 in the CHS Atrium, from 11am-2 pm. Shoppers: Mark your calendars and be ready to check off some gifts on your list. Food and entertainment also provided as you browse for CHS school spirit items, crafts, raffles and much more. Your purchases will benefit the many clubs, sports and organizations that enrich student life at CHS.

Sellers (CHS clubs, sports and organizations): Please contact Sue Natali at twnsrfun@aol.com or 868-1578 to reserve your table and to volunteer. Jobs include set up, decorating, cleaning up, and entertaining (singing, dancing, music). Looking forward to another wonderful family event!

====CHS Middle School Holiday Hop====

PTSCO and the class of 2017 is sponsoring a middle school dance on December 16. The "Holiday Hop" will be at St. George Church, located at 5 Nottingham Terrace at the corner of Nottingham and Amherst, from 7-9pm. Permission slips will be distributed to the middle schoolers on December 12 and admission to the dance can be purchased on December 14, 15 and 16 during lunch periods. Admission requires a signed permission slip and \$10.00 fee when purchased in advance or a permission slip and \$12.00 fee when purchased at the door. Parent volunteers are needed to set-up, chaperone, clean-

up, or supply holiday treats. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact Donna Graham at donnamariegraham@mac.com.

=====Middle School Halloween Dance=====

This PTSCO sponsored dance was a great success, with over 180 costumed creatures in attendance. Middle schoolers stocked the food pantry of Lafayette Presbyterian Church, as they came out to dance for a cause. All proceeds to benefit the Class of 2016 for their 8th grade trip. THANK YOU to all who supported this event and all the parents who volunteered their time, food and drink to make it run smoothly!

=====Another Spooktacular Success!=====

Thank you to our amazing Student Council, under the leadership of student Michael Montellaro, for putting on a spooktacular Haunted Lockers event for the 5th and 6th graders! The Student Council put a great deal of time, effort and thought into a very fun night for the 5th & 6th grade community as PTSCO parents provided the "I Scream Social" to accompany the haunted lockers. Dr. Kresse's CHS ghostly stories were a great addition to the night and a big hit for young and old! Also, Big Thank You goes out to all of the parent volunteers for your time and energy to make this event a fun night for all!!

=====2012 PTSCO Auction Update=====

PTSCO has started to organize for the 2012 Basket Raffle and Silent/Live Auctions. Our tentative date is March 16, 2012 and we will again be going with the "Fun Family Fiesta" theme. We will need support from all our families to make this annual PTSCO fundraiser a success. If you own a business or know someone who does, we will be looking for goods and services to supply our auctions. We are also in need of people to help organize the event and others to help volunteer for the numerous jobs that help this undertaking run smoothly. Our next organizational meeting is scheduled for December 14 at 7:00 pm following the general PTSCO meeting. Please consider volunteering some time to make PTSCO's annual fundraising effort a success. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact Donna Graham at donnamariegraham@mac.com.

=====Congratulations to Cross Country and Soccer Teams!=====

The City Honors Men's Cross Country team had an outstanding season this year. In addition to bringing home trophies and plaques from various invitationals, they won the Section 6 Class C-2 championship. The top 7 runners on the team, including Seamus Degan, Elliott King, Derek Jackson, Austin DeCaro, Jack Licata, Ameen Salem, and Alonzo Smith, ran for the team at sectionals. Coach Holden is quite pleased with her first Cross Country season and is very proud of the young men who ran. Any young men interested in running for the 2012-13 season should stop by the Library to see Coach Holden. Congratulations to all of you who ran this season! And keep running!

On Thursday, November 3rd, the Girls Varsity Soccer Team won the Buffalo Public Schools City Championship! Physical Education Teacher Andrew Krause, is the team's

coach. Finally, congratulations to the Boys Varsity Soccer Team on a stellar year. They beat Eden in the quarter-finals and Fredonia in the semi-finals before being knocked out in the Section VI Class B2 Final by Akron on Thursday, November 3rd. They completed the season by capturing the City championship. Health teacher Kurt Holme, is the team's coach.

=====CHS Swim Team News=====

There are some exciting changes in the works for our high school and middle school swim programs. Practices for high school swimming have just begun. Students are still encouraged to join. Students interested in coming out for the boys' high school team should contact Ms. Chimera at klchimera@buffaloschools.org. Students still interested in coming out for the girls' high school team should contact Ms. Cardina at mcardina@buffaloschools.org.

Information about the middle school swim season will be out as we get closer to the season. Practices begin the week of February 6. Middle school students wishing to swim on high school teams must participate in the selection classification process are encouraged to contact the appropriate coach to schedule a date for the test. We are always looking for new swimmers- jump right in to CHS Swim- the water is just right!

Additional details of the changes to our swim program can be found at <http://www.cityhonors.org/page/forms-for-parents/>.

=====College Pennants Wanted=====

We are working to better define our guidance/counseling area and give our students some great destinations to look forward to by lining the hallway outside the office with collegiate pennants along the ceiling. If you would like your alma mater or favorite college represented, please drop a pennant off to the main office and we'll be sure to include it in the display.

===== PTSCO Sponsored City Honors Middle School Ski Club Information=====

Middle School Ski Club will begin on Sunday January 8 and continue for 8 weeks until February 26, 2011. We will be going to Kissing Bridge. Bus transportation is available.

8 Sundays beginning January 8, 2012 and ending February 26, 2012

(We unload at the Central Lodge Parking Lot)

Bus Departure and return times:

8:30 AM , 4:00 PM Big Lots Parking Lot @Delaware & Linden

8:45 AM, 3:30 PM Home Depot Parking Lot @Ridge Road near 219

To join ski club please fill out the Registration Form available at our CHS website at: <http://www.cityhonors.org/page/news/title/middle-school-ski-club/>

Please note that you will be required to sign an additional waiver of liability, which will be provided at a later date, for your child to participate in this activity.

Please return the form and a check made out to "PTSCO Middle School Ski Club" as soon as possible but no later than November 17, 2011. Payment should include the ski club fee (\$120), costs for equipment rental (if desired) and add \$140 for bus transportation (if desired). Rental forms will be sent to student homerooms once registration forms are received.

Please return your registration form and checks to: PTSCO Middle School Ski Club at the school office in a sealed envelope OR mail it to Chris Evans at 203 Norwood Ave, Buffalo NY 14222. For questions please contact: Chris Evans at ctevans@roadrunner.com. We look forward to a great season!

=====Music Department Kudos=====

Congratulations go out to Anna Blatto, Jacob Cohen, Marty Gartz and David Skrill. These students were selected to participate in the NYSSMA Area All State Orchestras and Chorus in Fredonia on November 18th and 19th. Jacob Cohen and David Skrill were also selected to perform with the NYSSMA All State Conference Orchestras which will take place on December 3-4 in Rochester. The Music Department is quite proud of your achievements. Thank you for representing City Honors and the Buffalo Public Schools.

=====15th Annual CHS Alumni Thanksgiving Party=====

November 25th, 2011 7 PM - 10 PM

Location: Atrium of City Honors School

Ticket price: \$20 (purchased at the door) - includes finger foods, 3 drinks, and a great night! (Cash Bar available after the 3 drinks.)

****This is a 21 and over event****

This event is organized by the City Honors Alumni Association & CH/FMP Foundation. CHS Alumni of any year are invited.

An [event page](#) has been added to our Facebook Fan Page. Please spread the word to any CHS alumni you may know. RSVP so we have an idea of how much food to order.

===Updates to Yearbook===

This year we have new advisers to our yearbook staff, Ms. Dahlieden and Ms. Ziolkowski. Ms. Dahlieden will be in charge of production, and Ms. Ziolkowski will be in charge of finances and sales. Our editors are Olivia Abbate, Emily Gallivan, and Samantha Evans. Staff also includes Nicci Moran, Indica Young, Devin Kiblin, and Liam Cochrane. Any centaurs grades 5- 12th grade are welcome to join!

Yearbook sales will be done online again this year. Please expect flyers to arrive in the US mail within the next coming months. Yearbooks prices will be \$55 and \$65 respectively.

Uploading your photos will also be done again through e-share. More information will be made available in the January issue of the VFTH!

Sincerely,
CHS Yearbook Staff

===Fundraiser for Newspaper & Yearbook===

Once again the Buffalo Dining Decks will be sold here at CHS. Please support our efforts through the purchase of one (or more decks)!

What are Buffalo Dining Cards? The Concept is simple. Each deck of Buffalo Dining Cards, Buffalo Cocktail Cards, and Buffalo Shopping Cards is a gift certificate to a local business- 50 cards are worth \$10 off your purchase; 2 wildcards offer freebies. Each deck of Buffalo BOGO Cards represents an offer to receive a free item when an equal item is purchased at area merchants.

There are no black-out dates. Every card is valid through December 31st of 2012! That means you can enjoy savings at a new or favorite business each week of the year! Buffalo Dining Cards are the perfect gift. Over \$500 in savings for only \$20 per deck! \$10 from the sale of each deck directly supports the CHS yearbook & newspaper, plus \$1 from the sale of each deck goes to a local charity. (*Bflo. Dining-\$1 goes to Children's Hospital, Bflo. Cocktail-\$1 goes to Give 4 Greatness Campaign, Bflo. Shopping- \$1 goes to Roswell, Bflo. BOGO-\$1 goes to Habitat for Humanity of Buffalo.*)

We will also be at the Winter Bazaar in December. Samples are on display to view our school store, Chiron's Corner.

===Class of 2013 City Honors Blankets===

The Juniors/Class of 2013 have great fleece blankets with the Centaurs logo available for \$30.00 each. These are great to have in your car for the cold winter months and will make terrific gifts. If you are interested, please contact Tammy Hyzy at 825-1015. Thank you.

===Class of 2016 GIANT 50/50 Split Raffle===

The Class of 2016 is working diligently to defray costs for their class trip to Boston in April 2012. Our second annual giant 50/50 split raffle has begun. See any 8th grader for tickets, which are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The lucky winner will be announced at the CHS Winter Holiday Bazaar on 12/3/11 at 2 pm. We hope to get the "pot" well over \$1,000. Thank you for your support!

=====YANKEE CANDLE SALE=====

Thank you to all who purchased items from 8th graders. Orders will arrive in approximately 3 weeks. This individual fundraiser will help defray the cost of the 8th grade trip.

=====PJ Pants Sale=====

Many thanks to all who participated in this sale. Pants have been ordered and will either be delivered to your child's homeroom OR picked up at the bazaar, whatever you had indicated. A limited amount will also be available for sale at the bazaar.

=====ATTENTION 8TH GRADE FAMILIES=====

The 2nd installment for the Boston trip for students and chaperones is due in to Rebecca Thompson by December 3, 2011. Please make checks payable to CHS PTSCO and do not mail to school. Many thanks to all the parents who donated to a community scholarship fund to make the trip a reality for as many 8th grade students as possible!

=====Class of 2017 Updates and Fundraising=====

Thank you to Maura Graham, Victoria Faltisco and Lauren Mason for a great job decorating ornaments and picture frames to be sold at the PTSCO Holiday Bazar on December 3. The 7th graders will also be selling wristbands and cupcakes during the Bazar. We are still looking for people to help work the bazar and donate holiday cupcakes. Please contact Donna Graham at donnamariegraham@mac.com if you can help out.

- Our Applebee's Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for 3-10-12. Please mark your calendars and watch for more details to follow.

Contact Gina Henry and Tracy Dake (7th grade parent representatives) or Donna Graham and Julia Hall (parent volunteers) for more information

=====IB MYP Project Assistance Needed=====

Dear CHS family,

I am a 10th grader rowing for City Honors Crew for the last three years. My MYP is about raising awareness and funds for our crew team. As you may know, our team is the only public school team in all regattas we enter in Western New York. We have a very long wish list and a very low budget, so as a part of my project, my teammates and I decided to run the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. I am asking you to pledge \$10+ for this cause. With the money we raise, we are planning to buy ergometers (stationary rowing machines) and install them in our school. This way, we will offset the costs of training in private facilities, and this will benefit future rowers as well. 1 ergometer (market price) is around \$900, but we can get them much cheaper from other rowing organizations. We are planning to buy eight. If we succeed bringing ergs to school, we can train at school, which would give parents a break at driving their rowers at odd ours to private

facilities, and save them the membership dues of private clubs. I'm hoping that you will participate.

Please send your cash/ check (made out to CHS Crew) in sealed envelopes addressed to CHS Crew, and tell your kids to bring them to the front office.

Sincerely,
Deniz Dosluoglu

=====*Box Tops and Labels for Education*=====

Box Tops for Education collection \$414.10. Great job! Please keep collecting. Shop online for the Holidays through btfe.com and City Honors will earn additional funds. *Labels for Education* doubling points through 12/31/11 so clip and send into your homeroom!

Any questions contact coordinator, Pat Mason at masonpatmason@aol.com