



REBEL SIGNAL

November 2011

For the students, patrons and friends of Douglas S. Freeman High School

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**Visit the PTSA website
at www.freemanptsa.org
for the latest information
on PTSA committees and
events.**

Principal's Letter

A tremendous thank you goes to all who helped make Homecoming Weekend a success. Spirit Week started with movie characters roaming the school and ended with hallways packed with blue and gray-clad students and a terrific pep rally at the end of the day. The parade route from Tuckahoe to Freeman provided the opportunity for students, parent, and community members the chance to see class and club princes, princesses, and floats portray the theme "Freeman Strong." The game was very well-attended, with members of the Classes of '76, '81, 91, and 01 in the stands for their respective reunions. Congratulations to Brittany Snyder, who was crowned Homecoming Queen 2001 at the game, and Keith Wells, who was crowned Homecoming King at the dance on Saturday night.

Ready to accept Rachel's Challenge, the entire student body felt the impact of this powerful program. Following the presentation, 100 students and ten teachers met with the presenter for a lengthy training session to begin brainstorming for the future. The impact of the assembly fostered ideas and positive energy for creating a culture of change. This program fits in nicely with the existing Coalition for Equitable and Inclusive Schools team already hard at work on the same front, having trained the entire faculty and organized a school-wide effort to "be an upstander, not a bystander." The 5:00pm presentation of Rachel's Challenge afforded parents the opportunity to understand the potential impact of the program and to talk with their students regarding the five challenges.

With the end of the first marking period at hand, we hope parents will take a few minutes to check HCPSLink to determine their student's academic progress to date. On November 8 (8:30 – 11:30) and November 14 (4:30 – 7:30) Parent –Teacher Conferences will occur. These conferences provide an excellent opportunity for parents to meet individually with their student's teacher(s) to ask any questions they may have. Parents should email the teachers directly to arrange their preferred conference times.

Anne Poates

PTSA President

Dear Douglas Freeman Families and Community:

Thank you for your generous contributions to DSF PTSA and the Freeman Fund. Due to your generosity, the PTSA is able to purchase items to enhance student instruction and to sponsor programs and speakers. For example, your PTSA has purchased new buzzers for the DSF Battle of the Brains' team; held a FACT coffee on October 12th to enlighten parents on "Teens, Technology & Tethering: How to Navigate in Cyber Space with your Child"; sponsored the Reflections competition with the theme: "Diversity Means"; and brought Rachel's Challenge to DSF on October 27th to inspire the spirit of kindness and compassion to our students, staff, parents and the community. Hope you were able to join in the programs.

In addition to the purchase of items and implementation of programs, your PTSA keeps you informed on issues concerning your student's education. The PTA Lay Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from elementary, middle and high schools in Henrico County. Our Lay Advisory rep keeps you abreast of issues that impact our school, our county and our nation. The math curriculum and pace of instruction continue to be a hot meeting topic. On November 15th at 6:00 p.m., the Lay Advisory Committee will meet at Godwin High School and will have a break out session with the Henrico County School Board. Please plan to attend and meet with your school board member.

On October 27th, our school board considered the possibility of a land acquisition for Douglas Freeman High School. DSF is a land-locked campus with a mere 35 acres, compared to the new Glen Allen High School with some 95 acres. Land is available now adjacent to DSF and the possibility of acquiring additional acreage for our campus is an exciting one. Visit the HCPS website, click on School Board, click on BoardDocs and listen to the school board's discussion of the Amendment to the FY 2011-2012 Capital Improvement Plan. The matter is scheduled to move forward to the Henrico County Board of Supervisors for consideration. Pat O'Bannon is the Supervisor for the Tuckahoe District and she may be reached via email at pob@patobannon.gov.

2011-2012 is the Year of Communication at DSF. Our goal is to keep you informed. Visit the DSF PTSA website at freemanptsa.org to see a list of upcoming events at our high school. Scroll down to the bottom of the homepage and click on "Join our Email List" so you will receive reminders, meeting summaries and HCPS updates.

Stay informed, ask questions, seek answers, let us work together to improve the educational environment, curriculum and success of every one of our children. Please contact me with your observations, concerns and proposed solutions. Together we can make a difference in the life of every child.

Go Rebels,
Ann Slough
everychild.onevoice.

Freeman Bands

Annual Brunswick Stew Sale

Saturday, November 5
Featuring John D. Clary

Stewmaster for the *Original* Brunswick Stew.

Please place your order by 11/2!
(Form can be downloaded from
www.freemanband.org)

\$7/Quart Contact Kathy Burgess
katbur@comcast.net or 673-6340.

Stewmaking will take place in the Freeman student parking lot in the morning.

Come watch the fun! Support the Freeman Band!

We tend to sell out so please don't forget to order!

Annual Fruit Sale

Delicious Fruit from Florida!

Citrus * Apples * Pears * Cheesecakes *

Order now for the Holidays!

Go to Freemanband.org or your favorite band student. Either way they will get the credit!

Proceeds support the Freeman Band Spring Trip

To New York City!

Orders due by 11/17!

Help Us Recycle and Earn Funds!



We are participating in a fundraising program which collects empty printer cartridges and used cell phones to raise much needed funding. We are helping to keep the earth clean while we earn new equipment or even cash!

Won't you please help our Freeman Bands by donating your empty printer cartridges and used cell phones?

Just drop them off in the Rebel Recycling box in the DSF Main Office.

Freeman Rebel Cards

\$10 equals a YEAR of Savings!

Great discounts at local businesses make this card a must-have!
Chick-Fil-A * Disco Sports * Quiznos Subs * Superstars Pizza *
Village Exxon * Tropical Treehouse * Harrison Music *
Dairy Queen * Tuckahoe Cleaners * Freeman Spirit Items discount

Available at the Spirit Table at the Football Games, from band students, or contact Annette McKelvey at 741-6412.

Do you have your REBEL CARD yet?

SAVE THE DATE

Winter Concert

Thursday, December 8th, 7 PM

Visit the Spirit Table at the Freeman Football Games!

**** Hot Donuts! * Freeman Rebel Spirit Items! * Rebel Cards ****

Grab a dozen donuts for your Saturday morning breakfast!

Buy early, We Sell Out!

Chorus News

The choral department presented a very successful concert in collaboration with Patrick Henry High School at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on October 27. Select strings students from both schools accompanied the choruses on "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi. After practicing all afternoon and having dinner at the VCU Shafer Dining Hall, they presented their concert to a full house audience who gave the singers and orchestra a standing ovation.

Our next performance is the Veteran's Day Assembly on November 11 at 9:00 a.m. If you have a veteran in your family that you would like us to honor, please submit his or her name to the office and let us know if he or she will be present at the assembly.

Plan on attending our Winter Concert on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. Tuckahoe Middle School will be our guest performers.

Choral Night at Chick-Fil-A

DSF Choral department has a fundraiser **EVERY THIRD Wednesday** of the month at CHICK-FIL-A on Parham from 6-8pm.

Please remember to mention the DSF fundraiser, and we will receive 15% of all sales!

Thank You!

World's Finest Chocolate

Need we say more!! See a choral student to purchase a World's Finest Chocolate Bar! Sales are from November 28 to December 9.



Auditions for 2012-2013

Auditions for the 2012-2013 school year will be held January 17-January 20, 2012. Students must sign-up with Mrs. Hruska.

Attention Fall Athletes and Families

The Athletic Booster Club will be hosting the annual Fall Sports Awards Program on Monday, November 21. It will begin in the Big Gym starting at 7:30 pm. You will be getting more information from your individual team reps but please mark this date on your calendar.

Get Published!

Your student could launch a career!! The school literary-art magazine *The Educator* is looking for art, photography, stories, poems, plays and essays! We are especially looking for horizontally-oriented Art for the cover- how impressive for portfolios and college applications to show yours was the COVER of the 2112 issue! Please see Mrs. Boyles in room 119, or drop your digital work to her share folder at **skboyles** in the Freeman Virtual Share folder. We have not set a theme, so your work could be the pace setter!

Self- Defense in PE Classes

Bobby Withrow, affectionately known as Chop Chop Bob, instructed the 9th and 10th grade girls during their PE classes in the fundamentals of self-defense. "Be Smart, Be Aware, Be Prepared" is the premise used to teach students to avoid danger but also how to help themselves if danger presents itself. Instruction was given in kicks, throws, releases, and defending against a knife attack and culminated with the students practicing against Chop Chop Bob in a 2-on-1 situation to hone their skills. Everyone learned a lot and had fun.



Left – Anna Laughter Right – Rebecca Kalissa

Library Lowdown

How could the month of October go by so fast? With all of the activity in the Library, the days just flew!

We celebrated National Teen Read Week Oct. 24th – 28nd with a “Famous Last Lines” contest. Each year, many students participate and tell us they look forward to this annual event.

Many classes have been visiting the Library for a variety of assignments. Supreme Court cases, Science Fair projects, C. S. Lewis projects and American and British/World authors research papers are just a few of the topics students have been investigating. Thirty classes have come to the Library to check out books for pleasure reading/book reports. Research indicates that the more a child reads, the better he/she performs in all academic areas. We are grateful that the Douglas Freeman faculty supports and promotes the importance of reading.

Many individual and group tutoring sessions have been held in the Library. Students receive assistance for individual courses and for SOL preparation.

As examination time draws near, remind your student that the Library is a wonderful place for quiet study. Our hours of operation are 7:30A – 4:30P, Monday through Friday. Students are encouraged to access the Library before school, during their 4th period study block, during study hall, and after school.

If you have a student graduating from Freeman this year, you may want to consider donating a “legacy” book to the Library. For a \$25.00 contribution, a book will be purchased for the Library, including a name plate with your child’s name and year of graduation. This book will become a permanent addition to our collection. Donations received by April 1, 2012 will be placed on display in the Library prior to graduation. Please contact Ms. Schmid or Miss Wheeler if interested.

The fifth annual DSF Book Fair will be held Saturday, June 2, 2012 at the Barnes and Noble, Libbie Place. Mark your calendars now!

Student Drop Off/Pick Up and Student Parking

REMINDER!!! Freeman students should be dropped off and picked up on **Camden Drive**.

The bus loop is only for buses, also students and parents should never use this as a drop off/pick up location. Henrico County Police Department will issue tickets for stopping/standing still on Three Chopt Road.

DECA Information

On October 20th Douglas Freeman's Advanced Marketing class attended the first annual YES, Young Entrepreneurs Symposium & Marketing Conference at the Crowne Plaza with two-hundred other HCPS marketing students. The students were exposed to a real world business conference with round-table discussions from twenty-five Richmond-Henrico area business partners/entrepreneurs. The students also engaged in a formal business luncheon and were dressed for success. Douglas Freeman students handle themselves with the upmost of professionalism and business etiquette.



DECA, An Association of Marketing Students is conducting their fund-raiser. The students are selling Yankee Candles. Prices of candles range from \$5.00 and up. Please contact Mrs. Rabon at srabon@henrico.k12.va.us or a marketing student to place your order. Candles will arrive in time for the holidays. Thank you for your support!

FBLA Information

The Douglas Freeman High School FBLA chapter held its first meeting and had standing room only as members enjoyed socializing. The annual membership drive resulted in 48 members. The Chapter kicked off its fundraiser selling magazines and catalog items and netted approximately \$1,500 profit. The top seller was **Chelsie Jackson**, followed by **Kirsten Marsh** and **Alyssa Pigg**. Six (6) students and two advisors attended the FBLA Fall Leadership Conference which was held at Douglas Freeman High School. The chapter collected and donated Build-A-Bear gift cards for Project ASK (children with cancer). Students are excited participating in a project called "Nets for Life" as one of the community service projects. Bracelets will be available for purchase and the proceeds will go to buy nets that will be sent to Africa to help stomp out Malaria. Upcoming events include a holiday project and preparing for upcoming competitive events.

Mrs. Layne and our FBLA officers attended the CAPER (The Capital Area Partners for Educational Reform) Ethics and Career Pathways Forum on November 3, 2011 at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

Thank You from the Freeman Fund

Many thanks go out to all of the great families who have contributed graciously to the Freeman Fund, the academic booster for our beloved DSF. Despite the hurricane and earthquakes, your donations have been amazing and very much appreciated. It is never too late to make a donation or submit a corporate gift form from your employer. (Just send a check in to school made out the "DSF PTA" and mark it for Freeman Fund.)

So far we have funded a new buzzer system for Quiz Bowl, an activity of the English Department, and have helped support the Rachel's Challenge event/presentations that will benefit ALL of our students. When you contribute to the Freeman Fund, your really do make a difference for all of the young adults at our school.

Attention Seniors!!!

save the date

class of 2012 • After Graduation Party

June 12, 2012 Time: 10:30pm until...

Place: Tuckahoe YMCA on Patterson Ave



The After Graduation Party is a gift for all our graduates and the success of this party depends on the parents or the party will not happen

**WE NEED PARENT VOLUNTEERS
ON ALL COMMITTEES**



FUNDRAISING
CASINO
DECORATIONS
PRIZES
FOOD
PUBLICITY
CLEAN-UP

OR WE CAN PLACE YOU WHERE NEEDED



**PLEASE SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER
CONTACT DORY DIXON
at dorydixon@yahoo.com**

***Only parents who volunteer
in some capacity will be able
to attend the party!**

THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR THIS PARTY COMES FROM DSF FAMILIES.

We hope each family will make a donation to fund this wonderful tradition.

PLEASE SEND ANY DONATIONS TO

SUSAN OLYHA, Treasurer

2128 Boardman Lane

Richmond, VA 23238

Please make checks payable to "DSF PTSA AFTER GRADUATION PARTY 2012".

Your donation is tax deductible! There is also a donation box at the front office at DSF for donations.

**THANK YOU & WE LOOK FORWARD TO MAKING THIS A WONDERFUL
EVENT FOR OUR GRADUATES!**



More for Seniors!!!

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS OF GRADUATING SENIORS



All pictures
must be
collected by
MAY 1, 2012.

For more information
or if you have
questions, contact
Holly Snow at
gregory.snow@comcast.net



Each year there is a baby portrait wall set up at the After Graduation All Night Party featuring baby pictures of your senior with their name marked on the back of the picture for us to use. These pictures will not be returned so you may want to make a copy to submit.



There will be a box in the front office at DSF where baby pictures will be collected or you may mail your pictures to:

Holly Snow
9101 Burkhart Dr.
Richmond, VA 23229

And Still More for Seniors!! Baccalaureate

Please mark your calendars! Baccalaureate will be June 11, 2012.

The Freeman Baccalaureate is an interdenominational service held off campus the night before graduation for the students of the senior class and their families and friends. This program is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their reflections on faith in words or in musical performances.

This year's Baccalaureate will be held at West End Assembly of God on June 11, 2012.

If you are interested in helping to organize Baccalaureate this year please contact committee chairpersons. We are in need of one or two Junior class parents who would be interested in helping this year's committee and chairing the event next year.

Chad Nystrom chad.nystrom@verizon.net

Liz Siebers esiebers@richmond.edu

DSF Golf Team 2011

Congratulations to the Rebel golf team who finished 3rd in district play. The season started in early August with a win at the Central Region Showcase, beating Monacan, Thomas Dale and Atlee, led by the outstanding play of Connor Melhorn, event medalist. Over the next month and a half, in fourteen separate events, the team would end with a 21 – 10 record against all the teams they faced. The highlight of the season was a one-stroke regular season victory against perennial powerhouse, and this year's Central Region champion, Deep Run HS.

This year's team was especially well balanced, with 5 different individuals posting team-best scores at different events. Dave Dwight, Jack Lowden, Charlie Stephens, Chris Knaysi, and Connor Melhorn all took the lead on different days.

At the Colonial District tournament, the Rebels finished third behind Godwin and Deep Run. In the longest recorded playoff in District tournament history, two Rebels qualified for the Central Region tournament, seniors Jack Lowden and Dave Dwight. Throughout the year they had been the team's low scorers, and their outstanding play continued in the Region tournament. On day 1 Lowden was the low individual scorer, and on day 2 Dwight was the low individual scorer. They both narrowly missed qualifying on to the state tournament.

Congratulations to the entire team for an outstanding season.

DSF Fall Sports

Congratulations to the Varsity Field Hockey and Varsity Volleyball Teams for a Great Season!!!

Email Signal Subscriptions

If you wish to receive future copies of the Signal newsletter by email, please log on to the PTSA website www.freemanptsa.org by copying and pasting the link into your browser. On the home page (at the bottom) you will see a sign up to receive emails button. Click the button and you will be able to sign up to receive emails of your choice. One of the selections is subscribe to Signal newsletter. Click it and hit submit – you will then receive future Signal issues by email.

Rebel Signal Subscription

Signals Subscription Order Form

You can purchase a subscription for \$10.00 and receive a paper copy of all the newsletters for 2011-2012 by mail.

A Subscription for \$10 to Signals will include 4 issues. There will be 4 issues for each of the following nine weeks. Fill out the form below to receive your Signals newsletter by mail.

Write your check to Freeman PTSA for \$10.00 and mail both the check and form to:

Douglas S. Freeman
 Attn: Laura Hollowell - Signals
 8701 Three Chopt Road
 Henrico, VA 23229

If you have any questions, please e-mail signal@freemanptsa.org

Name _____

Student's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____



Douglas S. Freeman High School
8701 Three Chopt Road
Henrico, VA 23229

Principal Anne L. Poates

Assistant Principals

Warren Ahrens
Jeri Baskerville
Andrew Mey
Callis West

Administrative Aides

Suzanne Criswell
Laura Hollowell
Laura McKinney
Gretchen Sweat

School Counseling Director

Jennifer Crowder

Director of Student Activities

Drew Bright

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