

## MCHS BAND BOOSTER E BLAST OF DECEMBER 5, 2010

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### **BAND BOOSTER MEETING!**

**Tuesday December 7, 2010 Band Hall @ 7 PM**

All parents are welcome! Participate in our direction, planning and results.

<http://www.miracostaband.com/allevnts.cfm?year=2010&month=12>

### **LET IT SNOW! DECEMBER CONCERT WITH THE ENSEMBLES!**

**Thursday December 8, 2010 MCHS Auditorium @ 7 PM**

Our first highly anticipated Winter Concert is a combination of our Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band and Jazz Band. With most of our ensembles (except percussion studio) together for the first time of 2010-2011, it is truly a special occasion. It is predicted that parents will marvel—and many a standing ovation has been witnessed in the past.

<http://www.miracostaband.com/calendardetail.cfm?eventid=15410ms1735d18q600>

### **LAST MARCHING BAND EVENT THIS FALL!**

**Marching at Disneyland. December 11, 2010 All Day.** The marching band will have a little fun marching from *It's a Small World*, down *Main Street*, and into our memory books. We take buses around 8 AM and stay all day.

<http://www.miracostaband.com/calendardetail.cfm?eventid=28810ft1022x20x745>



### **THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**Fair Share Contributions Continue to Come In!** Yes, it looks like we may hit our required budget target. Our parents have been GENEROUS and continue to supply the needs of our FIRST CLASS program with our five bands, colorguard, winterguard, and percussion studio--a place for

each of our 170 students—many in multiple roles. Great work on your part! Give yourself a round of applause! The necessary non-district funds will approach \$80,000 this year for our fine program. A special "Thank you!" to those of you who, seeing the value, gave more than your share!

### **NOTES FROM THE BLEACHERS Jim VZ, Editor**

#### **Wrap Up from the Marching Competition Season**

Since our competitive marching season has now ended, I asked **Joel Carlson (our instrumental teacher and marching band director)** for some of his thoughts about the season. Here are the questions I asked and some of the things that he said....

Ed: What do you think about this season?

Joel: *Each marching season has been better than the last and successful in its own way...as the band has gotten better and better, it is nice that our current level of success is matching up competitively with other groups, as recognized by the judges. There are many things that the SCSBOA (Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association) judges tell us that we are doing very well, but they are encouraging us toward greater individual consistency. As a point of getting an even sharper evaluation of individual technique we might try a competition with the WBA (Western Band Association) circuit next year, where judges are actually on the field with the students.*

Ed: Please give me your perspective on the West High Field Show: our first of the year.

Joel: *It was great to be the Champion of the South Bay! As you know, we won the Sweepstakes Award—this is the first time Mira Costa has ever won all categories 1A through 6A. Previously, we had won the morning program 1A through 3A.*

Ed: What happened at the Baldwin Park Field Show?

Joel: *Well, that was the first time we added the “closer” section of the show, the last two minutes, and we were a bit inconsistent on this section. We are graded for consistency. So if you are inconsistent in any part of the performance then that is the scoring you receive. Each year we learn from the year before, and we will make adjustments so that we can present a consistent product no matter what part of the season it is. We took things a bit slower this season, learning about 3.5 minutes of the show in camp, and the entire 2010-2011 show is about 7.5 minutes long.*

Ed: So you ironed these things out for Sierra Vista (field tournament), right?

Joel: *Yes, we scored an 80.4 and that is the highest that the Mira Costa Band and Colorguard has ever scored; we were under first place by a small margin of .4. Our strong emphasis was on our “musicality”—basically, we want the marching band to sound as good as if everyone is standing still or in an auditorium—obviously, this is difficult when you are moving.*

Ed: What about Moorpark Battle of Bands, our last field show? This competition was at a high level in my opinion...

Joel: *Well, we competed against Hart High School and they have won the SCSBOA Championship for the last ten years. It was the strongest division (4A) that we saw this year. However, our score was the best we have ever scored, 82.8, and we came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in our 4A division.*

Ed: Any comment on the Colorguard?

Joel: *We added Rich Hernandez to the team (instructor), and the color guard was able to really perform at a high level this year.*

Ed: How is the student leadership going?

Joel: *The leadership matrix has certainly provided dividends. As we are able to further define roles and we have a greater historical understanding of its implementation, I see it working better and better.*

Ed: In summary, what’s your feeling about the 2010-2011 competition?

Joel: *We won a show for the first time (West High) and we had two successive shows with our highest scores ever...80.4 & 82.8! There’s always room for improvement, but we have jumped up from scoring in the low 70’s by the end of our first season together back in 2007, with the band having never broken the 70 point barrier the year before in 2006, to breaking 80 this season for the first time in Mira Costa history! The understandings that the students further developed this season about power of hard work, dedication and excellence have been both heartwarming and impressive. I am really proud of the group!*

Ed: Thanks Joel. We appreciate your comments!

**Thanks everyone. Let's keep up the good work and make the high school experience the very best for our students--we can help them reach for team spirit and real achievement. The year is not half over, and we have a lot of great experiences ahead.**

**Jim Van Zanten  
Band Booster President**